

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Towhee Helps Cardinals Feed Their Fledglings.—When two parent Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*) guided their three fledglings to a tray of seeds on my window sill at Globe, Arizona, a male Brown Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*), a companion resident, joined them in the shelling and feeding task. His smaller, conical bill was entirely satisfactory. If the fledglings were not at the tray, the towhee would seek them out in the near-by trees. The three adults worked together in complete harmony for about three weeks. The female cardinal was the first to end her care and later the towhee did so; the male cardinal continued to feed one retarded young for two more weeks.

It is significant that the begging young were not orphans or parasitic young and also that this male towhee had just completed a normal breeding cycle. He and his mate had reared two young in a nest on an ivy-covered trellis five feet from the window, and after hiding the fledglings in a near-by thicket for a few days, they coaxed them to the ledge for feedings. The family had scarcely disbanded when the cardinal family arrived. This male towhee had remained near the house all winter, often entering the doorway. A month after helping to feed the cardinals the towhees raised a second brood at another nesting site.—ADA ANTEVS, *The Corral, Globe, Arizona, July 7, 1947.*

Black and Mottled Ducks in Colorado.—As there has been considerable confusion regarding the occurrence of Black (*Anas rubripes*) and Mottled (*Anas fulvigula*) ducks in Colorado, I should like to list specimens which I have examined. Cooke in his second supplement to *The Birds of Colorado* referred the several early records to *Anas fulvigula maculosa*, but Felger (*Auk*, 27, 1910:451) considered Cooke in error and listed several additional specimens as *Anas rubripes*.

It is now evident that three species occur in the state. Unfortunately, the majority of specimens reported in the literature seem to have disappeared, but I have found seven skins available for study as follows:

Felger Coll.	<i>Anas rubripes</i> , Loveland, Larimer Co., November 13, 1904.
Colo. U. 2292	<i>Anas rubripes</i> , ♂, Windsor, Weld Co., December 9, 1923.
C. M. N. H. 24393	<i>Anas rubripes</i> , ♂, Jumbo Res., Sedgwick Co., December 9, 1944.
C. M. N. H. 353	<i>Anas fulvigula maculosa</i> , ♂, Loveland, Larimer Co., November 6, 1907.
C. M. N. H. 20557	<i>Anas diazi novimexicana</i> , ♀, Henderson, Adams Co., October 29, 1939.
C. M. N. H. 24392	<i>Anas diazi novimexicana</i> , ♂, Barr, Adams Co., November 19, 1944.
C. M. N. H. 25374	<i>Anas diazi novimexicana</i> , ♀, Jumbo Res., Sedgwick Co., March 4, 1947.

R. J. Niedrach and I took a female *novimexicana*, the first to be recorded from Colorado, from a flock of Mallards along the Platte River on October 29, 1939, while I was fortunate to take a second, a beautiful male, at the Mile High Duck Club, near Barr, on November 19, 1944. The third specimen for the state, a female, was taken by the game warden, G. I. Crawford, on Jumbo Reservoir, Sedgwick County, on March 4, 1947.

R. B. Rockwell and I saw a very dark "Mallard" at the Mile High Duck Club on February 9, 1937, which we believed was a high-plumaged male *Anas rubripes*, and Charles C. Sperry and Ralph H. Imler of the Fish and Wildlife Service trapped, banded and liberated a male *rubripes* at Valmont Reservoir, Boulder County, on January 2, 1946.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, May 20, 1947.*

Duck Hawk Predation upon Ring-necked Pheasants.—Late on the afternoon of November 24, 1946, while returning from the Fern Ridge Reservoir area west of Eugene, Oregon, I had an opportunity to watch a Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus*) attack and apparently kill a Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). When first seen, the falcon was flying low over an open field. It passed over six pheasants, without causing any excitement, to attack the seventh, a cock, on the edge of the flock.

In making the attack there was no hover, no stoop, and no indication of the coming strike. The falcon just glided along as if not interested in any of the birds and then suddenly struck. The pheasant was apparently stunned by the first blow. In quick succession the falcon hit three more times, each time bowling the pheasant over. The falcon then started to leave the scene, and the pheasant, recovering somewhat, jumped into the air and commenced flying off. Immediately the falcon turned and pursued the fleeing bird. The pheasant was then struck four more times while in the air, each time having its course altered, and on the last strike falling to the ground. Not yet crippled, the pheasant again rose to attempt escape and the falcon quickly turned and struck a ninth time. The pheasant fell limp to the ground, apparently dead.

