

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,

it was referred to the latter race by Dr. Miller with the following comment (letter of August 20, 1942): "I can match the color of your bird among specimens from areas typical for each of these forms. Since your bird is fairly large, and since this is a characteristic of *occidentalis* on the average, I should call it this rather than *pacificus*. It seems to me quite possible that birds from the normal range of *occidentalis* . . . might drift over to the coast in winter. This is much more likely than that they would move north from California."—J. W. SLIPP, *Tacoma, Washington, October 8, 1942.*

A White Meadowlark in Eastern Montana.—I was much surprised when a conspicuously white bird rose from a dense stand of western wheatgrass to perch on a sage bush and whistle the clear melodious notes of the Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*. It was at noon on July 1, 1942, that I first saw this unusual individual at a point about 10 miles southwest of Miles City, Montana, on the experimental sheep range at the United States Range Livestock Experiment Station. Equipped with an 8-power binocular I pursued and observed this bird for an hour. My closest approach was about thirty feet. Not a trace of yellow or gray was seen in the plumage; it appeared entirely white. In manner this bird was shy and wary, noticeably more so than the normally colored meadowlarks with which it was associated. No evidence of impaired or faulty sight was observed even in the dazzling light of a mid-summer day on the plains. Numerous flights to the topmost twig of a distant sage were made with accuracy and perfect balance. Its song was unmistakably that of a Western Meadowlark.

On July 8 two field assistants and I saw this white meadowlark for the second time in the same vicinity. Each of us observed the bird through binoculars and concurred in my first observation of color, song and manner. Preparations were made to collect the specimen on the next trip to the locality but it was not seen again.—E. J. WOOLFOLK, *Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Experiment Station, Missoula, Montana, December 23, 1942.*

Hooded Merganser in San Diego County, California.—The random bag of a duck hunter has placed in the scientific collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History a desirable specimen in the form of a female Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). The bird was shot on December 5, 1942, at Sweetwater Reservoir, an artificial body of water situated some 7 miles southeast of the city of San Diego. It was taken by Alvin G. Crawford, auditor for the California Water and Telephone Company, which controls the reservoir. Mr. Crawford turned over to the museum, for nature-study purposes, the ducks which he took on that morning, without realizing that there was a rarity among them.—CHARLES F. HARBISON, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, December 31, 1942.*

Bird Notes from Southwestern Utah.—So little is known regarding the status of many bird species in southwestern Utah that the following observations are thought to be worthy of record. These records have been accumulated over a period of one year, and are not restricted to one area alone. Of the localities listed below, Zion National Park, Springdale, Rockville and Hurricane are in Washington County; Hatch is in Garfield County; Duck Creek and Strawberry Creek are in Kane County; and Cedar Breaks National Monument is in Iron County. For simplification all records are given in chronological order and are for the year 1942.

On January 16 I was on ski patrol en route to Cedar Breaks National Monument and the trail took me past Duck Creek in the Dixie National Forest on the Markagunt Plateau. Here at an elevation of 8550 feet a large pond, spring fed, remains as open water throughout the winter months. It is surrounded by a heavy forest of aspen, white fir and Engelmann spruce. On that day the following birds were noted on this pond: 24 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), 9 Pintail Ducks (*Dafila acuta*), 33 Green-winged Teals (*Nettion carolinense*), 8 Blue-winged Teals (*Querquedula discors*), 5 Cinnamon Teals (*Querquedula cyanoptera*), and 6 Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Insofar as I can determine, these constitute new altitudinal and winter records for these species in southwestern Utah.

The following day a number of winter bird records were obtained at Cedar Breaks National Monument at an elevation of between 10,300 feet and 11,000 feet. Here the forest of Engelmann spruce and alpine fir is broken by broad meadows as one approaches timber line. The following species were noted:

Penthestes gambeli. Mountain Chickadee. This bird was especially numerous throughout the forested zone and groups of five to ten were frequently observed.

Loxia curvirostra. Red Crossbill. Two large flocks were observed. One of these groups numbered at least thirty individuals. Others were heard in the region.

Myadestes townsendi. Townsend Solitaire. It was somewhat astonishing to find this bird in rela-