

that the writer is able to record what appears to be the earliest nesting date of this species yet known. Search of the literature at any rate, reveals none that approaches it. On January 20, 1937, a nest was discovered by the bird flying out of the tree overhead as we passed. Accompanied by Robert P. Allen of New York City, and Earle Moore of Miami, the writer was in the hammock bordering Deep Lake, Collier County, Florida. Walking down a rough road through the hammock, a disturbance in the dense foliage overhead took place, and a beautiful adult Short-tailed Hawk in the black phase left a cabbage palmetto a few yards from the road, and soared about close overhead. A short search of the tree revealed the nest, built close to the trunk amid the stems, in exactly the same manner as that employed by the Caracara. It was about twenty-eight feet up. The tree was photographed at close range, and another picture secured of the general vicinity. Other nests found in Florida seem to have been in the months of March and April, though in his "Egg Dates" Mr. Bent states on page 258 ('Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey,' part 1) that for Florida and Mexico there are fourteen records, February 12 to June 10.

In his field work in Florida, the writer has met with this species four times in three years; the localities are Royal Palm Hammock, Collier County; near Flamingo, Cape Sable; "Pinecrest" on the Loop of the Tamiami Trail; and Deep Lake. One other nest has been seen; it was built in a red-mangrove tree overhanging Shark River, on the southwest coast, and contained two eggs. This date was March 16, 1937; a good picture was secured of the nest and eggs.

On page 255 of the 'Life Histories' of the birds of prey, Mr. Bent states in reference to Lake Istokpoga, that "this lake is the only recently known breeding locality and I now believe that these hawks have been extirpated even there." In view of this, the records of the two nests above are of particular interest. One more can be added of which the writer has knowledge. In late March 1937, a nest of this species was found in the Pinecrest area of the Loop, Collier County, by J. Earle Moore, of Miami, one of the companions of the writer mentioned above. He followed the history of the nest from its discovery, when it held three eggs, to the time that the young left it. There is a peculiar coincidence in the date of the March nest seen by the writer, and photographed at Shark River. It was found on March 16, the same date as that of the first nest ever to be found in Florida, which was March 16, 1889, by W. E. D. Scott. The Shark River nest was discovered by Edward J. Reimann, one of the Audubon wardens on the southwest coast, and was shown to the writer on his March inspection of that area.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Assoc. Audubon Soccs., Charleston, South Carolina.*

Bald Eagle takes live fish.—It is commonly known that the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) subsists on dead fish, carrion and fish taken from the Osprey after the latter has made the catch. Occasionally it takes live birds and small mammals. On the southwest coast of Florida, at Turkey Key, Monroe County, about eighteen miles south of Everglades, Florida, on November 13, 1936, I saw a strange sight. At this time of the year mullet are running, and the fish school in great masses to spawn. On the above date I happened upon one of these schools and saw six Bald Eagles (four adults and two immatures) actually fishing for themselves. As the fish stay near the surface, they were easy to take. The eagles circled directly over the school, about fifty feet above the surface of the water. One would break away, go about one hundred yards off, and then start out at full speed toward the school, gaining momentum and setting its wings in a long diagonal glide down to the surface. It would then reach down to the water, immerse one leg and scoop out a

fish, never stopping for a second. It did not dive into the water like an Osprey, but just skimmed above the surface, grasping the fish in the talons of one foot. Never did I see the eagles immerse more than one leg. Only one bird was seen doing this at one time, while the others would wait until one made a catch and flew away; then another would go through the same procedure. This is the first time I have ever seen an eagle take a live fish from the water.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, *Box 81, Everglades, Florida.*

Pigeon Hawk at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.—On November 25, 1937, while I was passing the Pea Island Coast Guard Station, Chicamaconico Island, North Carolina, in company with Grover Pitts and J. D. Asher, my attention was called by Mr. Asher to a small hawk perched on a low post near some old buildings. The bird displayed a remarkable lack of fear, permitting us to approach within thirty feet before it flew a short distance and alighted upon a low stake. It was easily identified as a Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius* ssp.).

Pearson, Brimley and Brimley ('Birds of North Carolina,' North Carolina Geol. and Economic Surv., 4: 173-174, 1919) state: "The Pigeon Hawk appears to be a rare transient in this state, our only records being October 1, 1886; April 21 and April 23, 1888; April 19, 1902; September 10, 1910; and October 4, 1914, all from Raleigh, a single specimen being taken each date. Cairns secured a female in Buncombe County on October 19, 1894."

A specimen of this species was taken by the writer near Raleigh, in April 1932, and presented to the Zoology Department, North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering.

The identification of this hawk at Cape Hatteras is the only known record of its occurrence along the North Carolina coast.—OTIS BOYD TAYLOR, *National Park Service, Richmond, Virginia.*

Additional notes on breeding of Black Pigeon Hawk.—Since publication of my notes on the range and probable breeding of the Black Pigeon Hawk, *Falco columbarius suckleyi* (Auk, 52: 305-307, 1935) additional verifying evidence has come to hand. Since not only the breeding range but the validity of this race have been questioned (H. S. Swarth, Condor, 36: 40, 1934), these new notes may be worthy of record.

Because this bird was recorded as present during all months of the year on Vancouver Island as far north as Comox, British Columbia, there was a near certainty that it bred here. On June 19, 1935, a supposed nesting pair was discovered near the trail to the Forbidden Plateau well up in the heavy timber of the hills at about 2500 feet elevation. The shrill nesting cry of the birds called attention to them and the male was seen to bring food to the female on a high perch. That he did so, and that she accepted it as though it were her due, left little doubt of the relationship. A nest seemed quite certainly somewhere in the vicinity, but though I returned to the spot on the morning of June 22 and remained camped in the vicinity for two days, watching constantly, no clue to a nest could be secured. The birds were seen and heard on several occasions. Again on July 2, I returned to the scene, spending the day and part of the next on the spot, seeing a pigeon hawk once but getting no further clue to the supposed nest. The timber here was dense and tall—western cedars, western hemlocks, Amabilis firs and some huge Douglas firs—but to increase the difficulties of the situation, the Gray Jays at hand were mimicking the squeal of the pigeon hawk so perfectly as quite to confuse the problem.

Better luck attended later field operations that year (1935) when on the evening of