Very shortly after the pheasant fell a large Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and a Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*) arrived on the scene. The Duck Hawk attacked the Red-tail twice, driving it and the Marsh Hawk from the scene, and then left itself. No attempt to feed on the fallen bird was made by any of the three raptors.

On different occasions other pheasants have been found dead in the same general area, presumably killed by the same bird. Never has evidence of feeding on the carcass been found. In all instances the birds were killed by breaking the spinal cord between the skull and the first vertebra.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, April 10, 1947.*

An Unrecorded Specimen of *Neochloe brevipennis*.—When describing a new subspecies of *Neochloe brevipennis* from a male taken near Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico, Miller and Ray (Condor, 46, 1944:41-45) listed every skin of this rare species of vireo known to have been collected in the period between 1856 and 1940, six in all. It may prove of interest therefore that the Zoological Museum of Berlin received in 1932 a beautiful specimen of this species, formerly mounted (Z. M. B. No. 32.25), which was collected at the Hacienda de Fuxpango, Orizaba, Vera Cruz, Mexico. Neither date nor collector is indicated on the label, which bears a mysterious original number (No. 275). Possibly the bird is one of Matteo Botteri's specimens of which only two could be traced by Miller and Ray. The wing measures 56.9 mm., the culmen about 9 mm.—ERWIN STRESEMANN, *Zoological Museum, Berlin, Germany, August 4, 1947.*

The Black Vulture and the Caracara as Vegetarians.—McIlhenny's note (Auk, 62, 1945: 136-137) on Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) eating chopped sweet potatoes prompts me to report my observations on this bird in Surinam, Dutch Guiana. On the grounds of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Paramaribo I regularly observe Black Vultures feeding on the fruits of the African oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*). The birds either sit in the trees and gnaw small bits from the fruits which they swallow, or they sit on the ground under the trees and feed on the fruits which have fallen down. Also the Black Vultures regularly feed on the flesh of coconuts. The most striking example of this I witnessed in July and September, 1946, in Coronie. This is a coconut growing district where in a factory at the Leasowes plantation oil is pressed mechanically from the coconut flesh. The nuts are opened by laborers, after which the flesh is removed and laid to dry either in the sun on stone floors or in rather primitive ovens fed by the bark of the nuts. After work ceases in the evening, the coconut flesh is removed from the stone floors and the workmen go home. At that time about 75 or more Black Vultures which have assembled in the meantime in the neighboring cocopalms glide down and start searching for the remnants of coconut flesh. According to the manager of the plantation this is a daily spectacle which he has witnessed for years.

At the same place two Caracaras (*Polyborus cheriway*) searched for and fed on the coconut flesh on one of the stone floors.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Paramaribo, Surinam, Dutch Guiana, January 27, 1947.*

Zone-tailed Hawk Feeds on Rock Squirrel.—Because of the paucity of records of both occurrence and food habits of the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), it may be of interest to report that on July 3, 1947, about 18 miles north of Globe, Arizona, on U. S. Highway 60, at approximately 5300 feet elevation, a Zone-tailed Hawk was observed on the highway struggling with a young rock squirrel which was perhaps three-quarters grown.

When first seen from an approaching automobile approximately 100 yards distant, the bird was dragging the squirrel which was struggling frantically to escape. The struggling squirrel was too heavy for the bird to carry off; consequently the hawk dragged it over the pavement for perhaps 50 feet. When our automobile was within 20 or 25 feet of the bird, it released its prey and flew off reluctantly. The bird seemed sluggish and slow in its movements.

At first glance from a distance, the bird appeared to be a Turkey Vulture. However, closer inspection clearly revealed that the bird was a Zone-tailed Hawk. The conspicuous tail bands and distinctive head and beak are unmistakable characteristics.

After leaving the fray, the bird circled overhead, remaining in the vicinity for about 15 minutes before leaving in search of other food.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, July 15, 1947.*

Notes on the Occurrence of Birds in Lower California.—On April 3, 1946, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*) was seen foraging along the shores of a small cove that lies on the southeast shore of San Martin Island, Lower California, Mexico. The bird remained in the vicinity of this small cove for two days and was taken there on April 6. The