

flock of ducks when I noticed that they suddenly became alert; a moment later they took flight almost as one bird. Simultaneously, the Coots scurried together and began "running" and swimming toward a culvert under the road connecting two sections of the marsh. Just then, I noticed an adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) coming across the road, not very high and moving very fast. It made a quick pass at a lone Coot which had become separated from the flock and was at the moment of the strike behind a loose screen of low vegetation. By dodging behind an old mallow plant in which the Eagle was momentarily entangled, the Coot escaped this strike. Without attempting to gain altitude the Eagle made a second strike at the Coot, now in the open but in shallow water. This time the Coot waited until the last second, submerged and almost instantly popped to the surface like a cork. The Eagle of course had been carried by its momentum some distance past the Coot swimming toward the safety of the culvert but not in any apparent hurry. The Eagle now circled until it reached an altitude of perhaps 20 feet whence, after several false starts, it made a third pass at its intended prey. After two more futile strikes, the Eagle gave up and flew away, although the Coot was still some distance from the safety of the culvert. The technique of a well-timed submersion and an immediate resurfacing, which did not seem to require great physical exertion, appeared to be one which could have been continued for a long time.

This is the second time that I have seen Coots use under-road culverts as a refuge from an attacking eagle. As an incidental note, the flock scurrying for the culvert kicked up some spray while "running." I saw nothing resembling the splashing defense described in the literature.—R. O. BENDER, *Cobb's Mill Road, R.D. No. 1, Bridgeton, New Jersey, October 1, 1959.*

**The Fish Crow in easternmost Oklahoma.**—Since the 4th edition of the A.O.U. Check-List (1931) the known breeding range of the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) has been extended north and west in Arkansas, and west into east-central Oklahoma. Bent (1946. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* no. 191:282) only mentions this species as occurring in central Arkansas near Little Rock. Baerg states in his "Birds of Arkansas" (1951. *Univ. of Ark. Col. of As. Bull.* no. 258:107) that the Fish Crow is found in the vicinity of Van Buren, Crawford County, throughout the year, and in other areas farther south. The species has also been reported from Fort Smith, and this fact is mentioned in the 5th edition of the A.O.U. Check-List (1957).

In January, 1954, I saw six Fish Crows feeding on dead fish along the south embankment of the Arkansas River, about 8 miles west of Moffett, Oklahoma. Later in the month I discovered a small roost of about 800 crows on an island in the Arkansas River about 18 miles west of Moffett, this number including 33 Fish Crows. Tall willows (35–40 feet) were utilized in roosting, but the *ossifragus* remained apart from the Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), occupying the extreme end of the roost. On April 20, 1954, I found a Fish Crow's nest 8 miles west of Moffett, Oklahoma. The nest was situated about 30 feet above the ground in a red oak. Examination revealed four eggs. The last visit I made to the nest site (May 1) showed no change.

The partiality of the Fish Crow to major water bodies is exemplified by these observations, all of which were made near the Arkansas River. It would not be surprising to discover the Fish Crow farther up this river, where it may have been overlooked.—EUGENE J. WILHELM, JR., *Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, September 24, 1959.*