

lined with coarse dry grass. It contained three fresh eggs. Found in a small spruce grove one mile south of Arcata.

Another Oregon Jay's nest was found on May 17, 1915, in a lowland fir, thirty-six feet up. It was made of green moss, dry spruce twigs, damp earth, and dead alder chips, lined with coarse dry grass. It contained four eggs, incubation almost complete. Found in the woods south of Eureka.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, March 17, 1938.*

Reddish Egret Again Seen near San Diego.—While I was driving across the bridge between North Island and Coronado, in San Diego County, California, at about one o'clock on the afternoon of September 25, 1937, I saw a strange egret-like bird at the southeast end of the bridge. It was in company with several Snowy Egrets on the salicornia flats. After the car stopped, at a distance of about 150 feet from the bird, its reddish head and neck were observed. When it flew five minutes later, the light-colored undersurface of the wings and body was displayed.

Because I had just spent a year in Florida, the immediate thought was Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*); and this was confirmed when I visited the San Diego Museum and examined a mounted group of this species on exhibition there. The one previous report of this species in California was also from the vicinity of San Diego (Huey, Condor, vol. 33, 1931, p. 125).—R. R. DELAREUELLE, *Aviation Cadet, Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, April 15, 1938.*

White-throated Sparrow Killed by Copperhead.—A striking demonstration of one of the hazards to which birds are exposed, namely, attack by snakes, was witnessed about 2:30 p.m. on February 27, 1938, at Alum Creek in the Bastrop State Park, near Bastrop, Texas. I had just killed a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) which, with five or six others, had been scratching for food in the leaf litter under a yaupon bush (*Ilex vomitoria*) at the edge of a clearing. When I went over to retrieve the bird, my attention was attracted to a second bird of the same species that was thrashing about among the dead leaves. At first I thought I had wounded it; but when I reached over to pick it up I discovered that it was struggling to escape from a copperhead snake (*Agkistrodon mokasen*). The snake had the bird by the back of the head, holding on tenaciously, and periodically clamping its jaws tighter as if trying to sink its fangs and teeth deeper.

Approximately three minutes elapsed from the time the struggle first was observed until the bird relaxed, apparently dead. The snake, still holding to its intended prey, then attempted to drag it kill farther back into the pile of litter. Curious to see what would happen if I interfered, I took a stick and attempted to drag the snake into the open. Evidently the instinct of self preservation overcame that of hunger; for the snake released its kill immediately and attempted to escape by burrowing into the pile of leaves. Finally it was captured.

An autopsy revealed that the sparrow had not been wounded by my gun-shot and that apparently it had been captured while in sound condition. The fangs of the snake had penetrated the cranium and pierced the brain, causing a slight hemorrhagic condition. Death, of course, doubtless resulted from the poison injected.

The fact that the copperhead captured and killed an apparently normal bird leads one to wonder how severe this type of predation is on small birds which habitually scratch among leaf litter for food. The copperhead is so colored that it is discernible when motionless among dead leaves only by close scrutiny; hence it is admirably adapted, as far as color is concerned, to feed upon birds with such habits. Also, the tendency the snake exhibited to conceal itself under the leaves leads me to suspect that it may have lain in hiding and "pounced" upon the unsuspecting bird.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas, March 14, 1938.*

American Scoter in the San Francisco Bay Region.—Grinnell and Wythe (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 18, 1927, p. 55) list the American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) as a "very rare mid-winter visitant" in the San Francisco Bay region. The species has, in fact, been recorded but relatively few times from the entire coast of California. It therefore appears worth while to record the collecting of an adult female American Scoter by Leonard Penhale of the Department of Exhibits, California Academy of Sciences, on March 10, 1938, at Drakes Bay, Marin County, California.

On the same day that the above specimen was secured at least six adult males of the same species, all readily distinguishable from the numerous White-winged and Surf scoters by the bright lemon yellow on their bills, were likewise seen on this bay. The observer stated that a male and several female Old-squaw Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*) were also noted at the same time but were too wary to allow close approach.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 29, 1938.*

A Migratory Flock of Ibises in Utah.—The White-faced Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis guarauna*, is a fairly common summer resident on the east side of Great Salt Lake, particularly along the fresh-