

Roth, of Portsmouth, and myself. Others in the party were Mrs. Roth and Miss Helen M. Gordon. The bird had alighted on the top of a dead sycamore, and presented a side view to the observers. The white head and underparts, the jet-black pointed wings, and large size, were most conspicuous characters. In fact, when seen from a distance, on account of its length, the bird was first taken for an Osprey—one had been seen the same day several miles further south, along the river.

There have been no records of the Swallow-tailed Kite in Ohio for the past thirty years. Rev. W. F. Henninger noted a specimen shot in Ross Country, near Chillicothe, in August, 1898. This report is therefore submitted for the benefit of other students of Ohio bird-life.—ROBERT B. GORDON, 2281 Indianola Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

Goshawk on Tampa Bay, Florida.—On January 25, 1928, while visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Bennett at their home at Maximo Point, in the outskirts of St. Petersburg, Florida, Mr. Bennett, who is the warden in charge of the nearby federal bird refuges of Tampa Bay, told me of a Hawk, strange to him which he had shot while it was devouring one of his fowls, on November 15, 1927. The description of the size of the bird and its plumage as given me both by Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, indicated an adult Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*). Being shown where the Hawk had been buried I disinterred the remains and sent all the large bones found to the Biological Survey for identification. The skull and upper vertebrae were missing, the burial place having been found by some scavenging mammal.

The Biological Survey wrote me on February 9, 1928, as follows: "The bones which you sent have been compared with skeletons in the National Museum collection and prove to be unquestionably those of a Goshawk. This furnishes the third Florida record and the most southerly one known."—WM. G. FARGO, Jackson, Michigan.

Notes on the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in Colorado.—The first example of melanism in a Golden Eagle to come to my notice, is a mounted specimen in the Colorado College Museum in Colorado Springs. At first sight the appearance is that of an all black bird, but the golden or rather chestnut-brown head and neck feathers are discernable beneath the black tips and the under-tail coverts are normal at the base. The plumage is unique in having a chestnut-colored patch on the breast about three by five inches which is concealed by the black tips of the feathers.

The specimen came from Cripple Creek and is presumed to have been killed near there.

Early one morning in March, 1926, when trees were white with frost and frozen sleet, two men left Colorado Springs for a coyote hunt. Some distance out, they began to see Golden Eagles sitting scattered over the plains and some on fence posts. They counted twenty-three. As they

approached the first Eagle on a post it attempted to fly but went to the ground within two or three rods, and the men realizing that it was coated with frozen sleet that prevented flight, ran it down and captured it uninjured. Five others seen were caught in the same way. These men, who are educated Indians from Oklahoma, told me they would ship the live birds to friends there. They said the Indians keep live Eagles in confinement and pluck them like Geese, for the tail and wing feathers, which are used in making war bonnets.

From the large number of Eagles together on this occasion, it seems probable that a flight had been driven to earth by the storm.—CHARLES E. H. AIKEN, *Colorado Springs, Colo.*

Hawks and Kingfisher.—At the risk of riding a rather old topic to death, we can add to the notes on the above topic that here Kingfishers habitually amuse themselves at the expense of our super-abundant Sharp-shins. Not only is the pursuit and escape a matter of daily occurrence over the grassy, many-channelled creek which flows under our windows, but it is hardly less common to see the Kingfishers approach and circle the seated Hawk. Once, when the latter refused to be "drawn," the Kingfisher lit on a limb forty feet away and fifty yards from water, and, vibrating with excitement and hatred, rattled his loud defiance. Again, we have seen the Kingfisher leave the water by over a hundred yards to look for a Sharp-shin which we could see, but he, at first, could not, in the tops of the tall aspens about our house. This time, however, the Hawk was intent on less noble prey, and refused to "play the game." Also, when we shot a Sharp-shin from the Kingfisher's dead limb above the creek, the wounded bird had scarcely struck the beach below before its hereditary enemy had taken its place, and was pouring down abuse and insult in a kind of ecstasy over this vicarious triumph.

With practice the accuracy of timing in the escape becomes remarkable. The final dip is delayed until the Hawk seems to be actually within striking distance, but he always passes over without striking, though the Kingfisher does not disappear beneath the surface. This raises the question of the limit of the size of the Sharp-shins prey, and whether the game is really played in grim earnest by either side. Our Black-headed Jays, (*Cyanocitta stelleri annectens*), for instance, perhaps less formidable birds than the Kingfishers, heed the threats of this Hawk only by standing alert, to dodge at the last moment into a protected position. We believe, however, that, given a fair stroke in the air and over ground, the Sharp-shin could kill either species.

It is worth noticing that two Kingfishers often chase and escape each other over water in the same way, in play. Without supposing this to be organized schooling, it is a game which has its application to the serious business of life.—THOMAS T. McCABE, ELINOR BOLLES McCABE, *Indian-point Lake, Barkerville, B. C., Canada.*