

The Harlequin Duck in Montana.—In the recent excellent "Distributional List of the Birds of Montana" by Aretas A. Saunders (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 14, pp. 38-39), are given eight records of the occurrence of the Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*), which seem to indicate that the species is rather generally dispersed in the state. Three of the localities mentioned, Chief Mountain Lake, Iceberg Lake and Upper Two Medicine Lake, are within the boundaries of the Glacier National Park. Incidentally it may be noted that through a typographical error the reference for the Chief Mountain Lake record is given as the *American Naturalist* instead of Coues' "Birds of the Northwest" where it was actually published. The second record, that of a pair of birds collected by G. H. Trook on the Hayden Survey in May, 1860, belongs to Wyoming east of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, as explained in *The Auk*, vol. xxx, January, 1913, p. and not to Montana. The locality where these birds were taken was in the mountains 107. Trook who obtained the specimens was in Wyoming in May, although later in the season he worked in the Big Horn Mountains, Montana. This leaves Merrill's record in the Big Horn Mountains, Sloanaker's record for Flathead Lake south of the Park, Saunders' record for Birch Creek, Teton County, and Thomas' record for the West Gallatin River in the southern part of the state, as the only records outside the Park.

Since Mr. Saunders' manuscript was prepared, several additional records for the Park have been published, which may be found in Mrs. F. M. Bailey's "Birds of Glacier National Park", pp. 124-126, issued by the National Park Service in 1918. These records indicate the presence of the Harlequin Duck on Mineral Creek, McDonald Creek, North Fork of the Flathead, Grinnell Lake, in Olsen Valley, on Sightsight Lake and at McDermott Falls. At present, records for localities outside the Park are more desirable than ever.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C., May 8, 1921.*

Oklahoma Field Notes.—*Protective Coloration in Gnatcatcher Nests.* The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila caerulea caerulea*) in the vicinity of Tulsa, Oklahoma, normally nests in early May. Out of a large number of nests examined by me all but one were located in the common oak of this region. At the time of nesting the oak is always in leaf and the nests are placed in proximity to clusters of leaves. They are also always covered exteriorly with dark sooty gray lichens picked from the oak limbs and are evidently so decorated in order to be inconspicuous. Interiorly the nests are lined with dark-colored fibrous material and shreds of bark. On April 27, 1919, I found a nest which departed in every particular from the usual type. It was of course earlier in the season and the oaks were not as yet in good leaf. This nest was located high up in a slender fork of a small limb in an elm which had just completed budding. The nest was entirely decorated with the red-brown bud sheaths, brown lichens and brown fibrous material. Interiorly the color scheme had been carried out also by the use of red-brown spongy cotton-like material and some silky brown seed filaments from some weed. In addition there were several brown breast feathers of the Bobwhite and other softer feathers of unknown source. The eggs, five in number, were normal in size, shape and coloration. This nest was thus unusual in its early date, in its location in an elm, in the outer and inner coloration, and in being lined partially with feathers—I have never before seen a Gnatcatcher nest lined with feathers. It was in toto a beautiful example of protective coloration, as it blended extremely well with the brown bark of the young limbs of the elm.

Dove Nesting in Thrasher Nest. On May 11, 1919, at Chanute, Kansas, I found a nest of the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum rufum*) containing two eggs and located a few feet above the ground in an osage orange tree. On May 16 I again visited the nest, intending to collect a full set, but was surprised when I arrived to note a Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*) resting in the nest. On the Dove being flushed I found the nest to contain the original (supposedly) Thrasher eggs and in addition two Dove eggs! No later visits were made, so it was not learned what the ultimate disposition of the four eggs and fledglings, if any, might have been.

Abnormal Eggs of Crow. On March 20, 1921, while collecting near Tulsa, Oklahoma, in company with Mr. G. A. Abbott, we flushed a Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*) from its nest in a small pecan tree. My attention was immediately attracted to the large size of the Crow, for it was by far the largest individual I had ever seen. On climbing to the nest I found it to contain a fine set of five very large eggs. Upon measurement I find them to average 2.00 by 1.25 inches, which shows them to be slightly larger than the average egg of the Raven. The average size of Crow eggs is given as 1.60 by 1.15 inches.