

GENERAL NOTES

Nest of Red-shouldered Hawk with six eggs.—On February 15, 1943, I noted that a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) were beginning their nesting activities in a small woodland in Jefferson County, Kentucky. A pair of Red-shoulders had nested in that woodland the four preceding seasons.

I made several visits to the nest in early March. I found one egg March 13, two on March 16, three on March 19, and four on March 22. I do not know exactly when these eggs were laid. On March 22 I supposed the last egg had been laid, so discontinued my visits for a time. In previous years the clutch had never exceeded three eggs, and the behavior of the birds, especially that of the highly belligerent female, led me to believe that they were the same pair which had nested there before.

On April 10 there were six eggs. On April 15 the female was still incubating, and since none of the eggs showed any sign of hatching I collected them. All were addled, though the presence of small embryos indicated that incubation had been successful for a time. The embryos may have been killed by the unusually cold weather.

The possibility that two females were responsible for the six eggs seems ruled out by the consistently aggressive attitude of the female throughout my several visits to the nest in 1943. Nor do the measurements of the eggs in any way suggest two "natural" sets. In order of laying (respective order of the last two not known) they measure: 53.5×42.5 , 52.5×42.5 , 55×42 , 54×44 , 54×43.5 , 55.5×42 mm.

There is general agreement that three or four eggs comprise the usual clutch of this species and three eggs are more usual than four. However, Bendire (1892. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Special Bull.* No. 1, p. 222) recorded a set of six eggs taken by Dr. William Wood, of East Windsor Hill, Connecticut, and another set of six collected by R. B. McLaughlin, of Statesville, North Carolina, April 5, 1889. Sets of this size apparently are very rare. It is interesting to note that two of the three mentioned come from the southern United States, where small, rather than large, clutches might be expected (*cf.* Rensch, 1938. *Proc. Eighth International Orn. Cong.*, Oxford, England, pp. 306, 308).—THOMAS P. SMITH, *W-5 Green Tree Manor, Louisville, Kentucky, November 10, 1950.*

The status of Barrow's Golden-eye in Kansas.—Barrow's Golden-eye (*Bucephala islandica*) has been reported from Kansas on the basis of six specimens in the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. I have recently reidentified all six as American Golden-eyes (*Bucephala clangula americana*).

Bunker (1913. *Kansas Univ. Sci. Bull.*, 7:141) first reported Barrow's Golden-eye from Kansas, recording the first five of the specimens listed below as "a new species for the state." Long (unpub. ms.) reported the sixth specimen. All six were reported again as Barrow's Golden-eyes by Long in his "Check-List of Kansas Birds" (1940. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 43:438).

Data concerning these specimens include the following: ♂ KU 6403 (1904, Leavenworth County), ♂ KU 6401 and ♂ KU 6402 (1903, Douglas County), ♀ KU 7744 and ♀ KU 7745 (1909, Douglas County), and ♀ KU 5904 (1911, Douglas County). All three males are in juvenal plumage. Since female and immature male Barrow's Golden-eyes are difficult to distinguish from American Golden-eyes in corresponding plumages, I sent the specimens in question to Dr. Herbert Friedmann for examination. Dr. Friedmann agreed that all of the specimens were American Golden-eyes.

It seems, therefore, that Barrow's Golden-eye must be dropped from the list of birds now known from Kansas. However, the possibility of its occurrence must still be con-

sidered since it is reported in the neighboring states of Colorado (1931. A. O. U. Check-List, 4th Ed., p. 53) and Nebraska (1945. Haecker, Moser, and Swenk, *Nebraska Bird Rev.*, 13:7). Harris (1919. *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, 23:237) listed Barrow's Golden-eye as a "very rare winter visitant" in the Kansas City region. He mentions only two "authentic" records. Since, however, his list of birds for this region include some observations made in Douglas County, Kansas, his statement may have been based at least in part on the misidentified specimens.

Long (1940. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 43:438) designated the American Golden-eye as "an uncommon migrant throughout the state." Actually, this species appears to be a regular winter resident although occurring usually in small numbers.—WILLIAM B. STALLCUP, *University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, May 28, 1951.*

Birds becoming "caught" in flocks of other species.—Under this caption, in two recent issues of *British Birds* (1950, 43:332-333; 1951, 44:197-201), several observers have reported instances in which single birds, or small groups, of one species, (1) when flushed with a flock of another species, apparently were unable to break away and instead were impelled against their usual flight habits to follow the maneuvers of the preponderant species; (2) seemed to join flocks of a different species voluntarily and participate in their flights. Some incidents recorded by Selous (1905. "Bird Life Glimpses," pp. 60, 127) and several in the *Auk* (1933, 50:211, 355-356) appear to be earlier examples of the second type.

In suburban Baltimore I have seen one occurrence resembling the first type. On the evening of September 21, 1949, I found some hundreds of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and a number of Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) in a park wood. Repeatedly, when the Starlings made mass flights from treetops out over the wood and back, some of the grackles took off, circled, and came back with them. Finally, a single great exodus toward a roost one-half mile away cleared the wood of all the birds.

Four times between December 7, 1949, and January 17, 1950, also in suburban Baltimore, I saw Starlings flying with a flock of Rock Doves (*Columba livia*) that usually numbered around 40. Only once did I see the entire incident. That time the pigeons left their loafing roof, made one great circle in the air, and alighted again. Just after they rose, a loose band of 10 or 12 Starlings appeared near them. One of the Starlings entered or was swept up by the fore-edge of the flock of pigeons and flew there through half of the circle before sheering away. On the other three occasions the flying flock was already a mixed one when I sighted it. Once there were 9 Starlings, in two groups, in the fore-edge, and they stayed there, as much a part of the flock formation as the pigeons themselves, during two or three great curves that the birds made. Again, I was just in time to see 3 Starlings drop out of the flying flock. Once, in a flock that I glimpsed for a few seconds, there were 13 Starlings and only 8 pigeons; I saw less than one-fourth of a large circle made that time.

Although the circumstances of the first Starling-pigeon incident suggest "entrapment," the repeated occurrence of these mixed flocks suggests voluntary association. It may be significant that all of the Starling-pigeon incidents noted occurred at about 8 a.m., when the Starlings had only recently arrived at my observation point, 5 miles airline from their downtown roosts. Possibly these birds were still under the influence of their dispersal-flight impulse. Similarly, the grackles of my first observation were keyed for a flight to a roost.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, *4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland, June 29, 1951.*