records], but probably is a resident." According to Bergtold (A Guide to the Birds of Colorado, 1928:109), upon whose account Alexander bases his statement, the Short-eared Owl is a "frequent resident; mostly on plains but also up to 8000 feet; . . . most common in northern Colorado in summer." The basis for this statement is open to question; in any event field observations would indicate that the Short-eared Owl is at best a rare or only sporadic resident in northeastern Colorado. On June 10, 1942, Short-eared Owls were seen in three separate localities in the area north and northeast of Fort Collins, Colorado. The first group, an adult with several nearly grown young, was flushed from a roadside ditch near the main highway between Fort Collins and Cheyenne about 15 miles north of Fort Collins. As we proceeded toward Fort Collins, going first some distance to the east, other adults were seen perched on fence posts. The last bird was observed about five miles northeast of Fort Collins. It appeared that in this area, at least, the owls were fairly abundant. In 1943 this general area was visited on three occasions, but no owls were noted.

It is possible that during certain periods the Short-eared Owl may nest as far south as Boulder County, but until breeding birds are actually observed it should be listed from there only as an infrequent winter resident.—MALCOLM T. JOLLIE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 20, 1944.*

Diving Habits of the Shoveller Duck.—Shoal-water or river ducks of the subfamily Anatinae normally obtain their food on land, on the surface of the water, or by tipping. Rarely are surface feeders found diving for food, although they experience no difficulty in diving to evade enemies during the period of molt and when crippled.

On September 21 and 22, 1942, at a small pond on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, some 10 miles south of San Antonio, New Mexico, the writer observed three to five male Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*) repeatedly diving for food. The pool was 2 to 3 feet deep and had been formed by a washout during a serious flood down the Rio Grande River. The dives were clean-cut actions; the birds disappeared completely under the water and submerged for several seconds at each dive. Furthermore, the diving seemed to be a concerted action, that is, if one Shoveller dived, the others did so immediately. This abnormal feeding habit was probably the result of insufficient surface food in the particular section of the country where the birds were accustomed to feed; consequently, they had learned to dive for their food.

On a number of occasions the writer has seen Black Ducks and Mallards dive—in a protected area that had been baited—for wheat or corn placed 2 to 4 feet in the water.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, November 13, 1944.*

Foster Parentage of a Mourning Dove in the Wild.—Adoption or foster parentage among birds in the wild apparently is not a common occurrence. There are relatively few instances recorded in the literature, and most of these appear to concern adoption of a juvenile after it has left the nest in which it was hatched; in one such case reported by the writer (Bird-Lore, 28, 1926:334), a towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) cared for a juvenal cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) which had been hatched in the nest of an Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*).

An interesting case of adoption was observed in 1941 by Lee W. Arnold of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Arnold and the writer were studying the life history of the White-winged Dove (*Melopelia asiatica*) in the big mesquite thicket on the Gila River Indian Reservation south of Komatke, Arizona. A blind had been set up near a nest containing two squabs about three days old, and at 5:14 a.m., sun-time, on August 12, 1941, Arnold entered the blind for the purpose of obtaining a full day's record of the care of the young doves. The adult female flushed from the nest at his approach and another adult flushed from the same tree; the female returned to the tree at 5:22 and to the nest at 5:35. At 5:52 another adult perched briefly in the tree, but after that hour no other White-wing entered the tree during the day.

At 7:34 a.m., about the normal hour for the adults to make their regular exchange in parental duties, the brooding female became restless and suddenly left the nest and flew from sight. From that hour until 4:36 p.m., sun-time, no adult White-wing appeared near the nest, though at intervals it was in full sunlight. Several species of birds inspected the nest and young doves during the day, but none attempted to harm them.

At 3:11 p.m., a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), apparently attracted by the peeping of the hungry youngsters, alighted near the nest and inspected the young White-wings, then walked to the nest and immediately began to brood them. From 3:13 to 3:50, the Mourning Dove fed the young White-wings several times and continued to brood them.

