

In a letter from Mr. George E. Donkin of Toronto, dated August 1, 1927, we received interesting information concerning this Loon. Mr. Donkin writes: "On Sunday, July 31, while walking on the beach at Brighton, Ontario, I found a Loon with a leg band of your Commission, No. 9684. The bird had evidently just arrived or was sleeping and had been killed by a skunk, as the approach and attack were all clearly indicated in the sand. Likely after a long flight it was exhausted. I am taking the liberty of keeping the clip as a novelty."

Thus had this Loon wandered for fifteen months after its liberation in Pennsylvania. It had likely visited the Gulf of Mexico during this period.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Ruffed Grouse Captured by a Screech Owl.—It is not often that the Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*) attempts to capture prey larger than itself. An instance of the killing of a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*) by this small owl has been brought to my attention recently, however. At about midnight on December 20, 1924, Mr. George Ryder, of LeRoy, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, captured a Screech Owl in a steel trap which he had set earlier in the evening on the body of a grouse which he had just found freshly killed, and from which he had frightened what he recognized as a small owl of some kind. Examination of the snow about the body of the grouse showed that no quadruped had caught the bird. Furthermore, the Screech Owl's stomach, which was examined at the writer's office, contained much of the head and neck of the grouse, as well as several sumac seeds, portions of rose-hips, and tiny twigs with buds attached, which must have been swallowed with the gizzard of the grouse. The owl was caught by both feet only a few minutes after the setting of the trap, so it is fair to assume that the eating had been done prior to the setting of the trap, probably just after the owl had killed its prey. There is a bare possibility that the grouse had killed itself by flying into a tree. It is not likely that this could have been the case, however, unless the grouse was frantically trying to escape capture. Uneaten portions of the body of the grouse, which were also carefully examined, indicated such health of body tissue that the bird could hardly have died of disease.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Birds Enjoy Bathing During the Winter Months.—Last winter I made the discovery that the Blue Jays enjoy their bath during the cold weather as much as during the warm days of summer. Instead of storing my bird-bath, I left it out all winter, keeping it filled with fresh water twice daily. The jays, as well as two blackbirds and dozens of sparrows, enjoyed the bath all winter, even on days when it was 8 or 10 degrees above zero. If the cake of ice was not removed from the bath by 11 A. M., the jays sat in a tree above the fountain, and called until I appeared with the tea-kettle to thaw the ice and refill the bath. They sat quietly, watching my movements; when I had finished and started toward the house, they flew down immediately to make their ablutions. One jay in particular, seemingly could never get enough of the water. I have seen him immerse sixteen times in rapid succession, before he would fly into the tree to preen himself. Often they would return in the afternoon. I always knew when to refill the bath, by their loud, raucous cries. Sometimes it was amusing to see them stand on the cake of ice or edge of the bowl, attempting to take a dip; if the water was only partly frozen they would hop in, but as quickly hop out, as much

as if to say—"Oh, too cold." At times, they appeared frightened, when they came into contact with the ice that had formed a thin layer on top of the water. I am repeating my experiment this winter, much to the birds' delight as well as my own pleasure.—MRS. HOWARD SMITH BENEDICT, *Lakewood, Ohio*.

The Golden Eagle Nesting in Woods County, Oklahoma.—About the year 1907, it was my privilege to help Dr. G. W. Stevens, now at the State Teachers College at Warrensburg, Missouri, collect the nest of a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). It was located among the hills about two miles west of the Cimmaron River, at a point nearly west from the town of Waynoka.

This nest had evidently been used for many generations since it was so large that it constituted nearly a wagon load of material. Because of its size and precarious position on the face of the cliff, we reached it by means of a rope ladder from above and then lowered it with ropes to the base of the cliff.

The material of which it was constructed was obviously gathered chiefly from the broad dry sandy bed of the nearby river. I was astounded at the large size of some of the pieces of wood used. One piece was as long and fully half as large as a fence post. Having been long subjected to weathering, they were of course very light. The nest was collected for the University of Kansas Museum, and sent to the late Professor L. L. Dyche, its founder. It is still there in the custody of the present director, Mr. C. D. Bunker.

Within a radius of four or five miles there were two other nests of the Golden Eagle. From one of these, similarly located on the face of a cliff, with the help of several students, I collected an egg for the teaching museum of the State Teachers College at Alva, Oklahoma. Similar cliffs are to be found far up the Cimmaron River, for forty or fifty miles, and doubtless further search would have discovered other nests.

That eagles, both the Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle, were formerly common in northwestern Oklahoma is evidenced by the fact that from 1905 to 1909 about a dozen specimens, two or three of them Bald Eagles, were brought into the museum of the State Teachers College for mounting. From one of these was plucked the quill with which President Roosevelt signed the statehood bill for Oklahoma. Eagles are still observed in the northwestern part of the state, but are now rare.—WYMAN R. GREEN, *University of Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tenn.*

A Few of the Less-known Summer Residents Near Toledo, Ohio.—The Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), noted for its sporadic movements in the eastern United States, has not been seen in any numbers in northwestern Ohio since 1896, when it was reported as a common resident about Oberlin (The Birds of Cedar Point and Vicinity, by Prof. Lynds Jones). In the district about Toledo, however, this species has been increasing steadily during the last few years, and can now (1927) be classed as abundant. Large colonies have been found this year on all sides of the city, but especially to the east, toward Bono, Ohio. On July 17, on an automobile trip east to Port Clinton, Ohio, a distance of about 35 miles, Dickcissels were heard singing from every hayfield and meadow, as numerous as Meadowlarks. The last bird was heard within the city limits of Port Clinton, but none farther east.

A few miles from Toledo, extending to the west, is a strip of sandy wet soil about four miles wide and ten miles long, known locally as the "Oak Openings."