

sometimes done with one bird going clockwise and the other anti-clockwise and at this season of the year followed by copulation, the female making a dive to a perch on rocks near the nest, followed by the male at full speed. At this season the birds sometimes conduct flight antics over the nest such as swooping toward it from high elevations and making loop-the-loop flights. March 6, the birds were still at work and on March 13 the nest contained two eggs.

Both birds were noticed perched on rocks above the nest on January 2, 1929. This was the first time that they had been seen since May of 1928. The first material was taken to the nest on January 6, and the nest building and flying antics continued through the balance of the month and most of February.

No birds seemed to be around on February 23, so I visited the nest and was surprised to flush one from it. The nest seemed to be ready for eggs; cup of fine twigs and good inner lining of fresh green twigs. The bird flew away and was seen no more that day. On March 2, I again flushed the bird and found a single egg, and on March 7 it flushed again from the same egg. I removed this with the idea of seeing how long it would be before another set would be deposited.

The time between the two sets seems to have been about a month for on April 8, I flushed the bird from a set of two eggs. The bird was joined by its mate in soaring around near-by, which was an unusual action. The cup of the nest had a new lining of fresh green grass and green twigs. The birds were seen about the nesting site in April, May, and June, but they have not been seen since then.

A friend saw a bird sitting on a nest in May one year and, being anxious to get some photographs of some young eagles, I visited the site shortly afterwards. When I got within ten feet of the nest and on a level with it I was surprised to see that the bird was still "sitting tight". I was afraid the bird would knock me off the cliff if I went any closer, so I yelled, waved my hat, and studied her at close range. She ruffled her feathers, opened her beak, and acted much the same as a sitting chicken that is disturbed. When she finally flew away I was amazed to find an empty nest. A visit a couple of weeks later showed the nest still empty but no birds in evidence.

Nests with complete sets of eggs that I have personally examined in southern California have had only one egg in 35 percent of the cases, two eggs in 60 percent and three eggs in 5 percent. The average weight of 31 eggs which I was able to weigh was 141.4 grams; the largest egg, 176.59 grams, and the smallest, 113.87 grams; both extremes were sets of single eggs. I have a set of a single egg which I collected in 1914, that is smaller than any of the eggs that I have weighed.

It is my opinion that the Golden Eagle is a decidedly beneficial bird. Remains of food in their nests would indicate that the ground squirrel is the chief food and rabbits second. I have never seen any first-hand evidence that would indicate that eagles destroy birds, poultry, or domestic animals. This fine bird should receive our full protection; too many are being caught in traps, or shot as "large chicken hawks."—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, January 4, 1930.*

Notes on the Dowell Bird Collection.—On August 26, 1929, during a brief visit at the home of Overton Dowell, Jr., in western Lane County, Oregon, I took the opportunity to look over his private collection of local bird skins collected mainly in the vicinity of his home. Among the 700 or more beautifully prepared specimens, there were a few of unusual interest, especially in view of the collecting locality, which is in the pure coast Humid Transition Zone. Those of special interest are as follows.

Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*). In view of the few records of the occurrence of this northern migrant in Oregon, it was interesting to find two beautiful adult skins, male and female, found dead on the ocean beach near Mercer, Lane County, Oregon, on March 15, 1919, by Mr. Dowell, who states that their plumage was oil-soaked when he found them.

Marbeled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). A small immature male just out of the downy stage, with a wing measurement of 108 millimeters. This specimen was picked up dead in the road along the upper North Fork of the Siuslaw River about six miles inland from the Heceta Head Lighthouse on the coast of Lane County, Oregon, on September 8, 1918, by a Mr. A. B. Johnson, who gave the bird in the flesh to Mr. Dowell. So far as known by the writer, and to Dr. H. C. Oberholser

who recently saw the specimen, this is the youngest individual of the Marbled Murrelet yet collected, and it is doubtful if it had reached a sufficient age to have flown far from where it hatched.

Anthony Green Heron (*Butorides virescens anthonyi*). The Dowell collection contains the skin of an adult male of this species taken at Mercer Lake, Lane County, Oregon, on July 11, 1923. Although this heron had been recorded previously (Condor, xxx, 1928, p. 129) in the state on the strength of sight records, this skin in the Dowell collection is believed to be the first of the species ever actually collected in the state of Oregon.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*). An immature male taken on October 6, 1918, by Mr. Dowell on the ocean beach three miles west of Mercer, Lane County, Oregon, adds one more record to the few known occurrences of the species along our coast.

Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). This species is of sufficient rarity anywhere in Oregon to justify the placing on record of all specimens known to be preserved in collections. An adult female in the Dowell collection was taken on the Siuslaw River, four miles south of Mercer, Lane County, Oregon, on March 13, 1925.

Nevada Cowbird (*Molothrus ater artemisiae*). One of the surprises found in the Dowell collection was an immature bird of the year of this species, a male, taken on the Dowell Ranch at Mercer Lake, Lane County, Oregon, on August 18, 1925. This constitutes the first record of this species known to the writer west of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and was without doubt a straggler from its regular habitat in the arid Upper Sonoran Zone of eastern Oregon.

Mr. Dowell has kindly given me permission to place the above notes and specimens on record.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 31, 1929.*

Horned Owl Attacks Chickens.—At four o'clock, on the morning of November 16, 1929, I was awakened by something disturbing a hen with small chickens that was roosting in a small wire coop in my yard. I suspected a coyote, got out of bed and grabbed my shotgun, which was in the corner ready for emergency, and looked out the window. The moon was bright and I could see all over the yard. Nothing was in sight and I was almost ready to go back to bed, when I heard something leave the roof of a near-by shed and saw the owl sail down and strike the wire coop at the corner where the hen and her chicks were roosting. The owl stayed on the ground and I immediately shot and killed it, also killing the hen and two of her chicks.

I sent the owl to Mr. George Willett at the Los Angeles Museum, who, on comparing it with the series there, says that it is a Western Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus pallescens*). He also states that this is the second record of this subspecies for the coast district of California. In the Condor (xvii, 1915, p. 206) Wright M. Pierce records a specimen taken in San Antonio Cañon. The owl was a large female and is now number 16684 in the collection of the Los Angeles Museum.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, December 4, 1929.*

An Unusual Case of Mimicry by a Catbird.—The most interesting instances of mimicry in bird songs that have come to my attention occurred near Fortine, Montana, during the past summer (1929) when a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) repeatedly imitated in its entirety the song, and later the song and flight, of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).

The Bobolink, which seems slowly to be extending its Montana range westward as formerly-forested land is being brought under cultivation, does not yet occur in Lincoln County. A wandering male bird that appeared at our ranch on May 31 of this year probably was the first one ever to sing in that vicinity. It arrived alone, and sang almost continuously throughout the day. The following morning a few songs were given, and then the bird disappeared. A month later it again visited the ranch for three days (July 1, 2, and 3), sang a few times each day, and then disappeared again, to be seen no more during the season. (I presume this bird to have been the one that was observed earlier in the summer, as it fre-