

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Horned Owl Preys on Cooper Hawk.**—In early January of 1947, while collecting Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) pellets in the Fern Ridge Reservoir area west of Eugene, Oregon, I came upon a large pellet containing bones somewhat larger than are generally found in pellets of this species. Upon breaking the pellet open, a complete raptor talon was found in addition to several other large bones. The leg piece, consisting of the complete foot, tarsus and a short part of the tibiotarsus, was sent to Stanley G. Jewett for identification. He identified it as a Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*).

A short time earlier both wings of a Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*) were found lying in soft mud a short distance from the site where the pellet was found. There was no evidence of a struggle and the lack of animal prints in the mud indicated that the bird was killed in the air by another bird. Both wings were broken off in the mid-humerus region, and the body was completely gone. These facts would probably indicate that this Marsh Hawk also fell prey to the Horned Owl, since no other bird in this area would be able to kill a hawk of this size in the air, break the bones, and carry the body off.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, April 10, 1947.*

**Screech Owl Egg in Crow's Nest.**—In the course of a field trip near Fullerton, California, on April 22, 1945, I was much surprised to find a Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) egg in a set of four American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) eggs. A crow was incubating the eggs at the time of discovery and all eggs showed evidence of fertility. The owl egg was compared with several sets of the species in my collection and corresponded closely in size and shape. The nest tree showed no signs of having been climbed prior to my ascent.—EDWARD M. HALL, *Whittier, California, January 15, 1947.*

**Some Bird Records for Southern Nevada.**—Linsdale, in his "Birds of Nevada" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936:31), records two Anthony Green Herons taken on May 7, 1934, on the Colorado River opposite Fort Mojave in the extreme southern part of Clark County, Nevada.

On June 30, 1947, the writer observed two Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*) at the mouth of Muddy Creek which enters Boulder Canyon south of Overton, Nevada. On the adjacent mud flats a small flock of seven Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*) and one Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) were also seen. These apparently were extremely early fall migrants. Near them were two broods of Cinnamon Teal, a female Shoveller, and two female Mallard ducks.—CLARENCE COTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, July 16, 1947.*

**Black Pigeon Hawk at Santa Barbara, California.**—On September 14, 1947, 6 miles east of Santa Barbara, California, in the foothills at 500 feet altitude, two Pigeon Hawks were observed. Shortly thereafter a single individual was taken, probably one of the two first noted. It proved to be a Black Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*); Mr. Egmont Rett of the Santa Barbara Museum made the identification. The bird had eaten at least three dragon flies. There are but four previous records of this race of Pigeon Hawk from southern California, three of which are from Santa Barbara.—EDWARD R. SPAULDING, *Santa Barbara, California, October 11, 1946.*

**A Second Record of the Oven-bird on the Mohave Desert.**—Hunt (Condor, 22, 1920:190) reported an Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) on the Mohave Desert of California near Lavic.

On May 13, 1937, I was camping in the broad smoke-tree wash leading down from the Granite Mountains toward Bristol Dry Lake near Amboy. It was about six o'clock in the morning and I was seated before my camp fire writing up my notes of the previous day. Glancing up I saw on the ground before me not more than ten feet away a small bird whose identity was unmistakable: it was none other than the Oven-bird. During the next half hour I had it continuously under observation. The bird was exceedingly unafraid and as it moved about peering under leaves of ground-hugging annuals for insect food, I slowly followed it. It kept close to the ground rising only occasionally to fly to some new feeding place in the broad openings between shrubs or beneath the shelter of smoke-trees (*Dalea spinosa*). The site where I saw this warbler is but thirty miles away from the place where Mr. Hunt observed the species in 1920.—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside College, Riverside, California, June 1, 1947.*

