

authenticity of the record is established. In 1926, the Smithsonian-Chrysler Expedition to Africa collected a number of Black-cheeked Weavers (*Ploceus intermedius*). This form inhabits East Africa from Abyssinia to Tanganyika. Of the group collected, three are still living in the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C. These birds have been in captivity for some nineteen years, which is, I believe, a record.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

An unusual note of the White-crowned Sparrow.—A persistent note, uttered with the regularity of a cricket's chirp, came from our back yard on numerous evenings in the fall of 1943. My curiosity was aroused, but for some days I could not identify the bird which was usually in the heart of our arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) where it must have spent the night. It was so dark by the time the call commenced that only the form of a bird, if anything, could be discerned. Before I finally identified the maker of the strange call, I heard it in two other places—one a mile from our house, and the other a mile and a half in another direction. Finally, on October 9, I was able to get a good view of the bird through my binoculars as it called from a neighbor's yard. It was a White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*).

The call was always given as the bird sat almost motionless, usually concealed in the center of some shrub or vine. It seemed almost an alarm note in quality, resembling the *peep* (not the Goldfinch-like) call of a canary. Being loud and uttered in rapid succession, it was so properly timed that it was distinctive. The call was nearly always heard quite late in the evening, apparently just before the bird retired. On several occasions several birds called at once.

I listened during the fall of 1944 for this performance but did not hear it once. Ordinarily I do not list the White-crown in the fall migration, and this call is my only clue to its probably greater abundance in the 1943 migration. I suggest that others listen for this note if it is not a regular call of the White-crowned Sparrow.—ROBERT E. BALL, 2622 Tuscarawas St. W., Canton 6, Ohio.

John Bartram on the Passenger Pigeon in Florida.—Bartram was at Lake George, Florida, on January 24 and 25, 1766. On the 24th he explored the stream connecting Lake George with Lake Kerr in Marion County, and camped for the night on Bryan's (Drayton's) Island at the north end of Lake George. The entry in his journal for the 25th reads in part: ". . . saw several flocks of pigeons flying about yesterday and to-day" (William Stork. A description of East-Florida with a journal kept by John Bartram of Philadelphia, 25: 1769, London). This is in approximate latitude 29° 20' N. and appears to be the southernmost record for the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in Florida.

It is stated by A. H. Howell (*Florida Bird Life*, 280: 1932) that the species occurred formerly at least south to Alachua County. He cites Stork's statement but overlooks Bartram's entry.—A. W. SCHORGER, 168 N. Prospect Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

The food of the Red-shouldered Hawk in New York State.—From 1939 to 1942, a study of the food taken by the Red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus lineatus*) in central New York was conducted by the writer, in addition to a bird-of-prey banding program in effect at the time. During those four years, periodic observations were made each spring on the food captured by four nesting pairs within twenty miles of the city of Syracuse, New York.

Principal methods of study were to observe from strategically located blinds the food brought to the immature birds by the adults, as well as the food that was often

brought to the females by the males during the period of incubation. Laboratory examination was made of all bits of hair, feathers, and partial castings found in the vicinity of the nest, and several stomachs were taken from birds accidentally or purposely killed by farmers and sportsmen. (The Red-shouldered Hawk is specifically protected by law in New York State.)

Based on these observations, I have revised somewhat a table showing the approximate percentages of various foods included in the diet of this species, applicable to this section of the state and perhaps to a larger area where conditions of habitat and food supply are similar.

TABLE BASED ON OBSERVATIONS ON 16 RED-SHOULDERED HAWK NESTS, 1939-1942, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

MICE AND RATS (principally <i>Microtus</i>)	58%
FROGS, AMPHIBIANS (principally <i>Rana pipiens</i> and salamanders)	18%
INSECTS (largely made up of grasshoppers taken in July and August; beetles and spiders also taken, caterpillars of several species)	10%
REPTILES (largely common garter snakes, water snakes)	3%
SMALL BIRDS (often taken during spring migration; includes Song Sparrow, Horned Lark, Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker)	8%
MISCELLANEOUS (includes crawfish, carrion, minnows, etc.)	3%

By far the most popular food throughout this region of medium to heavy agriculture is the field mouse, which is common and easily captured. It is the food most commonly fed the three or four young during the brooding period, and of decided economic value to the local farmers.

The Red-shouldered Hawk generally begins nesting activities in this region anywhere from the first to the twentieth of April, and during this period occasionally preys on the small migrating birds or on the winter residents. In four years, only one authentic case of a hawk taking poultry was observed; on June 1, 1940, an adult female brought a freshly killed domestic duckling to the nest.

There can be no doubt that this species is a decided asset to the farmers of this region, and should be encouraged in every woodlot where it has set up residence.—STANTON G. ERNST (formerly, Dept. of Forest Zoology, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York).

Food of Ruffed Grouse in southern Michigan.—The crops of thirteen Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*) were preserved in formaldehyde by Michigan hunters and were later sent to me for food analysis. The birds were collected on the southern peninsula in the month of October. Of the thirteen crops, eleven were full of food and two were practically empty. All the food contained was vegetable. The two main staples in the diet of these birds were the acorn of the pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and some leaves of a tree that was not identified positively, but appeared to be either a birch or an aspen. Nine of the crops contained either or both of these foods and nothing else. The cups of the acorns were discarded by the birds. Some of the acorns were of large size (2 x 1.5 cm.), and several of these nuts caused bulging crops.

Other food found in the crops was: Leaves of alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*)—in two birds. Cornaceous fruit of hawthorn (*Crataegus*)—found in one crop. Dandelion leaves (*Taraxacum officinale*)—one crop. Flat seeds with shiny black fruit skins, one of the *Viburnums* probably the black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)—found in one crop.