

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Spotted Owl Nesting in Colorado.—One specimen taken and three sight records have established a place for the Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*) in the Colorado state list. C. E. H. Aiken had a specimen brought to him in 1875 that was killed near Colorado Springs; this is now in the Colorado College collection. He also saw one in the same region in June or July of 1873. From this latter observation Aiken assumed that the species probably bred that year. Two other sight reports come from the extreme southern and western parts of the state (La Plata and Costilla counties).

These data have led many subsequent authors (A.O.U. Check-list, F. M. Bailey, Peterson, Sclater, and others) to assume broadly that the Spotted Owl ranges north to include southern Colorado. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 170, 1938:207) has regarded the presence of this bird in the state list as resting on "slender evidence."

Consequently it was with great interest that I found two juvenal Spotted Owls in a live animal exhibit near Hartsel, Park County, in the very center of Colorado, on September 1, 1941. The birds were being exhibited as "Rock Owls," and I was told by the owner that they came from a ranch approximately forty miles north of Hartsel, where two boys had taken them from the nest. The nest location was described as "back in the timber where there are plenty of rocks," obviously in the Transition Zone, or higher. No more could be learned about the conditions of the find.

I took careful notes at the time. The young birds were of fairly large size, though not as large as the abundant Horned Owls; the large head, at this stage heavily downed, the black irises, dark feathers of the breast, and white in the wings, along with the familiar build of a Barred Owl, made the identification quite positive.

The interest in this observation lies in the fact that it is the first definite indication of the Spotted Owl nesting in Colorado and that it comes from what is best described as north-central Colorado, more than 180 miles north of the New Mexico line. The locality is in the Transition Zone, the lowest life-zone in the area. The record may be of some value also in confirming the assumptions that the Spotted Owl occurs in the more southerly portions of the state.—SAMUEL W. GADD, *Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 4, 1941.*

Another Wilson Snipe Perches on a Telephone Pole.—The recently published record by Messrs. Cottam and Williams of a Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*) perching on a telephone pole (Condor, 43, 1941:293) recalls a corroborative observation by the writer. The field notes covering this record are summarized herewith: on June 8, 1941, about one mile north of the town of Glacier Park, Montana, I noted, with surprise, a Wilson Snipe which flew up from a marshy meadow adjacent to the highway and perched on the top of a telephone pole approximately 20 feet in height. While perched there the bird continually gave vent to its characteristic "guinea hen" call—the notes being rapidly uttered about 12 times followed by a pause and then a repetition of the same. It was 11:40 a.m.; cloudy and cool. Passing cars did not frighten the snipe, but when the observer's car was driven to within 75 feet, the bird flew from the pole back into the marshy meadow once more, where, now out of sight, it continued to give its call.—E. LOWELL SUMNER, JR., *Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco, California, November 26, 1941.*

Green Heron at Tacoma, Washington.—While observing birds on September 7, 1941, on the tide-flats at Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, the writer was surprised to flush a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) from one of the brackish tidal sloughs draining the area. The "fly-up-the-creek" did just that, keeping out of gunshot by moving on each time I came into sight, despite careful stalking. At one time it was watched through binoculars as it caught a minnow in the shallows of a mud bar, appearing scarcely more impressive than two neighboring Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*). Finally it perched on a wooden bridge about a quarter of a mile from where it was first seen. By circling widely I was able to place the timbers of the bridge between us, and so at last got within easy range. The bird proved to be a female of the year, of the race *anthonyi*, with the following dimensions: length, 18.67 inches; wing, 7.60; tail, 2.50; culmen, 2.09; weight, 7.7 ounces. Dissection showed it to be quite fat, and the stomach contained one two-inch sculpin (cottid). The skin is now in my collection.

This specimen constitutes the first record of the species in Pierce County. The species has been collected but once before in the state of Washington; a juvenal male was taken August 20, 1939, two miles west of Chinook, Pacific County, by Hubert C. Hall (Larrison, Murrelet, 21, 1940:1-2). In addition to these there are sight records of Green Herons for King (April 1, 1916; August and September,