

May 4. Mated at 7:30 P. M.

Judging from these few observations, the female takes the initiative in mating. Her calls are continuous for many minutes at a time and are often accompanied by fluttered wings and definite approach towards the male. The male was observed to call only when actually dropping down to the female.—SHERMAN C. BISHOP, *New York State Museum*.

Habits of the Marsh Hawk.—Mr. R. A. Turtle, Chicago taxidermist, recently showed me a Marsh Hawk in the gray plumage, which had been brought in to be mounted January 18 by Dr. Ray Morris Gibbs of Palatine, Illinois. This Hawk had killed seven of his flock of fourteen Hungarian Partridges on his place in the past two weeks. It would tear the back open and rip the flesh and skin off in strips.

Dr. Gibbs finally caught the Hawk in a steel trap by tying the body of one of the Partridges alongside, and covering the trap with straw.

The Marsh Hawk is rare here in winter, and does not usually kill game of this size.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

Tyto pratincola in Northeastern Illinois.—The Barn Owl is a rare bird in this region. I had never seen it alive, and until September 12, 1909, when one was brought in by Wm. Aldridge, had not handled a fresh one. Recently two fine specimens were secured by farmers near Highland Park—one, a female, was shot as it crouched in the grass on the edge of the Skokie Marsh, on December 20, 1924; the other, a male, was picked up frozen on the side of the road on January 12, 1925.

Both were presented to me and are now nos. 30022 and 30025 in my collection.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Illinois*.

Northern Pileated Woodpecker in Clayton Co., Iowa.—Although Anderson's 'Birds of Iowa' gives the Northern Pileated Woodpecker as rare in Iowa, observations in Clayton County do not tend to substantiate this. Records of eight years on my part, backed by the long experience of Miss Althea R. Sherman of National, Iowa, show that this Woodpecker is not as rare as is generally supposed. My home is six miles west of McGregor, Iowa, and there are still large belts of heavy timber close by. For seven years I have observed this bird at all seasons of the year in these timber belts and I had the idea that it was a case of a few pairs only to be found locally. This summer and fall, I made trips of from four to twenty miles from my place and I found this bird in the same degree of abundance. It is clear to me that this big Woodpecker can be found in all parts of Clayton County where heavy timber exists. Observers disagree as to the shyness of this bird, and I can only say that I have always found it exceedingly so. I took a female on November 12, 1924, after many attempts, which is now mounted and in my collection. Under date of December 10, 1924, Miss Sherman kindly gave me data desired and permission to use testimony which follows.

"That Dr. Anderson had no reporters from northeastern Iowa is most

unfortunate. This misfortune is most forcefully illustrated in the case of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker, since in no other part of our state is this species, apparently, as numerous as it is here. My ability to visit the woods has always been limited, yet in proportion to the number of my visits the times on which I saw this woodpecker do not mark it as very rare. It seems to be common enough to make itself known to most or all the men and boys who frequent the woods east of National. The large size of the bird and its loud call are the factors that seem to have attracted their attention. From twelve to twenty years ago I was asking often and many persons about it, and offered a good price to any one who would take me to an occupied nest. I may have found its nest once; at all events the big chips below a hole indicated where it had dug a cavity, but I could not climb the tree, nor, hidden from sight, spend long enough time watching to learn if the hole was occupied. I hoped for succeeding visits to reveal the truth: for leisure that never came. This hole was in a tree in the Eckle timber which is the first strip east of National. Here I saw this Woodpecker more than elsewhere, and from the reports made by George Eckle I inferred that he saw it frequently. I have been told of bad boys, lawless shooters, shooting it for sport. Your observations, backed by mine, indicate that the Northern Pileated Woodpecker is not so very rare as a resident species in Clayton County."—OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa*.

The Nighthawk in Alaska.—In January 1924, I received from an old Eskimo living at Allakaket, Alaska, some 500 miles up the Koyukuk River, the skin of a Nighthawk (*Chordeiles v. virginianus*), with a request for information concerning the bird. On a subsequent trip to that vicinity I learned that Nulayuk, this Eskimo chief, had found the dead bird on the Alatna River, about ten miles north of Allakaket, late in September or early in October, 1923. Nulayuk skinned the Nighthawk and sent it to me in order to satisfy his curiosity. He had never seen such a bird and it was also a mystery to all his companions of the village. So far as I have been able to ascertain, this wanderer found by Nulayuk a little north of the Arctic Circle, is the only record of the Nighthawk for interior and northern Alaska.

B. R. Ross, however, records another straggler at La Pierre House, Yukon Territory, on upper Porcupine River, a specimen clearly taken in 1860. (Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, Vol. VI, No. 6, Dec. 1861, p. 442.)

In 1898, G. G. Cantwell discovered it breeding at the head of Sixty-mile River, which is near the Alaska-Yukon boundary (Osprey, III, 1899, p. 25) It is thus probable that the Nighthawk will eventually be recorded as a breeding bird from that part of Alaskan territory.

Dr. L. B. Bishop reported the Nighthawk common in the Yukon Territory between Caribou Crossing and the mouth of Tatchun River (N. Am. Fauna, No. 19, 1900, p. 79).

E. P. Walker informs me that for several years he occasionally observed