FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Communal Roosting of the Pygmy Nuthatch.—There has always been considerable speculation, especially among laymen, about where birds go at night. In the light of the following account, it seems a singular coincidence that Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 195, 1948:53) observed in his life history of the race *melanotis* of the Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) that "very little is known about where and how birds spend their nights."

Some years ago Samuel W. Gadd, a journalist of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and an amateur ornithologist, told me of seeing a large number of Pygmy Nuthatches enter an old pine stub at dusk in the foothills just west of the Broadmoor section of Colorado Springs. I was unable to investigate this matter until early October of the following year at which time I found the location by following Gadd's directions. The tree in question was a very large yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) which stood in the middle of a clearing. It had broken off about 30 feet from the ground, and the trunk which remained standing was pierced with holes. Subsequent investigation revealed it to be almost completely hollow, so that it consisted mainly of one very large cavity and a few additional minor cavities. As I sat at the edge of the clearing waiting for darkness, I heard the chattering of a flock of nuthatches approaching through the pines. It was apparent that the flock was quite large. Upon reaching the edge of the clearing, some individuals flew directly to the tree and entered the holes in the trunk. Others lingered in the surrounding pines investigating the bark and feeding. Eventually the remainder of the flock, individually and in small groups, flew to the old pine and disappeared into the holes. At first I tried to tally the incoming birds but lost count at 90. I finally estimated that there were at least 150 individuals roosting together in the trunk, with a minimum of 100 sharing the same cavity. Whether this large number of birds represented a single flock or a combination of several smaller flocks is unknown. The chattering continued for a short time, and then all was quiet. Before leaving, I tapped the trunk and was rewarded with more chattering but no birds flew out.

More recently Victor Favier, of the University of Colorado Biology Department, brought me the mummified remains of nine Pygmy Nuthatches he had found at the bottom of a cavity in a yellow pine stub in the foothills west of Boulder, Colorado. The plumages were in excellent condition and it was easily determined that the birds were all fully adult. Since then I have investigated seven other large dead yellow pine stubs in the same area. Six were empty but from a cavity in the seventh I recovered 13 dead Pygmy Nuthatches. The bodies, although desiccated and shriveled by the dry climate, were in a remarkable state of preservation. The plumages were nearly good enough for museum skins, and once again it was apparent that all the birds were adults. Both of the cavities containing dead nuthatches were large enough to have accommodated perhaps 40 to 60 birds and there was only one entrance hole at the top of each cavity which was deep and cylindrical.

Although these birds could have been overtaken by any one of a number of calamities, it is at least possible that they could have died of suffocation while roosting in large numbers in a poorly ventilated cavity. It also seems that this communal roosting behavior of large numbers of Pygmy Nuthatches is worthy of note. I have been unable to find reference to such roosting anywhere in the literature.—Owen A. Knorr, *Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, May 16, 1957.*

Southernmost Record of the Blue-winged Teal.—According to Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., 13, pt. 1, no. 2, 1948:333–334) the southern limit of migration of the Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*), on the west coast of South America, is Lake Junín, Perú, northeast of the city of Lima, and on the east coast, French Guiana near Cayenne. On March 31, 1957, a specimen of *Querquedula discors* was taken in Uruguay, about 34° south latitude, near the Brazilian boundary and the Atlantic coast.

The region where the teal was obtained is extraordinarily rich in aquatic birds and migratory species, including plovers, terns, snipes, and birds of prey. Wintering ducks are abundant, especially the Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) whose area of dispersal and migratory movements are still matters of discussion.

The record specimen, a male in breeding plumage, was collected by Mr. Enrique Gómez Haedo, in the Department of Rocha, within the extensive marshes adjacent to the "Parador La Coronilla."

The measurements are: wing 183 mm.; tail 67; culmen 41; tarsus 36.4; middle toe without claw 38.7. The skin is now deposited in the private collection of Rodolfo Escalante (Montevideo, Uruguay).

