

were noted that remained in the vicinity of their nests throughout the entire winter, eggs being laid in April.

As to the difference of a few millimeters in wing length: How much value should be attached to this feature in considering an individual of a race known to show such a vast amount of variation in size, individually? The writer has measured several extra small adult birds killed in southeastern Alaska that, if considered from point of size alone, would necessarily have to be referred to the southern form. It is improbable that any CONDOR reader would consider even momentarily the recording of the southern bird from Alaska on this evidence; so, would not the old saying "It's a poor rule that won't work both ways" pertain to this case?

The fact is that there is no hard and fast line of demarcation between the two forms of the Bald Eagle. The size difference is only an *average* difference. The northern form *averages* larger than the southern form, and individual variants may be found within the known range of either form that, if considered from a standpoint of size alone, could be referred to the other subspecies.

In view of these facts it seems to the writer that the preponderance of evidence points to the fact that Mr. Fleming's Lakeport bird is an unusually large individual of the Southern Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*) and may not be properly considered as demonstrating even the "probable" occurrence of the northern form in California.—G. WILLET, *Forrester Island, Alaska, August 5, 1920.*

Eastern Fox Sparrow at Seattle.—On February 15, 1920, at Renton, a small town a few miles southeast of Seattle, Washington, a typical Eastern Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*) was secured as it fed in a thicket bordering an open field with a miscellaneous gathering of Rusty Song Sparrows and Oregon Towhees. Even before it was shot its dissimilarity to the several subspecies of Fox Sparrows that occur here was easily noticeable, and once in the hand there was no question as to its identity. This is as far as I know, the first record for this species for the state of Washington. The specimen itself is now in the collection of Mr. D. E. Brown, of Seattle.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 6, 1920.*

The Yellow-headed Blackbird Flocking with Brewer Blackbirds.—While passing through Lake Valley on August 12, 1920, about two miles north of Meyers, El Dorado County, a flock of about seventy-five Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) flushed from the road and flew to a lodgepole pine tree in the adjoining field about a hundred yards distant. In their midst was a single Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) showing in striking contrast. I took the bird, which proved to be a young male.

The Yellow-headed Blackbird is frequently associated with Red-winged Blackbirds, and Coues (Birds of the Northwest, 1874, p. 190) mentions them flocking with Cowbirds, but its presence with Brewer Blackbirds seems rather unusual, and all the more strange as there were no Redwings seen in the vicinity.—FRANK N. BASSETT, *Alameda, California, August 27, 1920.*

Note on the Nesting Habits of the Osprey in Yellowstone Park.—On the spires of rock which stand up perpendicularly from the steep sides of the Canyon of the Yellowstone River in the Yellowstone National Park are a large number of nests of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*). All nests observed from the side of the canyon were without any shelter or protection of any kind. They were great collections of sticks resting on the rock, and apparently a new nest was built on top of the nest of the preceding year or years. At the time of our visit to the Yellowstone, in July, 1920, a young bird was observed flopping about in one nest, and an adult bird was standing on the side of the nest with the back to the sun so as to project its shadow directly into the nest. We watched this nest for fully an hour and during all that time the adult bird's shadow was thrown into the center of the nest. The parent bird was clearly keeping the young in the shade. During all the time of the observation the sun was shining brightly and the weather was warm.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, September 8, 1920.*