

usually, if not always, more warmly built late in the season, doubtless to protect the eggs and young from cold, though I have no records tending to show that the habit is practised in the spring when the weather is often equally cold.

The young of the Osprey are said to have an inclination to hunt birds and mammals. Some naturalists claim that they are taught to abandon this habit by the parent birds, after which they devote their time to hunting fish. I am always rather skeptical about this "schooling" idea. It seems to me that a certain modern class of nature writers attribute altogether too much to this method of acquiring knowledge among wild animals. I have observed that young Marsh Hawks have much the same habits of differing from the adults in the matter of food. The young, as soon as they learn to catch for themselves, devote a large portion of their time to hunting young grouse which they destroy in considerable numbers. This habit only lasts about a month, after which small rodents form the bulk of their food supply, as is the case with the adults. The question is, do these young birds later find the grouse too strong and fast, and so are obliged of necessity to turn their attentions elsewhere; or are they taught by their parents that grouse hunting is bad for them? The question might be answered by another. If these hawks can capture grouse to advantage why should they leave them to seek other food of which a larger quantity would be required to appease their appetites?

There is no doubt, however, that parent birds do teach their young certain habits. I have watched both the Marsh and Swainson's Hawk teaching their young to catch the food that is brought to them. The old bird would soar above the young, which seemed keenly on the watch, and suddenly drop the food to be caught. If it were missed the parent would swoop gracefully down and secure it again before it had time to reach the ground, and the lesson was continued until one of the young accomplished the task. So we must admit the teaching of parents in wild life. The problem is where to draw the line between teaching, learning by experience, and instinct.

---

The 45th annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, will be held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on November 5th and 6th. Dr. E. P. Felt, New York State Entomologist will deliver the evening popular lecture. At the day sessions papers of economic and scientific interest will be read. Dr. James Fletcher is the retiring President.