

**Red-tailed Hawk Feeds on Crickets.**—On January 14, 1957, William B. Bradford of the California Department of Fish and Game brought a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis calurus*) to the California Academy of Sciences. The bird had been shot the previous day by an unidentified person near Castle Rock, Corral Hollow, San Joaquin County, California. It was an immature female, just beginning to assume adult plumage, and it proved to be unusually fat, weighing 1098.5 grams. An examination of its digestive tract revealed the remains of 49 Jerusalem crickets (*Stenopelmatus fuscus*). Seventeen of these were in the crop and 32 were in the stomach. No other food material was present. All of the crickets were fairly intact, indicating that they had been ingested not long before the bird was shot.

Although Red-tailed Hawks are known to capture crickets occasionally (Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 170, 1938), the presence in the crop and stomach of a diurnal bird of prey of such a large number of nocturnal insects that live fairly deep in the ground during the daytime seemed rather unusual. Correspondence with William Bradford revealed that he had observed concentrations of Red-tailed and Marsh hawks, on January 13, in the vicinity of alfalfa fields near the town of Tracy which is 7½ miles northeast of Castle Rock. Many of these fields had recently been flooded with irrigation water to offset the drought that prevailed through much of the mid-winter in California. Since flooding generally forces crickets from their subterranean hiding places it appears possible that these man-made inundations may have been responsible for unearthing these insects, thereby providing certain hawks in the vicinity with a type of food that is usually inaccessible to them.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences and University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, October 23, 1957.*

**Repeated Attacks by a Sharp-shinned Hawk on a Pileated Woodpecker.**—Seven attacks made within 10 minutes by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) on a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), observed near Seneca, Maryland, on October 5, 1957, were interesting from the point of view of the behavior of both birds involved. At 8:00 a.m. I approached a dead elm by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, on the look-out for Pileated Woodpeckers. In previous months, I had seen at least one of them come to drum on a hollow portion of the elm, or to rest and preen in early morning sunshine. On October 5, there were two Pileated Woodpeckers. One flew away, but the other, a male, crossed over to an oak on my side of the canal. Then I saw him fly back across the canal closely pursued by a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The woodpecker returned to the elm, hammered on some bark, then hitched to a high limb and drummed not too loudly; he then preened his feathers. The Sharp-shinned Hawk was perched 10 feet away on another dead limb. It suddenly flew at the woodpecker and a short pursuit followed, but the woodpecker again returned to the elm and drummed once more, this time lower down. The hawk also returned. It sat upright and motionless except for side-to-side motions of its tail. Then it attacked the woodpecker for a third time. The woodpecker dodged around the trunk but the hawk, with amazing control, banked so as to cut around the trunk also. Another chase now took place through the woods. At one point the woodpecker swooped low to the ground and the hawk, well above him, dove nearly vertically downward through the trees. Four more attacks took place in succession, hawk and woodpecker alighting, between attacks, not far apart on trees adjacent to the elm. In the last encounter, the woodpecker gave loud *cuk, cuk* notes as he circled more widely than previously but alighted near his starting point. Following the report of a shotgun, he finally flew downstream. Farther along the canal I saw two more Sharp-shinned Hawks. It seemed probable that a migratory flight of these birds was taking place.

**Discussion.**—Some aspects of the attacks described were surprising to the observer. The Sharp-shinned Hawk was swift and agile, banking, diving, and reaching when close with long legs and talons outstretched. In comparison the woodpecker was large and slow. This appearance, however, may have been deceptive. The Pileated Woodpecker seemed to drop out of reach at critical moments and it was not sufficiently frightened by the attacks to leave the vicinity of the elm or to refrain, in interim periods, from such activities as drumming and preening. A similar lack of concern in a Pileated Woodpecker has been described by Michael (Condor, 23, 1921:68) who watched one of these woodpeckers drilling with apparent unconcern while a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) perched within a few feet of it. In this instance, the woodpecker finally drove the hawk away. There is no reason to believe that the encounters which I witnessed by the canal were simply play, for seven attacks, driven close

to home, indicated that the hawk was trying to strike down the larger bird.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, *Bethesda, Maryland, October 15, 1957.*

**Sora, Snowy Egret, Blue-winged Teal, and Mourning Dove in Juneau, Alaska.**—On October 21, 1956, a Sora (*Porzana carolina*) was collected near the Juneau airport. The specimen is the first from Alaska in the Fish and Wildlife Service collection.

On May 18, 1957, I received two reports of a bird fitting the description of a Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) at Lemon Creek near Juneau. On May 19, four more persons reported seeing the bird. On May 20, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Keithahn of the Territorial Museum, Game Management Agent Ralph Smith, and I observed the bird for one-half hour at close range while it fed on small fish in a shallow creek. The typical white coloration, size, plumes, black bill, legs, and light colored feet left no doubt as to its identity. The bird became quite a spectacle to the local citizens and was observed on May 22, 23, and 24.

On May 20, while seeking the egret, Mrs. Nelson and I observed a pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), a pair of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and a pair of Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) in a small pond near Juneau. The birds were in spring plumage. On July 7, 1957, a pair of Blue-winged Teal were observed at Salmon Creek. On September 1, 1957, Game Management Agent Fred Robards received reports of five Blue-winged Teal taken by hunters at Eagle River. Wings of the teal were obtained and identified as those of the Blue-winged Teal. On September 1, a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) was shot at Eagle River near Juneau. The specimen is being prepared for the Fish and Wildlife Service collection.—URBAN C. NELSON, *Juneau, Alaska, October 30, 1957.*

**Cape May Warbler in Nicaragua.**—The recent note by Slud (*Condor*, 59, 1957:340) on the occurrence of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in Costa Rica has prompted me to record another specimen of it from Central America. On January 13, 1957, I collected a Cape May Warbler 12 km. east of Managua, Department of Managua, Nicaragua; this locality is approximately at sea level and is on the Pacific slope of the country. The bird was feeding actively with some other passerines in a tree beside a small stream. Its skull was double-layered and the plumage appears to be that of an adult male; the testes were not enlarged. Curiously, all the individuals of this species observed by Slud in Costa Rica were also males.

This was the first Cape May Warbler that I have encountered in Nicaragua although I have observed many kinds of wintering North American warblers on both the Pacific and Caribbean slopes of the country. The scarcity of records of this species from Central America indicates that it is not common in the area, but Slud's records and the present one, which together cover a span of more than four years, suggest that this warbler may be a regular but rare winter visitant to both slopes of Central America.—THOMAS R. HOWELL, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles, California, October 2, 1957.*