

Audubon (Ornithol. Biogr., 1:212, 1831) claimed that if the eggs of a Chuck-will's Widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) were disturbed the bird would carry them off in its beak. This claim has been disputed by Ganier (Wilson Bull. 76:19-27, 1964). Dr. and Mrs. F. M. Baumgartner (in litt.) reported that they observed a Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) fly off with its eggs after the breaking of a branch uncovered the nest. Truslow (Nat. Geographic, 882-884, 1966) observed a female Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) carry off its eggs after the nest site was uncovered when the trunk above the nest broke off.

These examples suggest that egg carrying in bills by birds may be more widespread than has been reported. Conditions which seem to expose the nesting site may be a factor which motivates birds to move their eggs.—ALPHONSE AVITABILE, *The University of Connecticut at Waterbury, Waterbury, Connecticut, 19 February 1968.*

A record of the Tufted Duck for Connecticut.—A recent article (Gochfeld, Condor, 70:186-187, 1968) brings to mind a heretofore unreported record of the Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) for Connecticut. On 11 November 1956, a male was seen and photographed by the author and several members of the Hartford Audubon Society at Giant's Neck (about 2.5 miles southwest of Niantic), East Lyme County. The bird was on a small brackish pond in the company of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Black Ducks (*A. rubripes*), and Mallard \times Black Duck hybrids. This is the first Connecticut report of this species and one of the earliest for eastern North America.—GEORGE T. AUSTIN, *Department of Biological Sciences, Nevada Southern University, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109. (Present address: Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona).* 30 July 1968.

Great Horned Owl nesting in a populated area.—The usual nesting habitat of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) in the midwest is in rural woodlots or forests, occasionally near farm buildings, and well removed from human activity (Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull., 170, 1938; Baumgartner, Auk 56:274-282, 1939; Austing and Holt, *The world of the Great Horned Owl*, Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1966).

A Great Horned Owl was seen occasionally on the inhabited part of the campus of Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois, during January, 1968, and its nest was discovered there on 15 March. The nest was upon a deserted nest of a fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) 38 feet above the ground in a 51-foot-tall European larch (*Larix decidua*). The nest was positioned against the south side of the tree trunk, and contained one small nestling at the time of discovery.

The nest tree was located in mowed lawn nearly separated from other trees, and only 100 feet from the central administration building (Fig. 1). Based upon a few one-hour counts, the sidewalks near the nest tree carried a minimum of 3,400 persons past the nest each weekday between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00.

While almost continually brooding the nestling in the daytime during the period 15 March through 25 March, the parent owl (sex not ascertained) watched pedestrians with an alert but unalarmed posture. After the nestling was old enough not to require constant brooding, the parent bird spent little time at the nest during the daytime, but instead perched within view of it at the base of a dome atop the university administration building. The young bird left the nest about 15 April and remained in the nest tree until 24 April.

The selection of this nesting site in a congested area is especially puzzling since



FIG. 1. Nesting Tree of Great Horned Owl. Arrow marks location of nest.

a 3.8-acre woodlot is located 0.2 mile away, and a densely wooded, uninhabited river valley is within 0.8 mile of the nest site. We postulate that the nest site was selected when few people were on the campus (16 December 1967 through 2 January 1968), and that the psychological bond to the site was maintained in spite of the increased human activity.

Other casual observations included occasional harassment of the adult owl by crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*); the tendency for the adult owl to roost on the shady north or northwest side of the dome during the daytime; and the tendency for the adult owl to spend more time brooding the nestling on relatively cool, windy days than on warm, calm days. Several searches on and near the campus failed to reveal the presence of more than one adult owl at any time.—EDWIN C. FRANKS AND JOHN E. WARNOCK, *Department of Biological Sciences, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois 61455, 5 August 1968.*

The nest, eggs, and young of the Elepaio.—The Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*) is an endemic Hawaiian species of the Old World flycatcher family (Muscicapidae). The three races exhibit a peculiar and unexplained distribution in that separate races occur on Kauai, Oahu, and Hawaii. There is no evidence to suggest that the species ever inhabited the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Maui, even though Molokai and Lanai can be seen from Oahu on a clear day and Maui is readily visible from the island of Hawaii.

More is known about the life history of the Elepaio than of any other endemic Hawaiian land bird. Nevertheless, there appears to be no published photograph of the