

from the same state, it seems really astonishing that these two, which seem to completely reverse usual procedure, should have occurred in the same state at the same time!

On July 20, 1945, Prof. C. L. Epting of Clemson College found the nest of a Bluebird "saddled on the horizontal limb of an oak tree" on the Clemson campus. It was new to him and he called Prof. Sherman's attention to it. The latter visited the site that afternoon and the next morning (July 21). He saw the female make two visits to the nest in the afternoon and "feed the clamoring young" and this was repeated the next morning. The nest was between 12 and 15 feet from the ground, about 15 feet out from the trunk of the tree, and the limb overhung a much-frequented street. The limb itself is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter where the nest is built.

This is the first instance of which the writer has ever heard when a Bluebird did not use a cavity, either natural or otherwise, for its nest. Indeed, some ornithological works state that the species is "dependent upon" such locations. It is an extraordinary occurrence.

Referring once more to the Eastern Kingbird's abnormal nesting in which this species bred in a martin-box near Smoaks, S. C., in July, 1945, we have, in it, a bird with normally exposed nest using an inclosed space, whereas in the Bluebird, we have a species normally nesting in an inclosed space, using a perfectly open situation! No explanation of either of these reversals of custom occurs to the writer.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

A nesting record for the Golden Pileolated Warbler.—The Golden Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla chryseola*) is a fairly common summer resident of western Oregon but the nest of this species has been reported only once before (Gabrielson and Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*, 1st ed.: 517, 1940). On July 20, 1945, in company with my son, I discovered a nest of this subspecies on the shores of Hidden Lake on the southwestern slope of Mt. Hood at an elevation of about 4,000 feet. The nest was about eight inches above the ground, deep in a clump of squaw grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) located on a rocky slope about twenty feet above the water surface of the lake. It contained four eggs and was composed of a brown material resembling the shredded inner bark of red cedar. The female was flushed from the nest and remained in the close vicinity while we examined the nest and observed her with binoculars. A mountain alder thicket at the upper end of this small lake seemed to be a desirable habitat for this subspecies as a number of these birds were observed there within a small area.—NORBERT LEUPOLD, *Portland, Oregon.*

Nesting of Eastern Purple Finch in Randolph County, West Virginia.—The first definite breeding records for the Eastern Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*) in West Virginia were made near Cheat Bridge, Randolph County, on June 12, 1945. On this date three nests, all under construction, were found. Two were in red spruce, *Picea rubra*, and one was in balsam fir, *Abies balsamea*. Two were placed on small branches against the trunks about four feet from the top of 40-foot trees. The third was located on a horizontal limb at a height of 25 feet. All three nests were within 200 yards of Cheat Lodge at an elevation of 3,600 feet. A fourth pair of breeding birds was noted in the same area, but the nest was not found. On July 18, one of the completed nests was obtained for detailed examination. The framework is largely of small twigs of dead spruce with scattered St. John's wort (*Hypericum*). The lining is rather compact and made up largely of dead grass

and fibers, with scattered hair, a few lichens, feathers, and thread. The nest has the appearance of having been well used, indicating that a brood of young was successfully reared.—W. R. DEGARMO AND WILLIAM F. STRUNK, *Conservation Commission of West Virginia, Charleston, W. Va.*

An unusual bird fatality (*Plate 3, left fig.*).—About November 15, 1944, the cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus* subsp.?), shown in the accompanying photograph, met an unusual death. The bird was first pointed out to me by Mr. C. Hoyt Mills of McClellanville, South Carolina, while we were on boat patrol of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Charleston County, S. C. Although dead when examined, the cormorant apparently had attempted to alight on the top of a slender, split pole, had slipped downward, and had been garroted when its neck lodged in the narrowing crack. The pole, formerly supporting a flag marker, was nailed to an engineering survey sign possessing the usual row of close-set nails placed to prevent bird roosting and its results. If the sign had not been so armed the bird might not have attempted to land on such a slender pole as that above the sign. The split at the top of the pole was 2½ inches wide, narrowing down gradually for about three feet. It was first thought that someone in a jesting mood had placed the bird in position but examination discounted this theory. The spot was a good distance away from the Intracoastal Canal, the sign had been established many months or even years previously, the isolated post was difficult to approach over the very boggy salt marsh, and the bird was ten feet above the level of the marsh muck. During five years' residence at the refuge, this has been the only example of this type of bird death the writer has witnessed.—WILLIAM P. BALDWIN, *Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, McClellanville, South Carolina.*

Brewster's Booby in Arizona (*Plate 3, upper right fig.*).—An immature *Sula leucogaster brewsteri* was observed in the Bill Williams arm of Havasu Lake, Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge, in Mohave and Yuma counties, Arizona, on August 13 and 14, 1943. As usual with boobies, it was an unwary bird and permitted sufficiently close approach to allow me to study all details and even secure a satisfactory photograph of the bird resting on the water. The record is noteworthy not alone because it is the first record of any booby for the State of Arizona, but very probably the first record for the United States of the subspecies *Sula leucogaster brewsteri* (Peters, Check-list of Birds of the World).

Characters apparent in the photograph, as well as from my field description of the bird, are diagnostic enough to permit positive identification as to species. Its straight, sharp, wedge-shaped beak was of the same color—a light bluish-gray, mostly on the gray side—as the naked area about the eye, of which it seemed to be a continuation. The bird's general color was a darkish brown, a little rusty, with some vermiculations, especially on the breast. When resting on the water, its wing tips projected beyond the tail. When it flew, long and narrow wings were immediately noticeable, as well as its pale yellowish feet, the whitish strip on the under side of the wing, and the rather short and rounded tail.

My thanks are due to Dr. Alden H. Miller of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, who examined the photograph and supplied me with various taxonomic information.—GALE MONSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Needles, Calif.*

Laughing Gull robs Brown Pelican (*Plate 3, lower right fig.*).—A recent conversation with Mr. Jack DuPre of McClellanville, South Carolina, in which he told