

W. H. OSGOOD and H. B. CONOVER, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois.*

Nesting of the Harpy Eagle (*Thrasaetus harpyia*).—One of the most interesting results of an expedition to northeastern Brazil, taken by the writer in conjunction with Mr. Rodolphe M. de Schauensee during the late winter and spring of 1926, was the discovery of a nest of the Harpy Eagle (*Thrasaetus harpyia*), about three miles from the little settlement of "Patagonia" on the Bragança Railroad, some forty miles east of Para. The nest was found by a native who attached but little importance to his discovery and it was by mere chance that the writer heard of it. By April 22 the Eagle was reported to be sitting, but we were unable to visit the nest until April 27. The birds had selected an enormous mahogany tree, standing in deep virgin forest, not far from the headwaters of the Rio Inhangapy, and the nest was placed on the lowest branch against the trunk of the tree, about a hundred and ten feet above the ground! Climbing the tree was naturally most difficult and dangerous, but after a strenuous effort the nest was reached and the egg it contained secured. On May 9 the nest was again visited and a second egg taken. The writer deserves no credit for the climb which was accomplished by a young half breed, whose daring eventually proved fatal, for a month later while collecting on the Rio Paru, he was drowned when attempting to swim some difficult rapid.

While we were at the nest, one of the Eagles, presumably the female, would occasionally fly leisurely over the nesting tree, but most of the time remained perched high up in a nearby tree, at times looking down at us with crest raised, at times giving vent to a loud, wailing, "Wheeeeo-o-o-o-o-o." No doubt we could have succeeded in shooting the Eagle, but somehow we did not feel the desire to kill such a splendid bird, so we confined our collecting to lesser prey of which there was an abundance.

The nest itself was large and nearly flat and had evidently been used on previous occasions. It was composed of sticks, some of considerable size, and a great deal of sloth hair served as a lining, presumably the remains of feasts of former Eaglets. Incidentally, Mr. de Schauensee, who secured a living Harpy Eagle at Manaos, tells me that his bird though visibly unperturbed in the presence of a monkey, became almost frantic when confronted with a sloth! No feathers were found in the nest, but a primary feather was picked up at the base of the tree. The first egg was fresh, the second slightly incubated. Both, but particularly the second, are badly nest stained, and though probably unmarked, Mr. Joseph Parker Norris, in whose collection the eggs now are, is of the opinion that they may be spotted. The first egg taken measures 2.80 x 2.35, and the second 3.02 x 2.25. It would seem that the two eggs comprise the set.

Finally, a word as to the nature of the surrounding forest might be of interest. The jungle was much less swampy than about Para or along the rivers Guama and Capim, and a surprising change was noted in both bird and insect life, which made the locality a splendid collecting ground.

Among the most characteristic birds were: *Ibycter americanus*, *Gypso-psitta vulturina*, *Topaza pella*, *Pipra opalizans* (the most common Manikin here), *Pipra stolzmanni*, and *Pitylus erythromelas*. We did not find the Harpy Eagle elsewhere.—JAMES BOND, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia*.

Goshawk Nesting in Clarion County, Pennsylvania.—So far as the writer has been able to determine the Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) has been found nesting in but four counties in Pennsylvania, although Warren states that the species has been noted in summer in Cameron, Center, Perry, Elk, Wyoming, Forest and McKean Counties. Actual nesting records thus far known are from Lopez, Sullivan County, Otto and Herman Behr (*Birds of Pennsylvania*, 1890, p. 124; *The Auk*, 1897, p. 317); Slate Run, Lycoming County, Hayes T. Englert; Roulette, Potter County, Harry VanCleve; Conrad (Hull's station), Potter County, George Miksch Sutton (*Wilson Bulletin*, 1925, pp. 193-9); and Warren, Warren County, Ralph B. Simpson and Harry Grantquist (complete records not published). To these records I wish to add one for Clarion County. On July 19, 1927, near Newmansville, Clarion County, State Game Refuge keeper Edward Shaw captured in a steel trap an adult female Goshawk which had obviously been incubating eggs and caring for young. The plumage was considerably worn, and the stomach was empty. Neither nest nor young birds were actually seen, but it is only fair to regard this specimen as representing a nesting record.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Mortality among Screech Owls of Pennsylvania.—Since November 17, 1924, there have come to the writer's attention one hundred and thirteen requests for permits to retain specimens of the Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*) which had been found dead or in weakened or wounded condition. These requests came from virtually every County of Pennsylvania, and were made during every month of the year, though chiefly in winter.

Inquiry into the cause of the death of these birds has brought to light some interesting facts. Six individuals (four of which were examined at this office) may have died of starvation or illness, for they were in very poor condition, and the frayed, broken plumage indicated weak constitutionality of long standing, as a result either of insufficient food or disease. These specimens were all found in winter. Two additional living specimens were found which were evidently not in good health, and which had not, to the best of our knowledge, been wounded. Two individuals had killed themselves by flying into window panes, either while trying to enter houses or in attempting to fly toward or enter into combat with the reflected image in the glass. In one case the Owl had evidently been attracted by a caged Canary which was stationed only a short distance from the window. Seven individuals had been caught in steel traps which were set for fur-bearing animals. The presence of bait probably lured the Owls to their destruction. Two of these birds were dead when found, though they had