

We thought it best to try to see the behavior of the robins in the early morning when this host of birds was leaving for the distant feeding grounds. Accordingly I went to the lake before daylight on January 24 and waited for signs of life from the clump of trees where I knew there were thousands of robins. On this day the sun was scheduled to rise at 7:22 a. m. It was a clear night and very cold. Frost was on the grass plots and the moon was still above the horizon, being almost full. Not a sound from the trees. The Baldpates and Pintails were whistling on the lake and a little later a Killdeer joined in with its unmistakable cry.

At 5:50 something must have disturbed the robins, for they started to chatter and a few flew out but soon returned to the trees. All was quiet again. At 6:10 a slight indication of dawn was visible in the east and again there was a little disturbance at the roost. Then all was quiet again.

At 6:25 the Coots were heard at the lake. A jack rabbit suddenly appeared on the grass plot not over thirty feet away and after looking the machine over hopped away. Later we saw two of these rabbits chasing each other around the grass plot. At this same time there was another disturbance at the roost and it is possible that a few birds left.

At 6:27 colors began to show in the east; the robins were evidently now awake, judging from the noise at the roost. By 6:35 they were very much awake and by 6:44 they were leaving in one continuous stream for the hills. Flocks of ducks were arriving at the lake from distant feeding grounds and two Black-crowned Night Herons flew to the island.

The robins when leaving mounted higher and higher as they flew. Pairs could be seen occasionally chasing each other as they left, always following the same line of flight, however. By 7:15 the flight was over.

The boys had noticed many robins on the grass plots on a previous morning, but on this morning very few alighted on the grass. Those that did alight did not catch any worms as far as I could see. It then occurred to me that during extremely cold weather, when frost was on the grass, the worms did not come to the surface. I do not know that this is a fact, however.

The number of worms consumed by these robins must be enormous. On every hand you can see the robins pulling large and small worms from the ground. I watched one which had a particularly large worm to get out. He pulled back hard but the worm came out very slowly. Finally the limit of pull was reached by the robin and quickly releasing its hold it took another one lower down and finally the worm came loose. It was swallowed whole and what a wiggly meal it must have been!

Another interesting observation connected with worm pulling by the robins is the action of the gulls. I observed a Glaucous-winged Gull, three California Gulls and one Ring-billed Gull standing on the grass plot amid about eighty robins. Every time a robin would start pulling out a worm a gull would make a run toward him. Of course the robin would let go of the worm and then the gull would gobble it up! This was repeated again and again; but I could not determine whether the Ring-billed Gull followed this practice, as it left soon after I arrived on the scene. Sometimes the worm would come out quickly enough for the robin to get it down before the gull could get on the job. If the worm was too big for the robin to swallow immediately the gull would pursue it, but the robin usually dived under a protecting oak tree or madrone. The gull would not follow there.

It will be interesting to note this spring whether the robins leave for other locations in a body or gradually disappear. Some will stay to breed of course, but the majority will undoubtedly leave for other breeding grounds.—L. PH. BOLANDER, JR., *Oakland, California, February 3, 1932.*

**The Harris Hawk in Ventura County, California.**—In November, 1931, while in Ventura on jury duty, I visited the "Pioneer Museum" which is located in a room of the court house building. In looking over the case of mounted birds I at once noticed a very dark brown hawk with a single white band at the end of the tail. On examining the specimen, which was labeled "Zone-tailed Hawk ♀", I decided that it was a new bird for this county. I asked Mr. E. M. Sheridan, the curator, where it came from, and he said it was mounted by Chas. E. Law at Fillmore. The next day I called on Mr. Law, and he said the specimen was brought to his taxidermy shop on April 9, 1929, by Romaine Young of Bardsdale. Mr. Young said that he had killed the bird while hunting rabbits in Red Rock Cañon, two miles south of Bardsdale.

On looking up the description of the bird in Bailey's "Handbook of Birds" I decided that it was not correctly identified but was an adult female Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*).—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, January 25, 1932.*

**The American Goshawk Breeding in Wyoming.**—Most authorities record the goshawk as a rare migrant or possible winter resident within Wyoming. The recent A. O. U. Check-list (1931) seems to have overlooked the possibility that the central Rocky Mountain region is within the breeding range of this species and neither the eastern nor the western form is accredited as a breeding bird within the states of Montana, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming or Colorado. I desire to record an instance of breeding and the taking of a set of three eggs of the American Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) in the Pole Mountain district of eastern Albany County, Wyoming, on May 10, 1931. I believe this to be the first breeding record of goshawks for the state and one of the very few for the central Rocky Mountain region.

Mr. Wm. McCreary, of the University of Wyoming, should really have credit for this record, as in the summer of 1930 he informed me that a pair of goshawks had occupied a nest the previous season in the Pole Mountain area. He described the location to me and I visited the nest in July, 1930. It was not occupied at that time. There were no birds to be found in the vicinity and there were no indications that the nest had been used that year. This nest was only about twenty-five yards from a fairly well traveled road and I naturally assumed that the pair had deserted it for a more isolated location.

During the annual army maneuvers in August, 1930, I was fortunately detailed on mounted scout duty and was able to reconnoiter a great deal of the Pole Mountain district. At that time I located two or three other large nests which, from their construction, large size and general situation, could be assigned to no other species than the goshawk. No birds were ever seen, but I was convinced that a pair was regularly resident of the district.

May 10, 1931, I made a tour of the old nests, hoping to find the goshawks at home and breeding. The nests which were considered most suitable were visited first, but there was no sign of occupancy. As a last resort I went over to the nest which was used in 1929 and was both pleased and surprised to receive a hearty reception. My "four-cylinder Lincoln" was laboring along a rough road that twisted up the narrow valley; traveling was slow and difficult. When about two hundred yards from the old nest, there was a flash of blue-gray across the road as the male shot down at the car. He just missed the radiator and turned upward right in front of the windshield, all the time uttering a rather shrill and defiant *kak-kak-kak*. As I continued toward the nest, he made several more dives at the car and kept up a constant cackle. The tail of another bird could be seen projecting over the edge of the nest. This bird came off after I had done considerable pounding on the tree and throwing of sticks at the nest. It was evidently the female as she was much larger than the other bird, which was then perched on a dead stub a few feet from the nest.

The nest was 45 feet from the ground in the forks of a large aspen. The tree was growing at the edge of a small stream in a narrow valley. The elevation was about 8,000 feet. The surrounding trees were rather thick and consisted of a mixed growth of aspen and spruce. The nest was thirty inches in diameter and nineteen inches high. It was composed of good sized sticks and large twigs, with a lining of smaller twigs, pieces of bark and bits of green spruce. This nest had evidently been in use for several years as the sticks in the bottom of the nest were well decayed. The eggs are plain bluish white in color and they measure in size, 58.1 x 46.0, 57.5 x 45.7, and 57.4 x 46.2 mm. Incubation had progressed only a few days.

While climbing the tree, and when at the nest, both birds were very aggressive, noisy and vicious, the female actually ripping the back of my shirt on one dive. Between attacks each would circle around the nest just overhead or perch for a short time on some branch or stub a few yards distant. Their notes consisted of a rather shrill cackle which might be described as *kak-kak-kak*, repeated five or six times in rapid succession. A rather low cluck was heard a few times when the birds were perched close together. Several pictures were taken, but a dark sky and heavy wind prevented any successful results.

Neither of these birds was collected, but they were so close that it was possible to examine them carefully and I have no hesitancy in classifying them as of the eastern race, *Astur atricapillus atricapillus*.—CAPTAIN L. R. WOLFE, *U. S. Army, February 10, 1932.*