

Eagle Mountain is 1600 feet above sea level and 700 feet above the stream at its base. The Pigeons may have come from the town of Cache five miles to the south.

I left the Wichitas June 6, but Dr. R. D. Bird who stayed another week wrote me that he saw nothing more of these birds.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

Zone-tailed Hawk in Lincoln Co., New Mexico.—On April 11, 1929, while watching five or six Turkey Vultures wheeling over the pines, in the Lincoln National Forest on the south side of El Capitan Mountain, I noticed one with a white band across the tail. Upon closer observation I found it to be a Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus albonotatus*). Its shape and actions in the air were so Vulture-like that had it not been for the conspicuous white band on the tail I should not have noticed its smaller size. I was unable to collect this bird as it was too far away.

I returned two days later and about a mile farther up the canyon was greeted by a loud Buteo call. Just above the tree tops and directly above my car were two Zone-tails circling and screaming. Their note was very like that of the Broad-wing Hawk except that it was much more piercing and not so highly pitched. The bright yellow legs were very conspicuous in flight. Both birds were collected, No. 85973 Coll. Acad. Nat. Sciences Phila. adult ♂ with testes very large. Stomach contained only a few feathers. No. 85974 adult ♀ contained an egg five-eighths of an inch in diameter. Crop contained Mountain Bluebird. Canyon on south side of El Capitan Mountain, Lincoln Co., New Mexico, April 13, 1929, elevation 7000 feet.

In the fresh specimens the iris was dark brown, bill bluish horn color, cere and gape bright yellow, legs and feet, bright yellow, claws black.

While their actions were those of nesting birds yet I failed to locate a nest near by.

Another Zone-tailed Hawk was seen above the highway, twenty miles west of Roswell, which would be about on the line between Chaves and Lincoln Counties on April 20, 1929. As I did not have a gun with me I could not collect it but did stop and observe it for some minutes; part of the time it was less than one hundred feet from me.—WHARTON HUBER, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Screech Owl Apparently Poisoned by Spraying Solution.—On June 28, 1929 Miss Helen Hebard of Chestnut Hill, Phila., Pa., brought me a young Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) that had died under rather unusual circumstances. She found the Owl upon the lawn and in the hope of obtaining a photograph of it took it to the house. Before she could get her camera the Owl was dead. Upon opening it I found six large *Catalpa* caterpillars (*Ceratonia catalpae*) in the stomach.

Upon examination the caterpillars showed traces of arsenate of lead. As the trees upon an adjoining lawn had just been sprayed with this solu-

tion it is probable that the parent bird had fed these poisoned caterpillars to the young, unwittingly causing its death.

It seems very desirable to analyze stomachs of birds found dead on or adjacent to lawns that have been treated for the extermination of Japanese beetles, in order that we may know to what extent the birds suffer.—WHARTON HUBER, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Insect-catching Tactics of the Screech Owl (*Otus asio*).—During the spring of 1929 Screech Owls nested in an aged apple tree near our house at Bethany, Brooke County, West Virginia. By May 20 the young birds were old enough to clamber about their nesting chamber and to stick their comical heads out of the opening in the stout shell of the tree. The parent birds usually spent the afternoon dozing in favorite spots, sometimes directly in the sunlight. With the lengthening of afternoon shadows the young became active and sometimes squealed for food, but the parents never began feeding before twilight.

On May 23, a friend and I posted ourselves under the apple tree so as to watch the interesting family. With a chuckle the smaller parent, probably the male, swept out from the tree and crossed the creek. The larger parent, however, stayed in the tree for some moments, then flew to a nearby elm where, silhouetted against the sky, her movements were easily followed. At first we were somewhat mystified by her actions. Soon we made out, however, that she was capturing insects which were flying about the peripheral twigs of the tree. Some of these she evidently snatched from the twigs or leaves with her feet; others she caught in mid-air, with her beak. Since I had never known Screech Owls to capture prey thus I changed my position so as to be able to see the bird more clearly. From my new station under the elm tree I saw the bird catch thus, Flycatcher-wise, at least twenty insects, most, if not all of them, the large beetles locally called June bugs or May beetles. We watched her for at least three quarters of an hour. She caught about two insects a minute, returning promptly to feed the noisy young. The other parent did not return during our period of observation. I think he was searching for larger quarry.

On the night of June 20, a friend and I watched a Screech Owl in the yard swooping toward the ground. We both received the definite impression that the bird was capturing fireflies in its beak. Once, as the bird sat still for a moment, a captured beetle, held in the beak, flashed its light for an instant and disappeared. We think that the beetle was swallowed. If the Screech Owl regularly eats these insects it is the only bird in the vicinity which does so, to the best of my knowledge.

This habit of capturing insects with the mouth, on the wing, instantly called to my mind the characteristics common to the Orders Strigiformes and Caprimulgiformes. Birds of both Orders have soft, lax plumage permitting noiseless flight; both are at least to a degree, nocturnal, possessing relatively large eyes. The mouth of the Screech Owl, while hardly to be compared with that of the Whip-poor-will from the standpoint of size, is,