

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Bears and Birds' Eggs.—Mr. Taverner's note (CONDOR, xxx, 1928, p. 157) drawing attention to an observation made by Mr. Henderson of Belvedere, Alberta, on bears climbing trees in which are hawks' nests, suggests that it may be worth while to comment on another egging activity of the black bears. Several instances have been brought to my notice of these animals hunting ducks' eggs on a wholesale scale. Although outside my personal experience, there seems no doubt that bears, certain individuals at all events, will systematically work the edges of lakes and for a time live almost exclusively on ducks' eggs. How common the habit may be I have no idea; but the fact that I have heard the same thing from three or four independent sources suggests that it may not be of such rare occurrence.

With regard to Mr. Henderson's observation, I noticed when collecting wood bison in the extreme north of the Province where the black bear is abundant, that trees with hawks' nests in them formed only a small percentage of those that had been climbed. Here and there were trees that had been heavily scarred as though they were particularly popular; but none of these contained nests. A scarred trunk and a hawk's nest are probably often but a fortuitous combination and mere coincidence. It would be decidedly interesting to get ocular and conclusive evidence as to the inferred procedure.—WILLIAM ROWAN, *Edmonton, Alberta, April 2, 1928.*

Some Winter Records from Montana.—The following notes from my records and those of my brother are of winter occurrences of birds for which, in "A Distributional List of the Birds of Montana" (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 14), the one inclusive reference on Montana birds, A. A. Saunders cites only one or a few winter records; or in some cases, no instances of occurrence in winter. The period covered by our notes dates from January 1, 1921, and extends through the winter just ended. The instances of winter occurrence given here are largely the result of chance observations in a few parts of the state, and can not be taken as an index to the winter status of any of the species in any of the localities mentioned. They are considered worth publishing because of the absence or rarity of previous winter records of the several species in Montana. Except in one case, as noted, these records are based upon sight identification.

Barrow Golden-eye (*Clangula islandica*). December 20 and 22, 1926, one seen in Kootenai River, at Libby. December 7 and 22, 1927, two seen near Fortine. Recorded by my brother, D. R. Weydemeyer, near Fortine on the following dates: December 25, 1921; January 15, 21 and 29 and February 4 and 25, 1922; February 7, 13, 14, 15 and 17, 1923.

Buffle-head (*Charitonetta albeola*). December 21, 1925, Kootenai River near Jennings, and Whitefish Lake. November 2, 1926, Kootenai River at Libby; November 14, 1926, Fisher River, near Libby. November 6, December 19 and 22, 1927, in a slough near Fortine.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*). On December 2, 1927, at Fortine, in a spring-fed slough that never freezes over in winter, we caught a Sora in a trap set for muskrat.

Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*). Observed along the Kootenai River at Libby on the following dates: December 30, 1925, seven seen; December 20 (two) and 22 (five), 1926; January 23, 1927 (one). My brother noted this species at Eureka commonly during October, and on November 4, 14 and 27 and December 4 and 9, 1921.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*). One noted November 15, 1922, at Fortine. One seen at Moccasin, Judith Basin County, December 16, 1925.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*). Observed at Bozeman on the following dates: February 6, 1922; November 14 and 24, 1922; January 25 and 27, 1923; December 11 and 12, 1924.

Western Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus striatulus*). November 6 and December 25, 1922, at Bozeman. November 21, December 1 and 22, 1927; January 2, 18, 21 and 25, 1928, at Fortine. Recorded by my brother at Fortine January 1, 1923.

Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*). January 27, 1921, one at Fortine. December 20, 1925, one near Great Falls. Observed at Bozeman on the following dates: November 4 and 20 and December 15 and 25, 1922; November 1,