

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.

(Dr. Murray's name was inadvertently omitted in the signature of the previous note.) An incident of this observation seems to merit additional comment. We noted that a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilocus colubris*) followed the Sapsuckers closely from one new drilling to another, apparently for the sweet sap of the sugar maple and sweet birch. We watched this for about fifteen minutes. The relationship of these birds in this instance impressed us as a novel one. We would be glad to know of similar observations, if any.—RUSKIN S. FREER, *Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.*, and Dr. J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

**Breeding of the Wood Pewee in Volusia County, Florida.**—A. H. Howell in his 'Florida Bird Life' made no mention of the Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes virens*) breeding in east-central Florida. In a heavy stand of pines, near Samsula in Volusia County, I examined a Wood Pewee's nest. The nest held one egg on May 20, 1933, and three on May 25.

There were two or three other pairs of this species in the vicinity.

On May 16, 1931, I heard a Wood Pewee calling from an open cypress swamp in the pine timber three miles west of Fort Christmas, Orange County, Florida.

A Wood Pewee spent the 1933 breeding season fifteen miles north of Keenansville, Osceola County, Florida. Usually it sang from an open swamp of cypress, instead of dwelling in the pine land as is the custom in the northern part of the state.—J. C. HOWELL, *Rollins College Museum, Winter Park, Florida.*

**Barn Swallows Breeding on the Gulf Coast.**—Several days prior to the 4th of July, 1933, I was cruising with a party of friends along the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts. On Ship Island just off the coast, opposite Biloxi, Miss., while visiting an old fort built by the Confederates in 1862, for the protection of Ship Island Channel, I found a considerable colony of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogaster*) nesting. This massive fort structure is half in the water and half on land and is in a perfect state of preservation. The Swallow nests were built on the inside of the masonry under the arches. I counted sixty-eight nests, all of which appeared to have young birds pretty well grown. The nests were too high to look into, but I could easily see the young as the old birds fed them.

This is, I believe, the most southern record of the nesting of Barn Swallows.—E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, La.*

**Death of Juvenile Tree Swallow Due to Over-feeding.**—Over-feeding on the part of birds is said to be prevented by a "nervous adjustment" of the throat muscles, which prevents swallowing when the bird has had sufficient food. It seems likely, however, that over-feeding may occasionally cause death, especially in the case of young birds. Thus F. C. Lincoln has recorded (Auk, 1926, p. 546) a case in which young Phoebes died in the nest after being "kept literally stuffed with moths" until late at night for several days. I can describe a case in which a juvenile Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) died suddenly after helping itself to an astonishingly large meal of flies under somewhat unnatural conditions.

One summer morning a few years ago I picked up from a highway on our ranch a young Tree Swallow, not long out of the nest, that had sustained a broken wing. Taking it to the house, I left it to the care of the younger members of the household. Returning from the hay field at noon, I found the Swallow's keepers in despair. They had killed and fed to the bird every fly they could find about the house and nearby buildings, but the Swallow was as hungry as ever. So I carried it to the horse barn, where on the inside of the windows large numbers of flies, of several species, were gathered. Perched solidly upon my finger, the Swallow picked flies