

Kentucky. Observations in Bath, Alleghany, Craig, and Giles Counties, Virginia; throughout southern West Virginia, and in central Kentucky,—regions left unoccupied on the map,—have shown the presence of the birds, often in abundance.

I imagine that Mr. Lowery's difficulty has arisen from the scarcity of specimens in any collections from this region. Much of the territory has been (in some cases still is) *terra incognita*, ornithologically speaking. I do not have a sufficient series of specimens from the region to make subspecific determination possible; that must await more extensive collecting. That Carolina Wrens do occur throughout this part of the region, however, there can be no doubt.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.*

**White-tailed Kite in Florida.**—During the Christmas holidays while making a two weeks' tour of Florida with David L. Emerson of Providence, Rhode Island, we spent December 27 birding around the northwest shore of Lake Okechobee. While making the final check of the day along a region where the everglades come nearest to route no. 29, some twenty-five to thirty miles west of Okechobee City, we observed a White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus majusculus*. At the time, it was nearly 4.30 o'clock and the sun was directly at our backs. At first glance the bird looked like a small, pale, male Marsh Hawk as it sat on the branch of a large, dead tree no more than twenty-five yards from the road along which we were driving. Yet when we focussed our telescopes on it, we could clearly see the finer, kite-like bill, a darker region like a line from the bill to the eye, dark shoulder-patches flecked slightly with white, pastel-gray breast with the faintest of streakings, pale-pearly wings, and a slightly lighter, unmarked tail that appeared notched when folded. When the bird finally flew, after a period of more than ten minutes, although it unfortunately went straight away, the nervous, falcon-like flight was noticed by us all.

Shortly afterward, upon consulting Howell's 'Florida Bird Life,' kindly loaned to us by Mr. M. L. Stimson, Secretary of the Florida Audubon Society, we found that the plate therein agreed in all important features with a field sketch of the bird made on the spot. We decided that the bird must be an immature individual, very nearly in adult plumage. Howell regarded the species as on the verge of extinction in Florida, giving the last previous record as 1925.—WILLIAM H. DRURY, JR., and HENRY M. PARKER, *Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

**Long incubation by a Carolina Chickadee.**—During the spring of 1941 an interesting case of a prolongation of the incubation behavior beyond the normal time limits occurred on the Horticultural Farm of the University of Georgia. On April 8 a female Carolina Chickadee (*Penthestes carolinensis*) was observed carrying nesting material into a cavity in a fence post. The male was present and sometimes accompanied her to the nest but he did not carry any material. The first egg was laid on April 12 and the set of six completed on April 17; the eggs were covered during the day and the female slept in the cavity at night. The pair was observed together throughout the egg-laying period. Apparently, normal incubation by the female followed with the male accompanying and feeding her during the inattentive periods, but the eggs failed to hatch. On May 11, twenty-four days after the laying of the last egg and nearly twice the length of the average twelve- to thirteen-day normal incubation period, the female was still incubating faithfully. On May 13 the nest was found to be abandoned. The cavity was partly torn open although the eggs were undisturbed, so that it was not clear whether the female had abandoned of her own accord or had possibly been attacked by a predator.

Examination of the six eggs showed that no development has taken place in any of them. The germinal disc was still visible on the intact yolk. Decay had proceeded too far to tell whether any cell division had taken place, but presumably the eggs had been infertile.—EUGENE P. ODUM, *University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.*

**Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Wild Turkeys in Louisiana.**—The writer spent approximately six months on the Singer Wildlife Refuge in Madison Parish, north-eastern Louisiana, while working on a Wild Turkey restoration project as part of the State Pitmann-Robertson program. During this time the area was visited almost daily. Careful notes were kept on the Wild Turkey and Ivory-bill populations [See McIlhenny, *Auk*, 58: 582–584, 1941—Ed.].

On August 16, 1941, at about 5:30 P.M. while returning from the Sharkey plantation area I was attracted by a most unusual noise. I immediately stopped the car and noticed two Ivory-billed Woodpeckers perched in two small ash trees about eight inches in diameter, having recently killed tops. Only one of the birds was carefully observed. A bright, white bill, flaming red crest, and large white wing patch were all clearly noted as the bird remained at the tree. The second bird in a similar ash tree was observed less carefully but a white dagger like bill was as clearly seen. As the birds flew away large white wing patches were observed. It was only then that a third bird was noted. It flew from a dying water-oak tree ten inches in diameter which had only a few curled brown leaves. A stripped spot about six by eight inches and about seventy feet from the ground was present on the trunk of this tree. This is thought to be a spot where the birds had been feeding and to represent the characteristic Ivory-bill 'sign.' In the immediate area were many ash trees with dead tops. Much of the bark was stripped in patches of varying size. This may possibly be old Ivory-bill feeding grounds. This area is of a slightly lower elevation than the rest of the forest and is referred to locally as an 'ash flat.' Typical trees are: overcup and Shumard oaks, white and cedar elms, hackberry, ash, and bitter pecan. The large-sized and dominant red gum, so common in other parts of the forest, is almost entirely absent.

During the months of July, August, and September approximately ninety-eight turkeys were seen. Seven flocks were observed and counted. The average flock-size was 10.7. Other birds were observed one or two at a time. Of all turkeys seen, only eleven were noted in the the 'deep woods,' twenty-four were in a grazed pasture bordering the woods, eight at the border between a recently cut area and the virgin woods, three along a road bordering a cut-over area, forty-four along a logging railroad upon which is an abundance of crushed stone and gravel, seven at the junction of the woods and a cornfield, and one along the Tensas River bank in a disturbed area next to a hunting and fishing club. There apparently was a good correlation between their occurrence and the presence of 'edges.'

Turkeys are undoubtedly plentiful in the Singer area. They are apparently of the genuine wild variety. The refuge has never been restocked. All birds which were clearly seen had very blue heads. They were trim and slim and seemed to conform to the ideal Wild Turkey pattern. No white-tipped tail feathers were ever noted. The large turkey population has apparently resulted solely from the presence of a large (81,000-acre) undisturbed forest which has been completely closed to all hunting since 1926. No other management steps have ever been taken.

The refuge is entirely in bottomland hardwoods consisting largely of a mature stand of valuable red gum and oak timber. In the refuge agreement the owners reserved the right to cut, sell, and develop the property as they saw fit. Large