

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Competition between Mountain Bluebirds and Hairy Woodpeckers.—The following observation of a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus*) and a pair of Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia currucoides*), in apparent competition for a nesting site occupied by the former, was made at Westwick Lake in the Cariboo region of British Columbia on June 3 and 5, 1937.

A female Mountain Bluebird was seen to enter and leave a hole in the trunk of a live aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), one of a group of these trees on open prairie near the lake shore. As I approached the tree, the unmistakable cries of young Hairy Woodpeckers were heard, and the origin of the sounds was definitely located as coming from the cavity into which the bluebird had disappeared. For the ensuing fifteen minutes or so the tree was watched closely from a distance of ten feet and this, briefly, is what happened: Every few minutes the male woodpecker entered the nest to feed the young on ants which he obtained from a near-by aspen. The female woodpecker did not appear. Meanwhile both the female bluebird and its mate remained in the vicinity and showed constant interest in the nest. Sometimes the female hovered in front of the entrance and she entered the nest four times with nesting material in her bill. The male bluebird continued in close attendance, flying from branches to branch above the nest entrance where several times it was joined by the female. During this time there was no show of hostility on the part of any of the three birds concerned.

Two days later the nest was under observation for half an hour. The young woodpeckers were still vocal and their cries increased whenever I walked to the foot of the tree. In the course of this half hour the female bluebird once hovered in front of the nest entrance and once, carrying a long straw in her bill, attempted unsuccessfully to enter. For the remainder of the time the pair of bluebirds moved about restlessly in the branches of the aspen. The parent woodpeckers did not appear until near the end of the period of watching.

Circumstances did not permit further observation and the conclusion of the contest must remain in doubt. A somewhat similar incident has been reported by A. H. Miller (*Auk*, 52, 1935:467-468). In this case there was competition between the same species for a newly excavated nest and the woodpeckers were dispossessed.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, October 27, 1942.*

Another Southern California Record for the Tennessee Warbler.—The Los Angeles Museum has recently received from Mr. L. E. Hoffman a mummified specimen of the Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*), which was found dead under a sycamore tree at the entrance to Kagel Canyon, Los Angeles County, California, on September 19, 1942. It appears worthy of note that the three other records for this species in southwestern California are also of birds found during the month of September.—G. WILLET, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, January 4, 1943.*

Sparrow Hawk Preys on Sanderling.—On December 27, 1938, as I drove into Sunset Beach near Watsonville, California, I disturbed a Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) which flew out of a eucalyptus tree with a heavy, white burden. I kept chasing the hawk until it tired and dropped its prey. As I picked up the still warm body I was surprised to find that it was a Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*). This seemed to be an unusually large and active bird for this small falcon to prey upon. On December 28 I returned to the beach and saw a Sparrow Hawk, possibly the same one, perched on a post overlooking the beach, and noticed what was probably the same hawk flying over or looking over the beach a number of times after that. No other captures were observed, however, and I cannot say that this act was repeated. Average weights indicate that the Sanderling is equal to one-half the weight of the Sparrow Hawk.—ALBERT C. HAWBECKER, *Madera, California, January 2, 1943.*

A Record of the Montana Horned Owl in the State of Washington.—Three forms of Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus saturatus*, *B. v. lagophonus*, and *B. v. subarcticus*, are currently listed as occurring in the state of Washington. A record of a fourth subspecies in the western part of the state should therefore be of interest. In a set of several skins from the writer's collection recently submitted for identification to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, California, is one determined by Dr. Alden H. Miller as *B. v. occidentalis*. This specimen, no. 1136 JWS, was killed on or about November 14, 1940, at the state game farm near Auburn, King County, Washington, where on November 16 it was salvaged from a refuse pit by the writer. The bird proved to be a female with the following measurements: wing, 367 mm., tail, 225, culmen from cere, 28. Originally identified as of the race *pacificus*, which, like *occidentalis*, is apparently not recorded for Washington,