

Nesting Habits of Mourning Doves.—While the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura m. macroura* and its subspecies) is a common and well-known bird throughout the greater part of the United States there are certain interesting habits relating to their mode of nest building which I have never seen recorded and which, I believe, are not mentioned in any of our ornithologies. Both birds of a pair of Doves engage in the search for the nesting site but the final choice rests with the female. When the site is finally decided upon the female settles herself there and builds the nest under and about herself from material brought to her by the male. The latter flies to the ground, searches about until a stick is found, tests it out by shaking it vigorously, and then flies back to the nest with the stick in his beak. The female takes the stick from him upon his arrival at the nest and places it. The male of a pair under observation carried a stick about every two minutes while the female was upon the nest.

After the nest is well under way, the male "drives" the female whenever she leaves the nest and continues until she returns to her post and the building is then resumed. "Driving" is a term employed by pigeon breeders and refers to the male's habit of following the female about and pecking at her until she returns to the nest. The nest building habits of the Mourning Dove are strikingly similar to those of the Domestic Pigeon. I have observed these habits on several occasions in Florida, Kansas, and California, so presume they are universal among Doves of this species. My notes indicate that the eggs of Mourning Doves are usually laid in the afternoon with an intervening period of about 48 hours between the two.—FRANK F. GANDER, *P. O. Box 395, E. San Diego, Calif.*

A Swallow-tailed Kite in Westchester County, New York.—On October 2, 1927, I saw a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) at Chappaqua, Westchester County, New York. The Kite was flying in large circles and was almost directly over my own residence when I first saw it. It was not more than 250 or 300 feet from the ground and its striking characteristics were so easily observable as to leave no question about its identity. The bird flew in large circles which took it gradually out of sight in a southwesterly direction.—CLIFFORD PANGBURN, *Chappaqua, N. Y.*

Double Ovaries in *Circus hudsonius*.—On June 23, 1927, a female specimen of *Circus hudsonius* was collected by the writer at Long Point, Norfolk County, Ontario, which upon dissection was found to possess paired ovaries lying ventral to the kidneys and distinctly separated from each other on the two sides of the median vertical plane. The follicles of both ovaries were enlarged giving the appearance of a functional condition in both organs.

The pelvic arch with the organs was preserved in alcohol and has recently been examined by Dr. Alexander Wetmore who remarks that this condition is known to be of regular occurrence in some forms of Hawks, par-

ticularly in the female Sharp-shinned Hawk among American species. From this record it appears that it may occur also in *Circus*, a matter that should be investigated as opportunity offers.

It is of interest to add that this specimen exhibited the more or less rare or little known streaked plumage of this species.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ontario*.

Horned Owl Migration in British Columbia.—While no Snowy Owl flight took place in British Columbia last winter there was an invasion of Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus* subsp.) and Goshawks (*Astur atricapillus*); the former on the coast region only; the latter general throughout the Province.

During the period from October, 1926, to January 1927, 287 Horned Owls were brought into the City of Victoria, either to the local taxidermists or to Lenfesty's sporting goods store. The latter paid a bounty of fifty cents on each bird and obtained a refund for this expenditure by selling them to the Chinese who used the flesh as the chief ingredient in making chop-suey. It seems rather a pity that someone did not take advantage of this unusual opportunity to secure a large series of skins. It is interesting to note that the last invasion of Horned Owls occurred ten years before during the winters of 1915-16 and 1916-17. No marked increase was noted in the Okanagan Valley during either of these invasions, the migration being apparently confined to the Coast region.

An unusual number of Goshawks was observed in the Okanagan Valley during the months of November and December 1926; a large percentage of those taken being adults. A similar flight was reported from the coast region and from the Province of Alberta.

Three Gray Gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus rusticolus*) were taken in the vicinity of Okanagan Landing: immature male, November 6, 1926; adult female, February 18, 1927; and immature not sexed shot early in March, 1927. A fourth specimen was taken near Victoria some time during December, 1926.

Hawk Owls were unusually abundant in the Okanagan Valley during November, 1926. This species also was taken on Vancouver Island where it is rare. One of the Victoria taxidermists received two specimens taken in October, 1926; one from Alberni and one from Nanaimo.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C.*

Some Late Records of the Snowy Owl for Southern Ontario.—In "The Snowy Owl Migration of 1926-27," by Alfred O. Gross,¹ the latest date recorded for the spring (of 1927) was "during the first two weeks of April." A few records for southern Ontario which are later than April are recorded in this note.

The birds appeared in the Toronto region during the first two weeks of November, 1926, the first record on file at the Museum being that of one

¹ 'Auk,' XLIV, No. 4, Oct. 1927.