

At one of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club excursions last spring, at which I had the pleasure of speaking, I made the rather loose statement that the American Cuckoos differed from the European species in that they reared their own young. While this is, generally speaking, true, the habit—as pointed out by Mr. Halkett*—is not quite so distinctive as my remarks might lead one to imagine. I have never personally found American Cuckoo eggs in the nests of other birds, though, I believe, there are records of such having been found. I have, however, on several occasions discovered more than the usual number of eggs in a nest, and in one instance found ten under one bird, which would indicate that at least three birds were responsible for them. Unfortunately the eggs were abandoned and consequently never hatched. There are also, I believe, instances on record of the European Cuckoo rearing its own young.

Writing of Cuckoos, brings me to a doubtful case of the same habit practised by the Redwinged Blackbird. The usual number of eggs is four or five, but on several occasions I have found nests containing six or eight, and once nine, which leads me to the belief that these might be from more than one bird. I am also suspicious as to whether the birds are not somewhat sociable in their nest-building operations. That is, whether more than one bird engages in building one nest. But this subject must be dropped for the present as not proven. I have introduced it in the hope that others might be able to throw light upon the matter.

The Mourning Dove has increased very largely within the last twenty years and in some respects is taking the place of the once abundant Passenger Pigeon, which it somewhat resembles in coloured markings. It seems well adapted to the changed conditions brought about by the ploughing up of the country. It delights to feed upon stubble fields or on waste land where weed seeds are plentiful, and seems rather partial to Green Foxtail (*Setaria viridis*), also not taking amiss to a good feed of wheat when opportunity offers. These birds often congregate in small flocks, sometimes several hundred being seen together, but they nest in solitary pairs. They are very fond of salt, like the domestic pigeon, and if they ever become too numerous could probably be captured by using salt as a bait. On examining the nests of doves at different times of the year, I have noticed the rather interesting fact that the nests are

*Ottawa Naturalist, Aug. 1908, page 95.