

the right wing. The latter was estimated by using the number of feathers counted on the left wing, which is 609. It is interesting to compare the number of head and neck feathers (20,177) with those on the rest of the bird (5039). Many on the neck, breast and back were in the pin-feather stage.

The Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) was taken in Clay County, near Ruthven, Iowa. Its feather count is considerably higher than that of any passerine bird in Dr. Alexander Wetmore's list (Auk, vol. 53, pp. 159-169, 1936). This may perhaps be accounted for by the fact that it was in fall plumage.—GEORGE ANDREW AMMANN, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

**Injury-feigning by a Wood Duck.**—In the spring of 1936 I had an unusual opportunity to observe injury-feigning in a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). The observation is of particular interest because the injury-feigning was done to save the young from the attack of a natural enemy, in this case a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). The food habits of the latter are well known to be mainly beneficial, yet with a nest full of hungry young to feed, a hawk cannot be expected to pick out for food those creatures only that man considers undesirable. In any event, here in Fairfield County, Connecticut, the Red-shouldered Hawk is at present a much scarcer breeding bird than the Wood Duck.

The incident occurred in an area where a mature woodland of oaks and other broad-leaved trees borders a wooded swamp. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks had built their nest in a black oak that stood on the border of the swamp. On the date of my observation, May 20, the hawks had young in their nest, while broods of young Wood Ducks a few days old were to be found on the waters of the swamp, in the company of their mothers. Early that morning as I approached the vicinity of the hawks' nest, I heard the call of a female Wood Duck,—a series of loud squeaky notes that sounds like the badly worn brakes of an automobile. Peering over the bushes, I saw a brood of nine young Wood Ducks following their mother in single file across a bit of open water. I had barely caught sight of them when the hawk descended upon the brood and they scattered in every direction to the shelter of swamp vegetation. The mother instantly extended her head and neck upon the water, turned on one side, flapped one wing in the air and paddled about in circles as though quite helpless. The hawk immediately turned and struck at her, but somehow she managed to get behind a clump of bushes, with which the hawk, missing its stroke, collided. It then perched on a stump and watched till the duck appeared in the open again, when it attacked a second time with the same result. This continued, the hawk returning to the stump and renewing its attack either four or five times, but in the excitement I lost count. At one time two of the young ducks left their hiding-place and scurried across the water to another, but the hawk was so interested in the frantically flapping mother that it paid no attention to them. All of this action took place within fifty yards of where I stood. The vegetation was so thick that I could have seen little or nothing had it been much farther away. Soon, however, the duck moved to a point where I could not see to advantage, and as I changed my position, the hawk saw me and flew away. The mother duck then resumed her normal posture and called to her brood. The young came out from their hiding-places and followed her off through the swamp where they were soon out of my sight.

The behavior of the mother duck in this observation was marvelous to me. Over and over she deliberately came out into the open a short distance from the hawk, and seemed to invite its attack. She skilfully avoided every attack and yet all the time maintained the attitude of complete helplessness. She was evidently enticing the hawk gradually away from the vicinity of the young when my movement inter-

rupted the proceeding. I believe that if this interruption had not occurred, she would have succeeded in leading the hawk away, and would then have escaped from it and returned to her brood.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, 48 Longview Ave., Fairfield, Conn.

**King Eider taken on Illinois River.**—On November 21, 1936, a young male King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), was killed at Henry, Illinois, on the Illinois River by J. Andrews King, who presented it to Field Museum. The bird had been shot and was unable to fly; from its emaciated condition it must have been in the vicinity of Henry at least ten days. The King Eider is an extremely rare visitor to southern Lake Michigan, and this is the second bird ever recorded on the Illinois River. In 1874, an adult female was obtained at Chillicothe, Illinois (Cory, 'Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin'). Besides this record, Cory also lists a specimen shot on the Mississippi River near Keokuk, Iowa, in November 1894, and six specimens taken in Wisconsin: Racine 1, Milwaukee 4, Lake Sheboygan 1. Several more were taken off Navy Pier, Chicago, November 29, 1917, by C. W. G. Eifrig ('Birds of the Chicago Region,' by Ford, Sanborn and Coursen).—LESLIE WHEELER, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois*.

**The Type of *Falco cooperii* Bonaparte.**—Among the ornithological rarities which it was my privilege to examine when visiting the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris during the summer of 1933, was Bonaparte's type of the Cooper's Hawk. It is a mounted bird, the only specimen of the species, so far as I could determine, which came to the Muséum with the Bonaparte collection. It matches very closely, in fact almost exactly, the Bordentown, New Jersey, individual described by Bonaparte and figured in Plate 10, figure 1, of 'American Ornithology,' vol. 2, 1828. The only apparent differences between the plate and the mounted bird are that the latter has the head only slightly turned and the whole plumage is badly stained and discolored with soot. It is, of course, a young bird, obviously in its first fall plumage, narrowly streaked below, and is a typical example of the nominate race of eastern North America.

Written data concerning the specimen are rather meager but are pertinent. On the bottom of stand on which the bird is placed, is written, obviously many years ago: "Etats Unis Coll par l'Prince Ch. Bonaparte, C. G. 1854—1136 [that is, 1136 of the general catalogue for 1854, a year in which a great many specimens from the Bonaparte collection were incorporated into the museum collection] 608 ♂ *Accipiter cooperi* Bp. Type d' l' espèce et de la pl. Amer. Ornith. vol. 2. pl. 1." The number 608 refers to the new catalogue and this, as well as the data following, were written rather recently. Measurements as taken by me are: wing, 235; tail, 200; culmen from cere, 16.3; tarsus, 67.0; middle toe without claw, 36.0 mm. These so closely approximate those given by Bonaparte in his description that, taken in combination with the characters and attitude of the mounted bird, there would seem to be no doubt that the Paris bird is the actual type specimen.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California*.

**Dusky Grouse in the Chuskai Mountains of northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico.**—On June 21, 1936, a pair of Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus obscurus*) was seen eight miles southeast of Lukachukai, Apache County, Arizona, approximately four miles from the New Mexico state line, at an elevation of approximately 8800 feet on a steeply sloping, southeasterly exposed canyon wall. The vegetation was dominantly *ponderosa* pine and Engelmann spruce with underbrush of oak, aspen, *Symphoricarpos*, wild rose, cliff rose, ferns, *Cercocarpus*, and small Douglas fir.