In view of the present record, the Blue-winged Teal may be added to the list of birds of Uruguay. Whether it is a regular or an accidental visitor is as yet uncertain, but this discovery marks the southern limits of migration as presently known.—Rodolfo Escalante and Enrique Gómez Haedo, *Montevideo, Uruguay, July 17, 1957.*

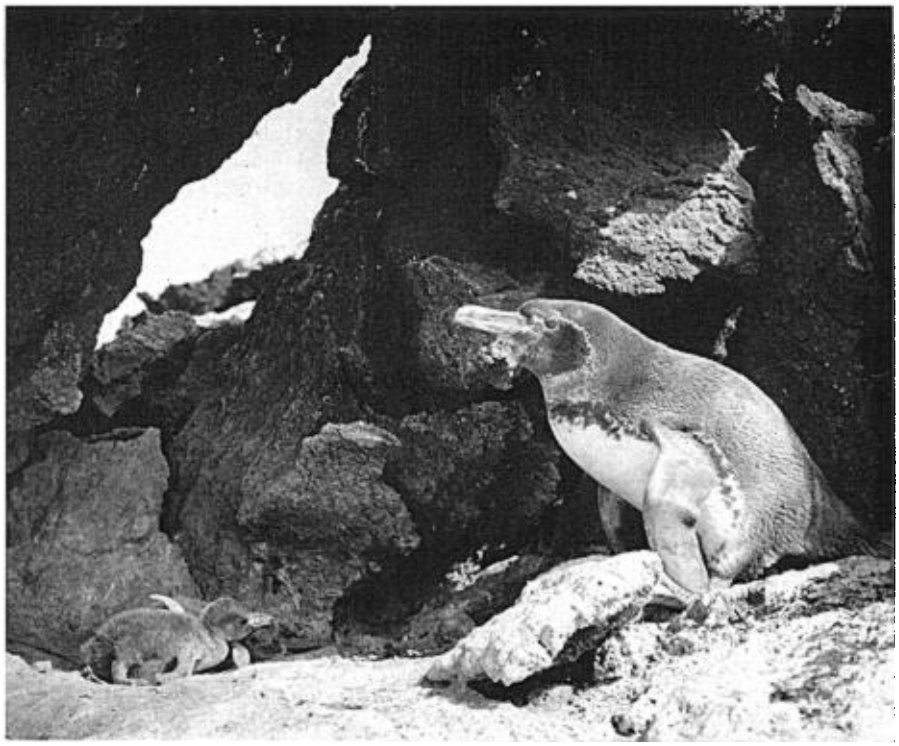

Fig. 1. Adult and two young of Galápagos Penguin at nest on Fernandina Island.

Nest of the Galápagos Penguin.—The nest of the Galápagos Penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) has apparently not been reported previously. In the course of the Walt Disney photographic expedition to the Galápagos Islands, a nest of this bird was photographed on August 1, 1954, and it was observed on several later dates. The nest was located near Punta Espinosa, Fernandina Island, and it contained two downy young. The site was a rock cranny seven feet above high water. It was protected from direct sun by a lava slab, but aside from that it was an open and relatively exposed nesting site. On each of the five occasions that the nest was examined an adult bird was with the young.

There were many adult penguins in the area of Bolívar Canal at this time, and on several occasions groups of over 200 individuals were observed feeding in flocks with Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) and Noddy Terns (*Anoüs stolidus*).

In this area on Fernandina Island, adult penguins were often observed to disappear into deep lava cracks and potholes that extend for many yards into the jumbled rock piles of the shore. From deep holes of this kind, calls similar to those made by the nestling penguins were heard at several locations other than at the exposed nesting site. For this reason, and because no other exposed nests were found, I believe that the exposed site is less typical of the Galápagos Penguin than are the deeply hidden sites from which the calls of other nestlings were heard.—Jack C. Couffer, *Hollywood, California, July 29, 1957.*