

(which is almost certainly an overestimate), this would give at least 43,000 pairs. There are also vast colonies in Pembrokeshire and still more on the west coast of Ireland, where the eggs are rarely taken, if at all.

I think it would be difficult to find four hundred skins in the British Isles, and these have been collected at various dates during the last sixty years. Hardly any identified eggs of the ringed form exist, as no one regards it as a species, and on crowded ledges identification is impracticable.

The chief cause in the diminution of the species is the mortality caused by floating oil. This is a non-selective agency. There is now no shooting on the breeding grounds and it is only here that it would be possible to pick out any appreciable number of ringed birds. In 1864, there was a good deal of indiscriminate shooting at Planborough and it was easy for a collector to look over a boatload of slaughtered birds, but the shooting was non-selective and the demand for 'white-eyed' birds soon died out.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN, *Southbourne, Bournemouth, England.*

Early date for the White-crowned Pigeon on the Florida Keys.—On March 9, 1938, we saw a White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*) on Key Largo, Florida, about seventeen miles northeast of Tavernier. The bird, a female with ashy crown, was perched in a small tree near the road and gave ample opportunity for observation. This seems to be the earliest dated record for the State, although Howell ('Florida Bird Life') gives some undated winter reports from Cape Sable. It is also of interest as being from one of the uppermost keys. We saw no other pigeons on the trip which took us through to Key West.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*, AND ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, South Carolina.*

The last Passenger Pigeon killed in Wisconsin.—It would be difficult to find more contradictory and indefinite statements than those regarding the last Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), supposedly, killed in Wisconsin. W. B. Mershon ('The Passenger Pigeon,' p. 154, 1907) cites a letter from Neal Brown, dated May 20, 1904, in which the latter says: "It was, I think, three or four years ago, in hunting with Mr. Emerson Hough near Babcock in this State in September, we killed an unmistakable Wild Pigeon." On page 223, however, appears the categorical statement: "In 1900 Neal Brown of Wausau, Wis., killed one near Babcock, Wis., in September." In an unsigned article in the 'Saturday Evening Post' (October 15, 1910, p. 30), Hough states that "about ten years ago while hunting with two friends at Babcock, Wisconsin, one of the party killed a Passenger Pigeon." In the 'Passenger Pigeon in Pennsylvania' (1919), by John C. French, there is a note on page 189 by Henry W. Shoemaker stating that he was told by Emerson Hough "that the last Passenger Pigeon which he saw was killed by a retired railroad conductor, in Wisconsin, the first week in September, 1897. The conductor while journeying along a railroad cut, saw a large bird perched on a tree among a band of Mourning Doves." More recently (Aldo Leopold, *Trans. Wisconsin Acad. Sci.*, 30: 72, 1937) it is said: "The record ends with a single bird killed by Emerson Hough at Babcock about 1900."

Recalling that, at the time, Hough had a weekly column, "Chicago and the West," in 'Forest and Stream,' it seemed probable that more exact information was available. In fact, the details of the incident are given in volume 53, p. 148, September 23, 1899, of this publication. The bird was shot by the guide Varney, of Babcock, from a group of Mourning Doves sitting in a tree, while the party was hunting Prairie Chickens. It was recognized as a young Passenger Pigeon by Neal Brown. Hough states further: "The bird was about two-thirds grown and the plumage was pale and devoid of

the fine luster of the adult bird. The tail feathers were pulled out in the pocket of Varney's hunting coat, but I got them and have them now, with the skin of the bird, which I secured.' The bird was shot between September 9 and 15, 1899.—A. W. SCHORGER, 168 N. Prospect Ave., Madison, Wisconsin.

A diurnal Horned-Owl courtship.—For several years I have been interested in a Pacific Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus pacificus*) which I have seen at least once each month of the year, in the small canyon back of my home on the outskirts of the city of Pomona, California. Until recently I had never seen but one and while I had, of course, no means of knowing that I was always seeing the same bird, its fearlessness and activity in daylight seemed unusual enough to warrant my thinking it was always the same owl. Once in the late afternoon, it sat on a limb facing me, not more than fifteen feet away. The limb was bare, and the owl sat motionless in the center of it, instead of being perched near the trunk, and we watched each other for three or four minutes. Not until I made a quick motion with my hand and arm toward the bird did it fly away. Several mornings I have seen the owl in broad daylight perched in the live oaks in plain sight, and it has never shown any interest or concern in me, although it watched with keen interest my two dogs.

On January 15 of this year, for the first time I saw *two* owls, which were calling to each other, one using a much deeper tone than the other. Since that date, we have heard the four-note cry from these birds nightly. At 5.30 in the morning, one of them flies very close to the house, and gives its call repeatedly. On February 17 at ten o'clock on the morning of a beautiful, clear day, I heard hooting in the canyon, and went down to investigate. There, to my surprise, I saw the two owls perched on a live oak, about thirty feet from the path. One bird, which I assumed to be the male, was facing me, and was on a fairly high limb. The other, with its back to me, was perched on a lower limb, facing the male. The latter was hooting, a call of five parts—*whó, hoo-hoo, hoo hoo*—at intervals of about one minute. At each call the female would raise her ear-tufts, and, occasionally in response, would utter an indescribable, short cry—perhaps like the cat-call of a Catbird. Otherwise she sat motionless. This performance continued for fifteen minutes, and I was interested to note that the small birds in the vicinity seemed entirely uninterested in the owls, a Kinglet approaching the male within a few feet, and a pair of Hutton's Vireos continuing their search for food in complete indifference to the presence of the predators. Suddenly the male began to utter his notes in rapid succession, with no pause between, and the female's ears were kept very busy! Then, with a quick movement he flew at her. She flew up with a snarling note, they fought for a second, then both flew off and out of my vision. I can find no account of a daylight courtship of these birds, and wonder if it is an unusual event.—ETHEL CAPEN AYER, 1300 Hillcrest Drive, Pomona, California.

Burrowing Owl in the Florida Keys.—Having to be in Florida a great deal throughout the year in connection with field work, the writer has encountered from time to time, items of interest which apparently are not listed in the literature. Illustrative of this was his recent observation of the occurrence of the Burrowing Owl in the Florida Keys. At this writing it is not certain whether these birds should be referred to *Speotyto cunicularia floridana* or *S. c. hypugaea*.

Arthur H. Howell in his 'Florida Bird Life,' does not include the Keys in the range of *floridana* in that State. The nearest locality listed is Flamingo, which lies to the eastward of East Cape (Sable) and is on the tip of the peninsula. Even that was far out of the usual range, which is the general area of the Kissimmee Prairie, though the