

nest, in an aspen, was likewise abandoned, but the adult birds were not seen later. A Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) nest, suspended from a branch of a small pine, was found to be hanging from one side only, and one egg was broken on the ground beneath. Neither male nor female was seen again.—LOUISE HERING, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, December 23, 1946.*

**Cause of Death of a Flammulated Owl.**—On September 8, 1946, Walton Brown and I found a dead Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) on a slope forested with lodgepole pine (*Pinus murrayana*) at an altitude of 9,500 feet near Jackson Lake in the Sierra Nevada of northeastern Fresno County, California. A bulky lump, which was evident in the throat of the owl, on autopsy proved to be a large long-horned grasshopper (family Tettigoniidae). Apparently the owl had attempted to swallow this insect head first. However, one of the long jumping legs had become twisted in such a manner as to lodge across the thorax of the insect. This increased its bulk to such an extent that it was unable to pass between the two arms of the wish bone. The owl might still have survived by disgorging its recalcitrant meal. However, the grasshopper's other legs with the abdomen formed a tangled mass which prevented this alternative and death resulted. Aside from the complications that arose, it would appear that this insect was rather large for the owl to swallow whole. It measured 3.3 cm. long by 1 cm. in diameter dried and not including the legs. However, it appears that grasshoppers and crickets are routine items in the diet of the Flammulated Owl (Jewett, Condor, 30, 1928:164; Marshall, Condor, 41, 1939:77; 44, 1942:66).

In addition to the long-horned grasshopper the stomach contents, which were saved and later analyzed, consisted of 4 crane flies (Tipulidae), 1 caddis fly (Trichoptera), 7 moths (Lepidoptera), 1 serpent fly (Raphidae), and 11 harvestmen spiders (Phalangida).

The owl was prepared as a study skin. Since it had apparently been dead for several days, minor decomposition prevented the determination of its sex.—KARL W. KENYON, *Mills College, Oakland, California, December 17, 1946.*

**Belted Kingfisher Nesting in Ventura County, California.**—Early in April, 1946, my boys informed me that a pair of Belted Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*) were digging a hole in a dirt bank along Sespe Creek, Ventura County, California, a short distance from my home. I immediately investigated and found the hole which was in the shade of a large eucalyptus tree; several low hanging branches of the tree were used as perches by the birds. The bank where the hole was found was about two hundred and fifty feet from the stream, and the entrance to the burrow was five feet two inches from the bottom and three feet seven inches from the top and measured four inches across and five inches high. The bottom of the burrow had a decided ridge in the center with a furrow on each side, evidently made by the birds' feet in going into the nest cavity.

On May 3, 1946, we decided that there should be a full set of eggs, so we used a trout rod to determine the depth of the hole, which we found to be about seven feet. The hole curved so that we could not see to the end. Digging to one side of the hole, we broke through to the nest cavity. One of the birds flushed from the entrance and on examining the cavity, which held no nesting material, I found seven fresh eggs lying on the bare ground about eight inches from the rear end of the hole. The eggs are distinctly larger than eggs of eastern Belted Kingfishers and measure in inches, 1.510 × 1.135, 1.545 × 1.147, 1.531 × 1.141, 1.421 × 1.132, 1.460 × 1.130, 1.439 × 1.131, 1.431 × 1.149. This is, to my knowledge, the first nesting record for the species in Ventura County.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, December 23, 1946.*

**Orange-crowned Warbler Wintering in Oregon.**—On January 11, 1947, while investigating my bird traps in Eugene, Oregon, I found a dark olive-green warbler in a government sparrow trap. Upon closer examination it proved to be a dark form of the Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). It was banded (46-23907), weighed (8.74 gms.), and released.

It is regretted that this bird was not saved as a specimen, since it may have been of the race *V. c. celata*, which is considered a rare bird in Oregon (see Jewett, Condor, 48, 1946:285).—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, January 22, 1947.*

**Notes on Mississippi Kites in Hemphill County, Texas.**—Allan and Sime (Condor, 45, 1943:110-112) reported on the distribution of Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in the Panhandle of Texas. They stated that there might be assumed to be a pair or more of these birds per square mile in optimum habitat. The conservatism of this assumption was shown by a study made August 14-22, 1946. An area of 575 acres of federally-owned land about 14 miles east of Canadian, Hemphill County, Texas, was found to have in residence 34 adult (seemingly 17 pairs) and 15 young kites. The latter were associated with 10 pairs of adults. From a suitable spot on the area late in the afternoon of August 21, 24 of the 49 resident birds were simultaneously in view.