

hatched presumably on June 5, as the young birds were gone when I visited the nest on the morning of June 6.

The Shoveller is a fairly common migrant here and is occasionally seen during June, but I do not know of any other recent breeding records for Cook County, Illinois. At McGinnes Slough, where this nest was found, the Blue-winged Teal, Coot and Florida Gallinule breed in considerable numbers.—C. BLAIR COURSEN, 761 East 69th Place, Chicago, Illinois.

The Color of the Iris in the American Merganser and Holboell's Grebe.—In all descriptions and illustrations of the American Merganser, (*Mergus americanus*) the iris is given as red or carmine. In fifty years acquaintance with the species I have never seen either a male or female with any trace of red in the eye.

In the adult male the iris is very dark brown sometimes with an outer ring of dull yellow which is concealed by the eyelid in life, the eye at a little distance appearing black.

In the adult female the iris is sometimes similar to the male at others with an outer ring of paler brown, more reddish, and usually with the concealed outer ring of yellow.

Young birds of both sexes after the downy stage have eyes that are mostly yellow with hazel brown around the pupil.

I am publishing this note just now as in the recent 'Birds of Minnesota.' I am credited with an illustration showing both sexes with scarlet eyes, in my original painting the irides were colored as in the above descriptions.

Does this Merganser ever have red eyes or is this color a mistaken idea following the actual color of the Old World species, *Mergus castor*? In my opinion the two birds are not conspecific.

In Holboell's Grebe an exactly similar error persists, in this case I am absolutely certain that no grebe of this species ever had red eyes in any plumage unless a shot-damaged eye suffused with blood might have been taken for a red-colored one.

In Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts' the illustration shows the winter plumaged bird with eyes and bill of the correct color evidently drawn by Fuertes from life; but his figure of the summer plumaged adult is wrong in the color of the iris and shape and color of the bill.

The bird reaches its maximum of abundance in British Columbia, is seldom out of sight of the windows of my home here, and within a few miles hundreds of pairs breed.

The iris in the adults of both sexes is dark brown usually with an outer concealed ring of yellowish or gold, the brown sometimes speckled with gold.

In young birds and those in their second year the iris is largely yellow, usually brown around the pupil. The eyelid is always yellow.

Why this grebe alone among the grebes is supposed to have a brown iris in the winter and red in summer it is difficult to understand. No other grebe shows any change in eye color with the seasons.

The red eye is given as a diagnostic character by most authorities, E. W. Nelson alone giving the eye as yellow, Ralph Hoffmann in 'Birds of the Pacific States' correctly describes the change in the bill color which shows more black than yellow in the breeding plumage and also acquires a decurved upper mandible as the tip is no longer worn away against rocks as it is when feeding in the winter.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, B. C.*

Paired Ovaries in Hawks.—Between November 5, 1931 and April 23, 1932, I examined carefully the ovaries of twenty-five female hawks killed in Pennsylvania and sent to the Pennsylvania State Game Commission. Those with paired ovaries were: Goshawk (10), Sharp-shinned Hawk (1), Cooper's Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (2), Red-shouldered Hawk (1), American Rough-legged Hawk (1), and Marsh Hawk (1). The right and left ovary in each case were equally developed except for one Goshawk, one Red-tailed Hawk, the Red-shouldered Hawk and the American Rough-legged Hawk where the right ovary was less than half the size of the left. Specimens in which the ovaries were not paired were Red-tailed Hawk (1), Red-shouldered Hawk (4), Marsh Hawk (1), and Duck Hawk (2). Goshawks collected in February had enlarged follicles on both ovaries.—MERRILL WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

A New Hawk for the Louisiana List.—The Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*), which, so far as can be determined has not previously been recorded from Louisiana, can now be definitely added to the list of the state's avifauna on the basis of specimens collected at Ruston, in Lincoln Parish, on December 23, 1931, and January 24, 1932. The subspecific identification of each was checked by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture.—GEORGE H. LOWERY, *Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana.*

Bathing Behavior of the Osprey.—From my house on the Patuxent River, Maryland, I have often, with a powerful telescope, watched the Osprey bathing on a sandy point about a half a mile away. The bird stands in about six inches of water, and bathes in the same manner as other birds, by ducking himself under and then vigorously flapping his wings. On May 15, 1932, however, I witnessed what appeared to be a new method of bathing. When I observed the bird this time (through a 16x binocular) it was flying towards me, about six feet above the surface. It was observed suddenly to descend into the water, and then adopt a sort of vertical American-eagle attitude while flapping its wings two or three times before rising again. It then again flew along the water, keeping the same general direction, and repeated this form of immersion some five times, finally rising to a normal flight. I was as positive as I could be that the bird was not carrying anything in its talons. In fact, it had only just left the sandy point. The possibility, therefore, that it was dipping its prey in order, for instance, to secure a firmer hold, is discounted not