

Table 1

Wood Duck Productivity in Nest Boxes in the San Joaquin Valley, 1954

Normal Nests				
Eggs	Hatched and left nest	Eggs left	Dead young in nest	Destroyed
7	6	1		
12	12			
1				1
8 ¹				8
6	6			
10	10			
8	8			
9	8	1		
8	5	2	1	
Totals:	69	55	4	1
Dump Nests				
24	7	15	2	
20	18	1	1	
19	6	11	2	
18	14	4		
23	8	15		
17	11	6		
Totals:	121	64	52	5

¹ Nest observed in 1953.

eggs dumped in the nest after the start of incubation, during the absence of the incubating hen, would have contained underdeveloped embryos at hatching time. The frequency of dump nesting, along with the observed use of brushy squirrel nests and buildings, is convincing evidence of the critical lack of nest sites in certain local areas.

Nest boxes provided for Wood Ducks are used by other animals as well. In some cases this usage may be such that the boxes become unavailable for use by the ducks. Some of the competing species, such as the raccoon, are known predators of Wood Duck nests. Even though there was an unexpectedly low incidence of predation in this study, the boxes were used almost as frequently by other species as by the Wood Duck.

The findings of this preliminary study suggest that nest sites for Wood Ducks are indeed in short supply in the San Joaquin Valley and that increased productivity might be stimulated by adding additional nest boxes, which would give more pairs places to nest and increase production in occupied nests by reducing dump nesting.—RICHARD H. ROBINSON, *Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, California, December 31, 1957.*

An Osprey in Mideastern Pacific Ocean.—At 6 p.m. on October 6, 1957, coast guardsmen aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Pontchartrain* observed a large hawk-like bird circling the ship. The *Pontchartrain* on this date was occupying ocean station "November" (lat. 30°N, long. 140°W), which is the aeronavigational point of no return between the California coast and the Hawaiian Islands. The nearest landfall (Hawaii) from ocean station "November" is 1161 nautical miles. Coast guardsman Lambert D. Greenlee states that the bird, which subsequently was identified as an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*), continued to circle the cutter for the next five hours, during which time it made twenty-five landings on the masts, radar antennae, and weather bridge, and on one occasion even startled a lookout on watch by attempting to land on his head. The bird was observed to be in an extreme state of exhaustion, as it would droop its head low each time it perched aboard the cutter. During the course of the bird's twenty-five perchings, Mr. Greenlee made repeated attempts to capture

it. At 11 p.m. the bird was finally snared by Mr. Greenlee and, because of its exhausted state, it made only feeble attempts to escape.

A cage was prepared and the bird was offered water, frozen fish, chicken, and egg. During the following ten days, it was seen to drink water and eat a small amount of chicken and egg yolk but appeared to lack the strength to feed properly. On October 16, 1957, the *Pontchartrain* docked at Long Beach, California, and Mr. Greenlee immediately contacted the Los Angeles Museum. The bird was dead, however, upon my arrival aboard the cutter the following morning. Examination of the specimen showed that it was a subadult female in good condition except for the fact that it was extremely emaciated (weight 1027.6 gms.) because of its long flight and subsequent period of fasting aboard the ship.

It is of interest to note that at the time the bird arrived aboard the cutter, a strong southwesterly wind of 25 knots was blowing and there was a moderately heavy sea. Barometric readings taken from the log of the *Pontchartrain* ranged from 29.91 to 29.95 during the time the bird was circling the ship.

It is possible that the origin of the bird was one of the islands of the Hawaiian group, as the species is known to be of accidental occurrence in those islands. The specimen (LACM 28740) is definitely assignable to the race *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis* rather than to *P. h. haliaetus* of the western Pacific.—KENNETH E. STAGER, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, December 11, 1957.*

Pomarine Jaeger from the Interior of Texas.—The Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) is rarely reported from areas away from the ocean. According to L. R. Wolfe (Check-list of the Birds of Texas, Intelligencer Printing Co., Lancaster, Pa., undated), the species is known in Texas from but a single specimen taken at Matagorda Island, on the Gulf coast, and from several unverified sight records. The capture of a Pomarine Jaeger at Lake Kickapoo, Archer County, Texas, by State Game Warden Morris Stallcup and the writer, on October 8, 1957, is therefore doubly interesting. It apparently constitutes the second verified record for the state and it is from a locality almost 400 miles from the coast.—WALTER W. DALQUEST, *Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, Texas, January 20, 1958.*

The Odor of the Crested Auklet.—On June 14, 1952, at Hooper Bay, Alaska, Eskimos brought Humphrey four Crested Auklets (*Aethia cristatella*). These birds had been found in weakened condition on small, fresh-water ponds among the dunes along the Bering Sea coast, and they were captured by the Eskimos because of their novelty. The weather prior to June 13 had been overcast with intermittent rain and strong winds of 30 to 40 miles per hour from the southwest. The wind shifted to the west on June 13 and died down on the fourteenth when the sky cleared and the temperature rose to 50 degrees. It seems probable that these birds had been blown out of their normal breeding range by the strong winds.

One of the auklets was a male, one was a female, and two were of undetermined sex. In handling the birds, Humphrey noticed a pungent odor reminiscent of the smell of tangerines. Close examination revealed that the odor emanated from the region of the bill and was present in each of the four specimens. The bills and bill ornaments of these birds were bright scarlet orange. According to Ridgway (*The Birds of North and Middle America*, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, Part 8, 1919:775), Crested Auklets during the breeding season have the "bill, including supra-rietal plate, orange-red or reddish orange, the tip more or less whitish or pale horn color . . ." After the breeding season, Crested Auklets assume a "winter" plumage in which the bill is "smaller (through shedding of supra-nasal cuirass, supra-rietal plate, and other parts) and dull brownish or horn color instead of reddish orange." As far as could be determined, the tangerine-like odor of these birds stemmed only from the bill ornaments. Museum specimens have no trace of this odor, although the bill and bill ornaments retain their scarlet orange coloration with little loss of brilliance. The tangerine-like odor emanating from the bill ornaments is characteristic of both sexes and presumably is lost along with the bill ornaments after the breeding season. More observations are needed to determine the relationship of this odor to the molt of the bill ornaments and to the reproductive cycle of the Crested Auklet.

On July 10, 1954, Phillips collected two breeding adult Crested Auklets from the nesting cliffs southeast of the village of St. Paul, St. Paul Island, Alaska. On retrieving the specimens, he noticed