

various localities by Dr. Claude W. Hibbard and his associates. While definite determinations must in many instances await further study, one identification which seems worth placing on record is that of a Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Univ. Mich. Mus. Paleo. no. 24747), from late Pleistocene deposits in Oklahoma. This fossil was taken from deposits laid down in a fresh water basin, the Nye Sink, on the XI Ranch, 21 miles south of Meade, Kansas, in sec. 15, T.6 N., R. 25 E., Beaver County, Oklahoma. These are very late Pleistocene deposits, as described by Smith (Kans. Geol. Surv. Bull., 34, 1940:103-104), containing silt, clay, silty sand, and diatomaceous earth. The stratigraphy in the area is greatly complicated by the formation and filling of a series of sinks and basins, so that the exact determination of the age of beds is extremely difficult. Associated vertebrates include the mammal species *Mammuthus columbi* and *Synaptomys bunker* (Hibbard, Univ. Kans. Sci. Bull., 26, 1939:367-371; Contr. Univ. Mich. Mus. Paleo., 7, 1949:79), a small duck, and fish and amphibian remains, although these may belong to a slightly older fauna than does the bird material here discussed.

The merganser remains, a left tarsometatarsus, complete except for the outer trochlea and the greater part of the most medial calcaneal ridge, I found inseparable from those of the series of modern *Lophodytes cucullatus* available for comparison. The fossil is nearly white in color, brittle, but well preserved except for the defects noted. It measures 30.3 mm. in total length and 7.4 mm. in width of head. Four females in the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan range from 30.3 to 31.7 mm. in length, and four males from 31.7 to 34.1, indicating that the fossil probably represents a female. The width of the head of the fossil is slightly greater than would be expected, the female specimens examined ranging from 7.1 to 7.4 mm. The fossil is not, however, notably heavier in the shaft, and any difference seems probably attributable to individual variation.

The species has been previously recorded from the Pleistocene from the Itchtucknee River, Florida, and from Fossil Lake, Oregon (Wetmore, Smiths. Misc. Coll., 99, 1940:28).—WILLIAM A. LUNK, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 3, 1952.*

Bird Notes from Southern Colorado.—The following observations made in southern Colorado, mostly in the San Luis Valley at an average elevation of 7400 feet, represent occurrences of species that have been only rarely or never before reported in Colorado. Unless otherwise noted, all specimens mentioned are now in the collections of the Denver Museum of Natural History.

Casmerodius albus. American Egret. One was seen with three Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*) at the Russell Lakes, 10 miles south of Saguache, on April 19, 1950. B. D. Baker saw another American Egret three miles east of Monte Vista, Rio Grande County, on July 8, 1950.

Ixobrychus exilis. Least Bittern. A lone bird of this species was flushed in hardstem bulrush cover at the Russell Lakes, June 7, 1950. It was the only Least Bittern noted in the course of two years' intensive coverage of the area. The American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), however, was a very common breeding species.

Falco peregrinus. Duck Hawk. Although rather rare in most parts of Colorado, the peregrine was a fairly common migrant in the San Luis and Upper Rio Grande valleys of Colorado. The writer observed individuals near South Fork on June 8, 1949, at the Russell Lakes on July 30 and August 19, 1950, and at the Rio Grande Reservoir, elevation 10,000 feet, on June 4, 1950. Dr. Paul C. Bibbee saw a Duck Hawk near Creede, Mineral County, on July 2, 1950. Bert D. Baker saw one near Mirage, Saguache County, on September 12, 1950, and another near Del Norte, Rio Grande County, on October 20, 1950. The writer collected an adult female near Mancos, Montezuma County, on July 23, 1950. When collected, the falcon was in a plowed field feeding on an adult male Redhead (*Aythya americana*). The Duck Hawk skin is now in the collections of the Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit of the Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Pelidna alpina. Red-backed Sandpiper. One female was collected from a flock of Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*) five miles north of Center in Saguache County on May 5, 1950. Niedrach and Rockwell (The Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks, 1939:78) considered this species to be rare in Colorado.

