

A bear had located the nest, probably through the noise of the young woodpeckers, which were old enough to come to the nest entrance to receive food, and which squealed with anticipation of a meal every time any bird, animal or person came close to the nest tree. In an endeavor to get at the young in the nest, the bear had bitten out slabs of green wood twelve inches long, two inches wide, and one-quarter of an inch thick. The muddy stains around the inside of the nest entrance showed that the bear had thrust his nose into the hole repeatedly. But after gnawing over an area 10 x 10 inches on the tree trunk to a depth of more than an inch, the bear gave it up as a bad job. Had the nest been in an old stump, the outcome would probably have been different. This offers a reasonable explanation of the tendency of certain woodpeckers to nest in living trees.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Berkeley, California, July 27, 1927.*

**Another Man-o-war-bird Wanders into Californian Waters.**—The short list of records of the Man-o-war-bird (*Fregata aquila*) north of the Mexican border may warrant a note on the capture of one of these birds off San Diego, California, on June 27, 1927. The bird was shot by E. F. Gottesburen from the deck of a deep-sea fishing barge anchored off the edge of the kelp beds about a mile and a half southwest of Point Loma. Mr. Gottesburen states that the bird circled about the barge and exhibited no fear, even when his first shot failed to take effect. It was a young male in the white-headed plumage. The specimen was presented to the San Diego Society of Natural History and is now on exhibition, mounted, in its museum in Balboa Park.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, August 23, 1927.*

**Analysis of Sexes in a Junco Migration.**—The writers began to band Shufeldt juncos here (latitude 53° N, altitude 3000 feet), on the 7th of April of this year, or roughly four weeks before the cessation of snows which remained on the ground an appreciable time. The work was done under exceptionally favorable conditions from the bander's point of view. The season was phenomenally late and snowy, and great numbers of birds were forced to depend wholly upon us for food. Also a large equipment of trapping material was concentrated on a few acres which, owing to slope and exposure, represented the only bare ground for miles in all directions. The surroundings were, in fact, mostly heavy evergreen timber, holding its deep snow into May. Furthermore the site was on a principal (unfrozen) waterway and opposite the terminations of various important mountain passes.

The writers believe that for the first month at least hardly a junco passed unbanded, and that the records show a very complete picture of the migration, with the exception of a few very early individuals. April 7th to 9th inclusive produced only from two to five birds each. The great rush began on the 10th. The following table shows the distribution of sexes and "doubtfuls" among the 688 birds caught up to June 15. Great care has been taken to exclude all cases where any doubt was possible as to sex or subspecies.

Week	April 7-13	14-20	21-27	28-May 4	5-11	
Males .....	100	121	82	130	26	
Females .....	17	26	17	38	28	
Doubtful .....	12	20	11	14	6	
Week	May 12-18	19-25	26-June 1	2-8	9-15	Total
Males .....	15	2	2	0	0	478
Females .....	7	1	6	1	3	144
Doubtful .....	1	1	1	0	0	66

The banding fell to zero when the birds separated to breed. We found our first nest, containing four eggs, on June 15. Yet at this date, as recorded by the traps, only 144 females had arrived, as against 478 males. During the breeding season the numbers in the locality must be closely equivalent, as wandering, non-breeding birds would almost certainly be detected by feeding and trapping. No more striking illustration of the territorial theory can be imagined than the behavior of the breeding birds, which, though nesting about us with the regularity of a checker-board, cease

to be known at the traps, perhaps scarcely a hundred yards away, where they have been living for the previous weeks. The fact that none include the traps within their territory must be attributed to the special shyness of the breeding season.

What, then, is the explanation of the discrepancy in numbers? To us it seems probable that the resident males, eager to breed, and perhaps, as the territorialists suggest, with sites already preëmpted, attach themselves to mates the moment the latter arrive, and the breeding segregation is at once begun. This, however, fails to explain the inequality in numbers among the large proportion of birds which must have passed us for points beyond.

The traps in question were closed for a period which included parts of the eighth and ninth weeks, but others in the same valley were under observation, as well as reports of those of a neighbor in an adjacent valley. It is highly improbable that this interruption affected the results materially, if at all. Sustained repetition ceased by the sixth week, with the exception of half a dozen sluggard males which had lived at the traps since the beginning.—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR BOLLES MCCABE, *Indianpoint Lake, Barkerville, British Columbia, September 12, 1927.*

**Road-runner versus Mockingbird.**—An incident which occurred at Azusa, California, on August 16 proved that mockingbirds have good grounds for their very evident hostility towards road-runners. Attracted by frantic cries and the scolding of mockingbirds in the yard, we found that a road-runner (*Geococcyx californianus*) had captured an immature but full-grown mockingbird, which it would no doubt have killed had it not been frightened away by our approach. When picked up, the mockingbird was lying helplessly on its back, but appeared not to be seriously hurt, and when presently released was able to fly away.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, August 22, 1927.*

**A Further Chronicle of the Passenger Pigeon and of Methods Employed in Hunting It.**—The following extract from a letter written by Mr. John Thomas Waterhouse to his parents, the Reverend and Mrs. John Waterhouse, in London, from Camp Gaugh, Franklin Township, Burgen County, New Jersey, dated, March 23, 1838, may be of interest as adding to our knowledge of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*): The account is quoted verbatim.

"For the last fortnight the air has been almost black with wild pigeons emigrating from the Carolina swamps to more northerly latitudes making their summer quarters in the lake countries. Within ten miles square during the last fortnight I suppose they have shot or netted at least twenty thousand. They fix up a kind of hut in a field made of limbs of trees and buckwheat stubble. They have one or two fliers which they throw out every time a flock passes; the fliers are of the wild pigeon breed usually wintered over or sometimes they take them direct from the flocks, tie their legs to a small piece of twine and throw them up. There is a floor cleared on the ground and buckwheat spread for a bait and [they] have a pigeon on the floor and also a stool pigeon which they move at pleasure by a rope fixed to it in the hut. There is then a net so fixed having a rope that fastens it to a stake in the ground at one end, and soon as ever the pigeons fly down the man in the hut pulls another rope fastened to the net and jerks it over them. They will sometimes net in this way at one haul three or four hundred. Whilst I am writing they are in the adjoining room picking seven pigeons for our breakfast. They were shot this morning at one fire of the gun."—ANNIE M. ALEXANDER, *Honolulu, T. H., August 19, 1927.*

**The Amount of Food Consumed by Cormorants.**—The interesting article by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingly on Cormorants in Relation to Fisheries in a recent number of the CONDOR (XXIX, 1927, pp. 182-187) with its statements as to the consumption of food by these birds, prompts me to add a note on the food of the Florida Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*). The National Zoological Park, under the Smithsonian Institution, has had numbers of these birds on exhibition. In winter the cormorants have been confined in the bird house, while in summer they have had the freedom of a large flight cage 158 feet long, 50 feet wide, and from 53 to 56 feet high. The birds breed regularly in the summer enclosure.