

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 (*Poliottila 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.

Abnormal Egg of Western Lark Sparrow. In my collection is a set of eggs of the Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*) taken on June 26, 1920, at Claremore, Oklahoma, which contains two normal eggs, one normal Cowbird egg, and one extremely large Lark Sparrow egg. This large egg is marked similarly to the other two and measures .95 by .67 inches. Reed gives the average size of eggs of this species as .80 by .60 inches.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 13, 1921.*

Relative Dimensions of Aeroplanes and Hawks.—It has been the writer's experience that the majority of the hawks observed by bird students are seen in flight, usually outlined against the sky. The proportional dimensions of a bird can usually be made out, but it is often impossible even for an expert to be sure about the color or markings, especially when the bird is seen against a strong light. We say that a Cooper Hawk has a long tail or that another hawk has long wings, but these members are long or short compared with—what? It would certainly be more exact to say that in the Cooper Hawk the length (the distance from tip of bill to end of tail) is 60 percent of the spread of the wings.

It is a well-known fact that female hawks are larger than males; but measurements show that the ratio of length to spread is about the same in both sexes. This matter of proportion appears to be constant in any given species, irrespective of sex and age, in all full-feathered individuals. Using the ratio of length to spread as a basis, we find that the various species of hawks found in California may be readily separated into two groups, those that have a length *greater than one-half of their spread* and those that have a length *less than one-half of their spread*. With the exception of the falcons, we may safely say that the harmful species can all be placed in group 1 and the beneficial species in group 2. For example, the Cooper Hawk, regarded everywhere as harmful, has a length 60 percent of its spread, while the beneficial Swainson Hawk has a length that is only 40 percent of its spread. (See accompanying table for further figures.)

TABLE SHOWING RATIO OF LENGTH TO SPREAD IN VARIOUS SPECIES OF HAWKS AS SHOWN BY MEASUREMENTS OF BIRDS IN THE FLESH

Genus	Species	Average ratio, length to spread
Accipiter	Cooper Hawk	60%
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	54%
	Goshawk	52%
Falco	Sparrow Hawk	47%
	Pigeon Hawk	45%
	Duck Hawk	44%
	Prairie Falcon	43%
Circus	Marsh Hawk	42%
Buteo	Red-tailed Hawk	42%
	Swainson Hawk	40%
Archibuteo	Ferruginous Rough-leg	40%
Pandion	Osprey	39%

Regarding the relative proportions of aeroplanes and hawks, it may be stated that, in general, aeroplanes are relatively longer than hawks, the ratio of length to span in the former being, in ascertained cases, from 54 to 80 percent. In the recent four-passenger, Orenco type F, Tourister Aeroplane, as illustrated in *Aerial Age* of May 3, 1920, page 253, the over-all length is 25 feet, 10 inches, and the span 38 feet, a ratio of length to spread of 68 percent. The Cooper Hawk has nearly the same proportions as this modern aeroplane; and the harmful bird-hawks (Accipiters) might well be called aeroplane-hawks to distinguish them from the short-tailed squirrel-hawks (Buteos), which are beneficial.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 10, 1921.*