

The two above notes having stimulated my interest, I made an investigation of a report that came out in a local newspaper of a Bald Eagle being caught near Pioneer, Louisiana. Upon making the investigation of this specimen, I found it to have all the identification marks of an immature Golden Eagle. The most conclusive was the base of the tail being white and the tarsus being covered to the toes with ochraceous-buff feathers.

The bird was caught January 12, 1934, in a No. 2 Victor steel trap which was baited with a portion of a six-weeks old pig which had been caught the day before. This Eagle had caught six other pigs from this same brood before it was captured. On February 24, 1934, it broke the cord by which it was tied and attempted to fly away, but was killed. Its skin is preserved for future reference.—JOHN S. CAMPBELL, *Bienville, La.*

**Notes on the Food Habits of the Golden Eagle.**—In the first week of February, 1922, we chanced to observe a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*), in the act of constructing a nest in a low oak tree on the hill that rises behind the buildings of Sul Ross State Teachers College at Alpine, Brewster County, Texas. Observations were made regularly at intervals of one or two days until one of the two eggs hatched. From this time on trips were made daily to the nest. Parts of animal carcasses brought in as food for the young were usually found on the rim of the nest. During one week one cotton-tail rabbit, one prairie dog, and three Sparrow Hawks, were noted. The prairie dog must have been carried at least two miles but the other items could have been obtained in the immediate vicinity of the nest.

During the winter of 1925 a fat donkey was killed along the roadside near Alpine. A large Golden Eagle fed on this carcass daily for approximately a week. This was during an especially cold and dry season. Food was scarce and the donkey was not particularly offensive for some days. These two conditions probably account for this taking of carrion.—LEO T. AND Z. E. MURRAY, *Dept. of Zoology, McGraw Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

**The Status of the Duck Hawk in the Southeast.**—In 'The Auk' for July 1933, page 379, brief mention is made of a paper entitled "The Falcons of the Great Smokies," by Joseph Dixon (*Amer. Forests*, June, 1933) and the author's statement, that this is the only pair of Duck Hawks nesting in the Southern States, is repeated. By way of keeping the record straight, it would appear timely to quote recent published records and to give further data, all of which will show that there are at least thirteen pairs known to be nesting in the region mentioned. The writer has spent much time afield in recent years working up the status of the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) and the Raven (*Corvus corax* subsp?) and has personally examined hundreds of miles of escarpments in the eastern half of Tennessee in an effort to locate these species. This examination is now about sixty percent

complete so it is quite probable that other pairs will be located in addition to those mentioned below.

The nest described by Mr. Dixon is in Sevier County, Tenn., within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It was originally discovered by the writer in May, 1925, who fully described it, with illustrations, in 'The Wilson Bulletin' for March 1931. In the same article he described another nest which he had found in Grundy County. During the following year he located another pair at their nesting cliff in Rockcastle Cove, in Fentress Co. and, like the two above mentioned, it was located several miles from a stream of any consequence. During the last two years these three sites have been revisited and the birds were found to be still "at home." In 'The Migrant' for March 1933, he records a pair inhabiting the cliffs above Mullins Cove in Hamilton County. In 'Tennessee Avifauna,' No. 2, "Water Birds of Reelfoot Lake, Tenn." he records a fifth pair, in the cypress swamp a few miles from the Mississippi River, where on April 24, 1932, they were making vociferous protest about a cavity in a huge cypress in which they doubtless had eggs or young. Goss in Kansas and Ridgway in southern Illinois had previously described their nesting in such a situation.

In 'The Migrant' for June 1933, F. M. Jones describes two nests examined by himself and R. B. Lyle, the finder, near Johnson City, Tenn. B. P. Tyler of that city, writes me that a third pair has been located on Roan Mountain. In the Smoky Mountains Park there are at least two additional pairs nesting within three miles of the pair first mentioned and both have been visited by the writer during the past two years. He acquainted the Park authorities with the desirability of protecting these birds and is pleased to report that they are zealously doing so. Following the Appalachians from Georgia northward, this further survey is presented. Earle R. Greene of Atlanta, writes me that on October 19, 1933, he observed three Duck Hawks off the cliffs near Cloudland in northwest Georgia. Dr. Edward Reinke of Nashville, tells me that a pair make their home in a mountain escarpment near Highlands, Macon Co., North Carolina, where he spends his summers. William Brewster, writing in 'The Auk' (1886, pp. 94-112) of a trip through this locality in 1885, said "Nearly every suitable cliff in the higher mountains was occupied by a pair of these noisy falcons." Messrs. Sprunt and Murray, in 'The Auk' (1930, p. 563) recorded seven of them on August 1, 1930, from the top of Grandfather Mountain, Avery Co., North Carolina; from the writer's knowledge of the cliffs in that region he feels reasonably sure that a systematic search would reveal one or more eyries. Dr. Murray records in 'The Raven' for June 1933, a nesting pair on Jump Mountain, in the western part of Rockbridge Co., Va. During the period, May 25-28, 1925, while exploring the country now comprising the new Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, the writer found an old Peregrine's eyrie in a cliff under the west side of Stony Man mountain and one bird was observed in the air nearby. During a conver-

sation with Col. H. J. Benschoff of Woodstock, he informed me that on April 11 of that year, while accompanying a group of young men from his school, they flushed one of the Falcons from this eyrie and amid her noisy protest, secured the four eggs from the ledge.

Eyries of this species are always plainly marked with white excreta, if they have been in use any length of time, and this serves as an aid in locating them. Apparently our southern Duck Hawks are permanent residents since I found the Fentress County pair at home in November and Mr. Tyler reports seeing a pair on December 31, at one of the eyries near Johnson City.—ALBERT F. GANIER, *Nashville, Tenn.*

**Sandpiper Cripples.**—From time to time there have appeared in the literature observations regarding the occurrence of cripples in flocks of Sandpipers.

Nichols and Harper write of *Ereunetes pusillus* (The Auk, XXXIII, 1916, 246): "The members of this species come to stool in greater numbers, probably, than any of the other Long Island shore birds, and many of them pay dearly for their gentleness and sociability, since gunners very frequently turn their weapons upon the little Oxeyes for want of bigger game. Birds with a crippled wing or dangling leg, or with only one leg, are no uncommon sight, and at times the proportion of cripples to able-bodied birds is sadly large."

These observations were made, of course, before the passage of the Enabling Act, giving effect to our treaty with Canada, which afforded shore-birds Federal protection.

Forbush, who gave considerable space to the subject in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States' (Vol. I, 1925, 420-421), apparently felt that few actual cripples are observed, and that most of those reported are birds indulging in the characteristic one-legged posture of this group.

Bent writes (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 142, 1927, 250): "Semipalmated Sandpipers like other shore birds often stand on one leg and even hop on it in feeding and they also sleep in this attitude. It is difficult to distinguish these from cripples, and one is easily deceived; the cripples seem as happy and tireless in feeding as the others."

Further evidence of crippled and one-legged Sandpipers came to my attention in the autumn of 1932, near Cape May Point, New Jersey, and as a comparison of the prevalence of cripples of this family, past and present, is not without interest, my notes may be worth recording.

On September 21, 1932, while walking along the beach that fronts on Delaware Bay near Cape May Point, I observed a flock of 43 Semipalmated Sandpipers feeding in their usual manner close to the surf, which was running in on the sand before a gentle westerly breeze. As the line of feeding birds moved gradually southward along the beach I saw that three individuals were consistently leading these methodical advances. The three birds would rise silently, but in almost perfect accord, and move perhaps