

## GENERAL NOTES

**European Widgeon in the Pymatuning Region of Pennsylvania.**—Four times during the year 1941, I have observed the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) in the Pymatuning region of Crawford County, Pennsylvania. On each of these occasions the bird seen was a male and invariably it was in the company of Baldpates (*Mareca americana*). All were observed at reasonably close range with eight-power binoculars. The first record was that of a bird seen at a small pool of open water in the ice off the Espyville-Andover causeway on April 3. On April 9, one was present on the marsh at Hartstown. On May 1 there was one near the eastern end of the lake within the Pymatuning Refuge. On October 15 one was observed within the refuge just outside of the town of Linesville. The latter bird remained in the same location and was seen almost daily until October 31.—WILLIAM C. GRIMM, *Linesville, Pennsylvania*.

**An Unusual Clutch of Marsh Hawk Eggs.**—On April 24, 1941, I discovered a Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) nest on the Rose Lake Wildlife Experiment Station area in Bath Township, Clinton County, Michigan. The nest contained one egg. A summary of subsequent observations on the nest follows: April 28, three eggs; May 8, seven eggs; June 2, seven eggs and three young; June 11, three eggs and seven young. The three eggs left proved to be infertile. Thus ten eggs were laid. Neither T. S. Roberts ("Birds of Minnesota," 1, 1936 : 342) nor A. C. Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 167, 1937: 82) records nests with more than nine eggs.—PHILIP S. BAUMGRAS, *Game Division, Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing, Michigan*.

**Great Horned Owl Makes Second Nesting Attempt.**—During each of the 1939 and 1940 breeding seasons Mr. John C. Scharff, Superintendent of Malheur Refuge, and the writer noted that incubating Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) had been shot on the same nest in a willow tree on the bank of the Blitzen River in the Blitzen Valley, Harney County, Oregon. We thought that perhaps the bird occupying the nest the spring of 1941 might be induced to move to some other locality if robbed of her eggs. Therefore I removed the entire clutch of 4 eggs on March 19. The eggs were saved for laboratory reference material. Three weeks after the eggs were removed a bird was again noted in an incubation posture on the nest and examination of the nest revealed 3 eggs. It was apparently the same bird that had been robbed, as the pair had been noted in the vicinity of the nest during the intervening period. The nest was not bothered further during the season, and as a result a brood of 3 were hatched and reared in the vicinity.

A pair of dark phase Swainson's Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) had used this same nest and reared young on it during the 1938, 1939, and 1940 seasons. They occupied the nest during the 1939 and 1940 seasons shortly after the owls had been shot. During the spring of 1941 a dark-phased pair of Swainson's Hawks was noted in the vicinity of this nest on several occasions while the owl was incubating her second clutch, at a time when other hawks were already beginning to nest. They evidently gave up waiting for the nest and built a new one 175 yards down stream from the nest occupied by the owl. There they reared their young. We observed no antagonistic action between these two raptors.—CLARENCE A. SOOTER, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Burns, Oregon*.

**The Subspecific Status of Michigan Flickers.**—During the course of routine work on the bird collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, I had occasion to investigate the subspecific status of the Michigan Flickers. It was thought that those breeding in northern Michigan might be *Colaptes auratus borealis*, since Wetmore (*Auk*, 57: 113, 1940) found that *borealis* bred as far south

as northern Minnesota. However, specimens from the northern part of Michigan are scarcely larger than those from the southernmost counties. Eleven adults from the upper peninsula of Michigan, including Isle Royale, have the wing 149–162 mm. Fifteen from the northern part of the lower peninsula, including the islands in Lake Michigan, also measure 149–162 mm. The wings of twenty-three birds from southern Michigan vary between 146–161 mm. Since these measurements are all well within the range of *Colaptes auratus luteus*, the breeding Flicker throughout the state of Michigan must be referred to that race.

Two autumn specimens are remarkable for their large size. One of them, a male with the wing 171 mm. long, was collected by J. B. Steere at Ionia, Ionia County, Michigan, during October, 1876. The other, also a male, has a wing length of 167 mm. It was taken by J. Claire Wood in Ecorse Township, Wayne County, Michigan, on September 30, 1893. These two birds are as large as breeding specimens of *Colaptes auratus borealis* from northern British Columbia and are without doubt migrants of that race. Other fall and winter specimens examined are all referable to *luteus*.

The Boreal Flicker has not previously been recorded from Michigan.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

**Notes from Northeastern Oregon.**—The Blue Mountain region of northeastern Oregon has received relatively little attention ornithologically. The following contributions are offered with the idea of adding to the splendid introductory data contained in Gabrielson and Jewett's "Birds of Oregon" (1940).

La Grande, Union County, in the vicinity of which most of these observations were made, lies at the west edge of the Grande Ronde Valley, at an elevation of 2,700 feet. A tongue of the Upper Sonoran Zone vegetation, characterized by greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), occupies the valley floor where it is not planted to wheat or other crops. Almost as soon as the surrounding hills begin to rise the ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) of the Transition zone dominate up to an elevation of 5,000 feet or more, at which point they give place to Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) of the Canadian Zone which extends up to 6,000 feet, the highest point (Mount Emily) in the vicinity of La Grande.

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus columbianus*).—In early January, 1940, Dr. Elmo Stevenson, then of Eastern Oregon College, showed me a flock of about a dozen some 25 miles northeast of La Grande, near Elgin. The birds had their headquarters among scattered Douglas firs in a gully surrounded by wheat and other farm land. On February 15, 1941, after an all day search, two other observers and I glimpsed five of these birds flushed just at sunset, in the same vicinity. The farmers of the region have co-operated with the State Game Commission in creating a preserve in an attempt to save this, one of the few remaining bands of Sharp-tails in Oregon.

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*).—On June 29, 1940, I located a pair feeding two young recently out of the nest in a dense thicket near an irrigation ditch in the Valley about five miles southeast of La Grande. After some searching the nest was found in a shrub about five feet above the ground. It contained a punctured Catbird egg which I collected along with the adult male. Several other pairs of Catbirds were located in the vicinity of La Grande. Natives who know the bird say it has occurred here for at least 25 years. Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*, p. 462) say that it "undoubtedly breeds, although there are no actual breeding records."

Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*).—Judging from last winter and this one, Audubon's Warbler may be expected much later in the fall in eastern Oregon than has previously been supposed. Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*, p. 504) mention "a single straggling record" for Wasco County, January 2, 1917. Otherwise