

is to be considered the type specimen of this race, though it has not been recognized as such previously.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

An Early Nesting Date for the Great Horned Owl.—The Great Horned Owl, (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) has a questionable economic status, but in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas more evidence of its destructiveness must be presented to offset its value as a destroyer of the innumerable rodents such as the rabbits, rats, mice, gophers, moles and ground squirrels.

On January 10, 1935, a Quail hunter brought to the writer a freshly killed female from several miles north of Edinburg, Texas. With it he brought two eggs (55 mm. x 45 mm. and 53 mm. x 46 mm.) on which the bird was sitting when shot. The skin was preserved. When the eggs were blown, the embryos were judged to be five or six days old, making the date of laying about January 4 to 5. This is probably one of the earliest nesting dates for the Valley.

A pellet about to be disgorged contained bones and hair of a rodent apparently *Microtus*. Numerous other Hawk and Owl pellets secured from various other sources indicate a predominant preference for rodents in this area.—STANLEY MULAİK, *Edinburg, Texas.*

Arkansas Kingbird in Massachusetts.—On Friday, November 16, 1934, Mr. J. D. Smith, preparator for the Boston Society of Natural History, shot an adult female Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) at Westport, Massachusetts.

Apparently this is the first or possibly the second adult bird actually taken in Massachusetts, all the others being immature, but there have been numerous sight records of late. It was fat and in good condition and is now in the mounted collection of the Boston Society of Natural History.—CHANDLER ROBBINS, JR., *Boston Post Road, Weston, Mass.*

The Vermilion Flycatcher in Louisiana.—On December 22, 1934, I secured a specimen of the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) at Avery Island, Louisiana. This is, I believe, the first actual capture of the species in the state, although I have seen it on one or two previous occasions when no means of capture were at hand.—E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, La.*

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) in Florida.—On November 29, 1934, I picked up in my yard a dead Hummingbird, which is now in the U. S. Biological Survey collection identified as the Rufous Hummingbird.

The bird was first seen by my mother on November 26, and I saw two on November 27. I realized that they were not the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but as I had no collecting permit, no specimen was secured at the time. Although I saw only one bird after picking up the specimen, C. R. Mason of Sanford, Fla., reported that he saw two at my home on December 10. This bird was seen almost daily through December 13, feeding mainly on one Chinese Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*). Its departure was evidently due to the killing of its food plant by freezing temperatures.

The only other record for the eastern United States is a specimen in the Charleston Museum, taken in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 18, 1909 (Auk, vol. XLVI, p. 237).—ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *Pensacola, Florida.*

The Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Commensals?—In a previous note (Auk, L, p. 437) the writers reported the nesting of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus v. varius*) in the Virginia Blue Ridge.