

two twilights without locating any owls. The following night camp was made in the live oaks of the Tumacacori Mountains, about thirty miles northeast of Nogales. Here the sun had little more than set before elf owls began whistling in various directions. One was collected and several others were located. This station is high above the saguaro belt, and produced such Sierran species as Mearns Quail and Lawrence Flycatcher. The owls showed evidence of breeding in holes in cottonwoods.

The next station was just outside Tucson on the Rillito, in saguaro and mesquite association. Here again the birds began activity as soon as the sun was well down, and they proved to be extremely abundant among the mesquites. They were observed flying up into the saguaros and entering woodpecker holes. The next day, June 2, two complete sets of eggs (of two each) were taken from holes in the saguaros. The return to California was made without further opportunity to look for the birds.

My experience suggests that:

- (1) During the breeding season the Elf Owls readily make their presence known at early twilight and continue calling for some time,
- (2) They are not difficult to locate,
- (3) They are rare or absent in the southwestern part of the state,
- (4) They breed in the mountains up to altitudes far above the saguaro belt,
- (5) They breed later than one would expect owls in warm climate, with secure nesting cavities, to breed.

Notes on the winter distribution of this owl are much to be desired.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, July 30, 1929.*

Flying Defense of a Golden Eagle.—On September 2, 1929, we made an interesting trip down the coast of Monterey County from Monterey to a point about fifteen miles below Big Sur. This is the end of the Roosevelt Highway at the present time.

In the early afternoon we noted a young Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) being harried by a Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*). The hawk would circle to gain elevation and then swoop down like a falling body to attack. Just before the hawk reached his enemy the Golden Eagle would roll over in the air so as to have its talons uppermost and would complete the roll as the hawk swept by. This was done several times while the birds remained in sight. The eagle did not seem to hurry its flight at any time and gave the impression that it would rather be left alone than fight back.—L. PH. BOLANDER and CHAS. A. BRYANT, *Oakland, California, September 10, 1929.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

In the death of Roswell Samuel Wheeler in September, 1929, the Cooper Club has lost another of its old-time members. Wheeler joined the Club in 1894, the second year of its existence, to become one of the small coterie whose interest insured the continued activity of the Northern Division. In later years there were periods when his attendance at meetings was irregular or impossible, but he kept

in touch with the Club to the last, and his concern in our well-being was unflagging. Wheeler's interest in ornithology lay mainly in egg collecting, and throughout his life his vacations and holidays were, when possible, devoted to this pursuit. For the past twenty years or more he was in the Oakland School Department, serving as principal in several different schools.—H. S. SWARTH.