**White-headed Woodpecker Spends Winter at Palm Springs, California.**—I spent the winter of 1915-1916 at Palm Springs, California, on the Colorado Desert. In front of the school building, where I was teaching, was a square 20-foot pole which carried the single telegraph wire which offered the only quick means of communication of the then small village to the outside world. In late November I noticed a White-headed Woodpecker (*Dryobates albolarvatus*) several times a day clinging to the sides of the pole and occasionally near evening going into a hole previously made

near the pole's top by some other woodpecker, probably a Red-shafted Flicker. The hole was apparently regularly occupied at night as a roosting place. The school children were excited about the bird's activities and watched it almost daily throughout the winter until it left on February 24. This is the only occasion on which I have observed this bird of the coniferous forests seeking winter quarters at such a low altitude (457 feet) and on the desert. The occurrence somewhat parallels Moore's record at Redlands, San Bernardino County, California (Condor, 45, 1943:233), and Cogswell's record at Alhambra, Los Angeles County (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:248) except that this bird was plainly no mere vagrant of a day. One wonders what it was that induced it to remain so long away from its usual mountain habitat.—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside College, Riverside, California, August 12, 1947.*

**More Records of the Wood Duck in Arizona.**—For several years past the writer has confidently expected that the Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*, would be authentically added to the avifauna of Arizona. During those years repeated oral reports have reached me, indicating occasional occurrences of the species. Those reports, however, while in the aggregate convincing to the writer, were often indirect or second-hand and could not be made the basis of a scientific record. In some instances they were quite *sub-rosa*, the birds having reportedly been taken by mistake during a hunting season in which they were on the protected list. After all, this species has not been known in Arizona, although it occurs east and west of us, and a considerable degree of unfamiliarity was to be expected.

The most direct and convincing report reaching me was made by Mr. A. A. Nichol, a very competent observer. He reported a few years ago having seen at close range a male Wood Duck at or on the then new Parker Reservoir. Personally I never doubted this record, but the occurrence was in the boundary waters between California and Arizona, and was not reported. By recent letter, Mr. Nichol has informed me that "It was on October 26, 1940, that I saw a male Wood Duck sitting in a dead mesquite tree along the east shores of Parker Lake, just about fifteen miles south of Topock."

Now, in addition to two previously reported sight records—from Tucson by Anderson and Anderson (Condor, 49, 1947:89), and from Phoenix by Pulich (Condor, 49, 1947:131)—we have records from middle eastern Arizona. Game Ranger Al Wilson of Springerville, Apache County, on January 12, 1947, "positively identified a pair on the Little Colorado River about a mile below Lyman Dam" (letter to writer, January 24, 1947).

Somewhat later, Director Reid, of the State Game Department, wrote me that Ranger Wilson had secured a pair of Wood Ducks which would be presented to the University "if we were interested." These specimens came into our possession bearing the date of January 6, 1947, taken on the Little Colorado River below Lyman Dam. Seeking to get the entire record straight, we next learned by letter from Mr. Wilson that he had first identified a pair of Wood Ducks in that location on January 5, 1947, in the open season. Patrolling the area again on January 6, he found the pair (or a pair), freshly killed, in possession of two Spanish-American youths (small boys). Making a deal with the boys, he secured the birds and had them mounted in Alpine, Arizona. These came into our collection as stated, in March, 1947. The pair identified on January 12 was therefore the second pair for that locality within a week.

Both are fine specimens, in full spring plumage. They are nos. 1527 and 1528 in the bird collection of the Department of Entomology and Economic Zoology.—CHARLES T. VORHIES, *University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, October 16, 1947.*

**Cerulean Warbler in California.**—The junior author of this note was at the southeastern edge of Salton Sea, Imperial County, California, with his brother, Bruce E. Cardiff, on October 1, 1947, when a strange warbler was collected. Subsequent examination of the bird with the senior author proved that it was an immature female Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*). Search of the literature indicates that it is a new record for the state of California. The specimen is no. 329 in the Cardiff collection.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California*, and EUGENE E. CARDIFF, *Bloomington, California, October 13, 1947.*