Asio flammeus. Short-eared Owl. Although a common winter resident in Colorado, there are few records of this species nesting in the state (Sclater, A History of Colorado Birds, 1912:199). Niedrach and Rockwell (*op. cit.*: 96) listed it only as a winter resident in the Denver area. In June, 1950, the writer found two nests in low, rush (*Juncus ater*) meadows on the Charles Headlee Ranch approxi-

mately five miles northwest of Monte Vista. An adult female was collected at the Russell Lakes on August 13, 1950. The skin is in the Wildlife Unit's collections.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. Red-headed Woodpecker. One female was observed eight miles west of Del Norte, Rio Grande County, on October 10, 1951. Niedrach and Rockwell (*op. cit.*: 103) noted that this species was extending its range westward in the Denver area.

Pyrocephalus rubinus. Vermilion Flycatcher. A female was collected at Pearsall's Trout Hatchery on Spring Creek, eight miles south of Monte Vista, Rio Grande County, May 16, 1950. This species has apparently never before been reported in Colorado. Gale Monson's account of seeing a Vermilion Flycatcher near San Antonio, New Mexico, is the northernmost record known for the Rio Grande Valley (Condor, 48, 1946:238-241).

Seiurus noveboracensis. Northern Water-thrush. An adult was taken on May 16, 1950, at Pearsall's Trout Hatchery. Two birds of this species were noted in the same area the following week. Niedrach and Rockwell (*op. cit.*: 142) considered this species a rare migrant in the Denver area and knew of only four Colorado specimens.

Piranga rubra. Summer Tanager. B. D. Baker noted an immature male approximately four miles east of La Garita, Saguache County, which the writer collected on May 15, 1950. According to records in the Denver Museum of Natural History, this is probably the third Colorado specimen of this species.—RONALD A. RYDER, *San Francisco, California, February 3, 1952.*

Confused Enemy Recognition.—Regarding the phenomenon of enemy recognition by birds (Cross, Auk, 67, 1950:512; Davis, Auk, 67, 1950:518; Rand, Auk, 68, 1951:524-525), certain field observations suggest to me that a bird's reaction may be directed not only against a recognized enemy but against any form which resembles an enemy.

On May 26, 1951, Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) nesting in an extensive cattail marsh southeast of Fort Collins, Colorado, commenced an excited harangue when a high-flying B-29 airplane passed over the marsh. A week later these same birds in a three-hour period harangued a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) which crossed above the marsh.

Although none of the objects which excited the blackbirds can typically be considered in an enemy status in this locality, there is a decided resemblance between each of the objects and various hawks, especially the Marsh Hawk, which harass the blackbirds. Since it is not uncommon for ornithologists momentarily to mistake some of the aforementioned objects for birds of prey, it is not surprising that the blackbirds appear to err likewise, particularly when under the stress of defending a nest.—RICHARD G. BEIDLEMAN, *Zoology Department, Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, Fort Collins, Colorado, March 31, 1952.*

The European Starling in Central British Columbia.—For three years prior to 1948 I saw occasional birds I was sure were European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the vicinity of Williams Lake, British Columbia. However, it was not until April 30, 1948, that a specimen was taken at 150-Mile House in this area. A few weeks later, near the same place, a female starling was seen carrying grasshoppers into an abandoned woodpecker's nest cavity about 30 feet from the ground. It is not known whether the young were raised successfully. Since then I have taken an adult female at Williams Lake on November 26, 1948, another specimen at Williams Lake on April 26, 1951, and a third at Kleena Kleene, 200 miles west of Williams Lake, on October 21, 1951.

A second breeding record was noted in the summer of 1951 when a pair of starlings nested near the Williams Lake stockyards. These constitute the first establishment of the species in British Columbia.—L. JOBIN, *Williams Lake, British Columbia, April 15, 1952.*

Golden Eagle versus Red Fox: Predation or Play?—In a paper on mammals of the Brooks Range, Alaska, Rausch (*Arctic*, 4, 1951:147-195) records two instances of attacks made on red foxes by Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Dixon (*Jour. Mamm.*, 14, 1933:257) recorded attacks by an adult eagle on a red and a cross fox in Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska. Adolph Murie (*The Wolves of Mount McKinley, National Park Service Fauna Series*, 5, 1944:217-218) records several instances of eagles swooping on foxes.