At 4:36 p.m., sun-time, after an absence of nine hours and two minutes the female White-wing returned to the nest and immediately attacked the Mourning Dove. Both fought with heads drawn in, tails spread fan-wise, both wings raised, striking with the elbows of the wings. For some two minutes a battle raged, but the greater size of the White-wing prevailed, and the Mourning Dove was driven away. The White-wing settled down upon the nestlings and continued to brood until dark.

Five days later, August 17, Arnold and the writer visited this nest at 9:00 a.m. and found the Mourning Dove again brooding the young White-wings. On August 26 the writer visited the nest again one youngster was gone, but the other and the adult Mourning Dove were perched side by side on a dead branch some 15 feet from the nest and fluttered away together at my approach.

These observations leave much unexplained. Arizona White-winged Doves normally migrate southward by mid-August; possibly the male of this pair had tired of family duties and joined migrating flocks, or he may have been killed. The female appears to have continued to observe normal hours of nest duty for at least a few days, after which she also apparently deserted her brood. The nest of the Mourning Dove containing infertile eggs some 20 feet from the White-wing nest may offer plausible explanation for the maternal instinct of the female Mourning Dove.

On several earlier occasions the writer had observed a White-winged Dove upon a nest only to find a Mourning Dove occupying it on a later visit and then a White-wing at a third visit; inspection had proved the nest to contain young White-winged Doves. Some of these instances may have been further cases of temporary adoption by the Mourning Doves.

Experimental exchange of eggs between nests of Mourning Doves, White-winged Doves, albino aviary doves, and Ring-necked Doves (*Streptopelia risoria*) proved that none rejected either the eggs or the young after they had hatched, even though there was a marked difference in appearance of the newly hatched albino young. Newly-hatched squabs of the Mourning and White-winged doves were also interchanged without ill effect and continued to grow in normal manner. Personal observations and reports from several aviaries in Phoenix also indicate that several species of aviary doves and the Mourning Dove are all quick to adopt or assist in the care of young doves of any species hatched in the aviary cages. Two seasons of study of caged White-wings, however, did not indicate that this species shares that habit.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado, May 4, 1944.*

Kingfisher Nesting Near Whittier, California.—A pair of Belted Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*) nested in the Whittier area during May, 1944, and, it is believed, raised at least two young. On May 13, a kingfisher was seen entering a tunnel in a bank along a stream. Several times each day, on May 15, 17, and 19, it was observed carrying fish into the hole. This species is exceptionally shy about the nest, as my first observation disclosed. A male with a good sized fish in his bill perched on a limb above the water at some distance from the tunnel and rattled continuously; not until I moved farther away to an inconspicuous position did he enter with the fish. On May 24 a female and a young bird were observed near the nest, and another individual, presumably a second juvenile, was seen in the mouth of the hole. On May 30 three birds were noted, but after this date no kingfishers were seen about the site. It was not possible to see the nest as a bend occurred in the tunnel about three feet from the entrance. The three birds probably were of the same family as such a pugnacious and solitary species as this would not tolerate the presence of others of its kind. Willett (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933:99) reports that this species nested in the Whittier area in 1895. Possibly the locality of that record is approximately the same as that reported above. There are several other records for southern California, but the species is sufficiently uncommon, we believe, to deserve this additional notice.—J. H. COMBY, *Whittier, California, December 1, 1944.*

English Sparrows versus Robins.—On May 7, 1944, a pair of Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) was discovered to have a nest in a willow, near Reno, Nevada. The nest was apparently completed and ready for eggs, but a pair of English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) repeatedly tried to take possession of the nest, adding loose nest material on top and often successfully driving the robins away. The male sparrow was shot when this had gone on for at least three days. The robins had evidently deserted the nest at about this time, however, and two robin's eggs, one unbroken, were found on the ground below the willow. But the robins were only temporarily defeated, for a few days later they quickly (in a day and a half) made a new nest in a poplar seventy-five feet away. There they raised a brood without incident. Almost certainly this same pair of robins raised a second brood in a third nest built in an adjacent poplar. Loose sparrow nesting material was found in the second nest after the young robins had left.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, September 20, 1944.*