

Nesting of the Golden Eagle in the Central Brooks Range of Arctic Alaska.—There are apparently no detailed records of the nesting of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in the central Brooks Range of arctic Alaska. Irving (Arctic, 6, 1953:41), in noting the status of birds in the Anaktuvuk Pass region, indicates that the Golden Eagle breeds there but offers no further information relative to the nesting behavior of that species in the area. In fact, the only documented reference to its breeding anywhere in the Brooks Range appears to be that of Bailey (Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., Popular Series, No. 8, 1948:182) who states that "Two eggs in the Hanna collection were secured from a nest on a steep bluff in the mountains south of Barter Island on May 6, 1947."

Late in the summer of 1959, Gene Wallace and John Severe reported to me that some weeks earlier they had discovered the nest of a "large eagle or hawk" while oil prospecting along the treeless, northern margin of the Brooks Range near Anaktuvuk Pass. On August 10, 1959, I accompanied them in a helicopter to the nest site, 5 air miles due west of the Anaktuvuk River, at about 68° 18' N, 151° 43' W. That location is nearly 40 air miles from the nearest spruce timber to the south. As we approached, an adult Golden Eagle was seen flying from a cavity in a cliff, and closer observations, at distances of less than 100 feet, revealed a crevice occupied by a single juvenal eagle, apparently almost fully fledged.

In that locality the northern front of the Brooks Range consists of a high wall which breaks sharply to the rolling foothills of the arctic slope. The nest was situated 3900 feet above sea level near the top of the north-facing rampart and about 240 feet above the base of a nearly vertical limestone cliff. Below the nesting cliff a precipitous talus slope extended downward to the floor of a small valley 1000 feet below. The narrow nest crevice appeared to be about 4 or 5 feet in horizontal depth and of nearly the same dimensions in height. Few sticks or other debris of any kind were present within the crevice. The following day we returned to the nest site and observed two adult Golden Eagles coursing together along the face of the cliff. One carried a small mammal in its talons, apparently a ground squirrel (*Citellus parryi*).

Conclusions regarding arctic variations in the usual nesting behavior of the Golden Eagle are admittedly hazardous when based on a single record. It is noteworthy, however, that this nest differed considerably from the usual bulky structure of sticks ordinarily associated with the species. Although well north of tree line, numerous willows growing along small streams in the vicinity of the nest would presumably provide abundant raw materials for nest building. The relative maturity of the fledgling eagle led me to think that it had left the original nest location to take up temporary residence in the previously described crevice. Wallace and Severe stated, however, that they had discovered the young bird in the same rock cavity several weeks before. The egg or eggs had apparently been deposited in a scanty nest on the rocky floor of the crevice. Also, although we did not examine the surrounding cliffs in great detail, we observed no alternate nests, the construction of which is characteristic of Golden Eagles when cliffs are used for nest sites. However, if other nests of the type observed were present, they would be difficult to find.

The apparent age of the immature eagle on the tenth of August indicates that hatching probably occurred about the first of June. This estimate agrees with Bailey's reference to the finding of eggs of this species on May 6 in the mountains south of Barter Island. These two records tempt one to postulate that, in the Brooks Range, the Golden Eagle normally nests at the end of April or very early in May.—JOHN M. CAMPBELL, *The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., January 15, 1960.*

Correction.—Recently I reported (Condor, 62, 1960:70) remains of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) from the late Pleistocene of Rampart Cave in Arizona and expressed the opinion that this was the first authentic record of condors from that state (sight records are not considered "authentic"). I was in error. Lyndon Hargrave kindly calls my attention to a publication overlooked by me (Plateau, 29, 1956:44-45) in which Raymond de Saussure reports condor remains from Recent cave deposits of northern Arizona. The Rampart Cave bones are, however, the only fossil records for the area. My apologies to Mr. de Saussure and thanks to Mr. Hargrave.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California, Los Angeles, California, March 15, 1960.*