

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

The Golden Eagle in Indiana.—From time to time eagles are reported as having been killed in various parts of Indiana, but in most instances verification is lacking even when inquiry is made to establish identification. The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is much rarer than the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*) throughout our region. I now record two verified reports of the Golden Eagle. Dr. Earl Brooks at Noblesville, Indiana, had a bird of this species brought to him for identification on November 30, 1926, and on December 28, 1927, an immature Golden Eagle was shot in Brown County, about fifty miles south of Indianapolis, and was first taken to Edinburg and then brought to Indianapolis, where proper identification was made. The bird was mounted and photographed, and is now in the high school building at Edinburg. It had a wide spread of more than six feet and had a band of dirty white about five inches in width across the entire upper part of the tail.—S. E. PERKINS III, Indianapolis, Ind.

How Did This Happen?—A pair of Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*), nesting on the cross-bracing of the ceiling joist of the garage, just over the entrance where the cars were being run in and out every few minutes, hatched a Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*). This youngster quickly tired of the insect diet given by his foster parents, and shortly after leaving the nest began feeding on seeds in the traps, becoming, finally, a nuisance as he entered them several times daily.

After several days of this we took him "for a ride", well covered to prevent his seeing, and liberated him about a mile from home, only to find him again the next morning feeding contentedly in one of the traps. Another ride of two miles had the same results, and only after taking him out some several miles, and turning him loose with a flock of his own kind, did we get rid of him.

How did this recently born bird, fostered by other than his own kind, never before off the home lot, find his way back so quickly and all by himself, with no guides?—EDWARD A. EVERETT, Waseca, Minn.

A Note on the Food of Young Great Horned Owls.—There recently has come to my attention an interesting study of the food of young Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) made at Mont Alto, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, by Mr. Leonard A. Prichard of the Mont Alto State Forestry School.

Mr. Prichard examined the nest daily from March 11 to April 11, 1927, and, as the following table shows, food of some sort was found on virtually every trip. Two young birds were in the nest. Examination was made in the morning, presumably after most of the night-time feeding was over, so it may properly be inferred that many mice, shrews, chipmunks, and small birds were devoured so completely that no remains were evident. No pellets were examined. The results of these examinations follow:

March 11, adult Cottontail Rabbit remains; March 12, same; March 13, same; March 14, same; March 15, nest empty; March 16, same; March 17, immature Cottontail Rabbit remains; March 18, Flicker; March 19, small bird, species uncertain; March 20, adult Cottontail Rabbit; March 21, adult Cottontail Rabbit, Robin (headless), and Slate-colored Junco; March 22, small bird, species uncertain; March 23, adult Cottontail Rabbit; March 24, same; March 25, nest empty; March 26, adult Cottontail Rabbit remains; March 27, same:

March 28, nest empty; March 29, adult Cottontail Rabbit remains; March 30, nest empty; March 31, adult Cottontail Rabbit; April 1, same; April 2, same; April 3, adult Cottontail Rabbit and Robin; April 4, nest empty; April 5, Robin and Flicker; April 6, Robin; April 7, adult Cottontail Rabbit; April 8, nest empty; April 9, adult Skunk; April 10, nest empty; and April 11, Robin.

It is evident that Cottontail Rabbits form a large portion of the food of the young birds prior to the warm days of early April. With the return of spring, however, birds at once become a prominent item in the bill-of-fare. The Skunk found on April 9 is of interest since it shows that the young birds, as well as the adults, eat this mammal occasionally.

From the standpoint of the farmer and orchardist, the rabbit-killing propensities of this predator are laudable; the sportsman, however, will regard the owl as an undesirable killer of birds and game.—GEORGE MIKSCHE STUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

The Cliff Swallow in Clayton County, Iowa.—Some decades ago the Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*) was a common breeder here, and old-timers tell of the barns being lined with nests. In late years nesting records have been few and far between. On June 15, 1927, Miss Althea R. Sherman and the writer visited the largest breeding colony found here in years. The nests were built on the corn-crib on the farm of Mr. Albert O. Berns, near National, Iowa. Twenty-five were on the east side of the building and two on the opposite side. Three were double, but lack of room cannot be considered as a cause. Seven nests were not completed, ranging from a few smears of mud to nests that were half finished. Building was reported to have commenced on May 19. Several nests were being used by English Sparrows, and some of the Cliff Swallows were reported to have left the vicinity.—OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa.*

A Possible Relationship Between Bell's Vireo and the Cowbird.—While on a bird study trip with a class on June 23, 1927, we were attracted by the notes of Bell's Vireo (*Vireo belli belli*), sung in the trees and bushes along a small ravine at the northwest edge of Stillwater. Upon following these birds (a pair) we found ten nests, all constructed in the same manner and of much the same material. All were located within one hundred yards of the first one found. One nest had a Cowbird egg only; one had a vireo egg and a Cowbird egg; one had a vireo egg; another had two dead vireos (young) and one vireo egg that had not hatched; the others were empty.

From all appearances the nests were all built that season. One nest was so high in a slender bush that we could not see into it.

The incident suggests to me the possibility that Bell's Vireo leaves its nest when bothered by the Cowbird, moves over to a new site and builds a new nest. There were only the two vireos in the ravine.—GEORGE A. MOORE, *Stillwater, Okla.*

Regarding a Late Florida Record of the Flamingo.—In the *Auk*, XLV, p. 201, April, 1928, Mr. H. L. Stoddard records seeing a Flamingo on September 24, 1927, on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Late records of this bird in Florida are worthy of note, but, without detracting from Mr. Stoddard's efforts, I think it is only right to advance the theory that this bird is evidently the one that escaped from the preserve of Mr. Edward Bok, at Mountain Lake Park, Lake Wales, Florida, in late February or early March of 1927.