

In late August, 1934, Benjamin T. Gault and the writer saw an immature Bald Eagle and a large nest along the Illinois River above Henry, Illinois. Thinking that perhaps this nest, in the top of a tall cottonwood and estimated at six feet in diameter, was an eagle's, the writer revisited the site in April, 1935. No evidence of occupancy was found at that time; nor was the nest used by any avian species up to the time the tree fell in 1940. However, in late August of 1936 and 1937, I again saw two young Bald Eagles along the Illinois River near Henry. Thus, there seems to be a strong possibility that this species nested in the Henry region during those years. This is further strengthened by the fact that Mr. Joe B. Davidson, of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, reported a Bald Eagle's nest on the farm of George Mathis, near Henry, in 1935. Mr. Mathis said that the nest was used by the eagles each year until 1940.

For a number of years there has been a Bald Eagle's nest on the Horseshoe Lake state game preserve in Alexander County, Illinois, north of Cairo. Arthur S. Hawkins, of the Illinois Natural History Survey, told me about the nest on February 12, 1941. The next day Robert E. Hesselschwerdt and the writer visited the tree and Hesselschwerdt filmed the male excitedly flying back and forth over the nest. Pounding on the base of the tree failed to dislodge the female from the nest even though she could be seen on it.

Bald Eagles nested there again in 1942 and 1943, according to Dr. William H. Elder of the Illinois Natural History Survey. In 1943, Dr. Elder reported that an eagle was first seen carrying a stick to the nest on January 2. On February 4, the female incubated throughout the day up to 4 P. M. By April 9, there were two young, almost fully grown, in the nest.

A Bald Eagle's nest was reported by Monroe and Mengel directly across the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, in Ballard County, Kentucky (Wilson Bulletin, 53, no. 3: 196, 1941). This is only about 25 miles from the Horseshoe Lake nest.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, JR., *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

**American Avocet in Illinois.**—There are only three previous records of the American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) in Illinois. Stoddard reported (Auk, vol. 38, no. 1: 110, 1921) that two were taken at Chicago, May 5, 1889. Bent (Life Histories of North American Shore Birds, Part I) states that two were killed in St. Clair County, October 28, 1878. Musselman recorded (Auk, 53, no. 3: 328, 1936) that two were taken near Quincy on October 28, 1935. On September 18, 1943, Leo Borgelt, U. S. Game Agent, and the writer saw an American Avocet in the West Matanzas drainage district, two miles south of Havana. Although we pursued the bird for several hours, we were unable to collect it. During that time, the Avocet was seen at close range many times with 8 x 40 binoculars. It was again seen at the same place on September 20, with a 27-power spotting 'scope.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, JR., *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

**Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) in Illinois.**—Records of this straggler from the west are almost unknown in Illinois. One definite record was of a bird at Swan Lake, Putnam County, on December 27, 1921, recorded by S. S. Gregory (Auk, 40: 526, 1923). On October 21, 1941, the writers saw a Western Grebe swimming in Beebe Lake, near Banner, Fulton County, Illinois. This grebe was under observation for a half hour with 8 x 10 binoculars and a 27-power Bausch & Lomb spotting 'scope. All markings were clearly visible, and its size could readily be compared with nearby Coots. The junior author is well acquainted

with this species, having seen it many times in Utah.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, JR., AND JESSOP B. LOW, *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

**Sycamore Warbler in Ontario.**—On May 20, 1943, in Stamford Township, near Niagara Falls, Ontario, toward dusk of a cool, wet evening, my eight-year-old son, Peter, and I saw a warbler fly from a forsythia bush under the front window of my house to an adjacent spirea shrub. The warbler appeared to be cold, hungry, and tired, and allowed a very close approach—so close, in fact, that we were both peering into the very moderate-sized shrub with our faces pressed against the outer twigs while the warbler climbed and searched for insects about the central stems. It acted somewhat like a Black and White Warbler in its methods of creeping and climbing about the bush, but it was not that species for it was not marked all over like it and, moreover, it very distinctly had a clear yellow throat. The bird seemed to combine somewhat the appearance of a washed-out female Blackburnian Warbler with the habits of a Black and White Warbler and some of the side markings, albeit paler, of that latter strikingly marked species. The clear, rather pale yellow was seen, at a distance of only a foot or two, to be definitely confined to the throat area, and did not extend at all over the eyes. The distribution of coloring, the creeping habits, and other general characters forced me, after some puzzling, to the conclusion that this bird was a Sycamore Warbler (*Dendroica dominica albitora* Ridgway), the northern representative of the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica d. dominica*), and probably a female.

In connection with this sight record, possibly a first for Ontario, it is perhaps of interest and significance to mention that about two months after making the entry in my diary from which the above notes were prepared, I received a copy of the July number of the Buffalo Ornithological Society's mimeographed journal, 'The Prothonotary,' in which was mentioned, under an item dated May 30 (Seeber), the first record of a Sycamore Warbler in the Buffalo area. The center of the city of Buffalo, N. Y., would be just about twenty miles southeast of the point near Niagara Falls, Ontario, where I made my observation ten days earlier.—R. W. SHEPPARD, 1805 Mouland Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

**The European Starling in central Saskatchewan.**—On May 24, 1940, while on a bird trip to Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, I was puzzled for a few minutes by a small blackbird with a yellow bill and bobbed tail which was flying about the grain elevators in the village of Dafoe at the southwest corner of the lake. I had never seen a Starling before nor had I read anything about its appearance into this province. One of the chaps with me who had been to England some years previously immediately recognized it to be what I had thought it. The next spring I visited this area again about the same time and found the Starlings still present; and, from questioning the men in the elevator, found that they had remained all winter.

On June 13, 1942, I was in the village of Duck Lake, Sask., about forty miles south of Prince Albert and one hundred and fifty miles northwest of the village of Dafoe, when to my surprise I found Starlings nesting in one of the grain elevators. I am sure that they had not been here during previous seasons as I visit this district at least once during the summer. On April 30, 1943, I saw a single female at the local stockyards and another chap reported to me that he had seen three in the same vicinity the day previous.

During the four seasons, 1940–1943, this species has spread a distance northwest-