

It will be well for all of us to base our papers on facts and not to condemn all scientists in any branch because of some single representative who is a "black sheep"; for we can find such in any class.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, March 29, 1939.*

Old-squaw and American Scoter in San Diego Region.—Mr. J. W. Sefton, Jr., has recorded (*Condor*, vol. 41, 1939, p. 83) the first capture of an Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in southern California since 1921. Even though his note is not concerned with sight records of this species, the implied rarity of the Old-squaw at San Diego may justify the publication of two very satisfactory observations of the bird from my own notes. On March 18, 19, and 20, 1928, a bedraggled individual, in an indefinite plumage but approaching that of the adult female, was seen on the edge of the "Strand" in San Diego Bay near Coronado. This bird was most unsuspecting, and since I have been familiar with the Old-squaw since my childhood, the record was as positive as a sight record can ever be.

On June 20 and 21, 1937 (and therefore slightly more unusual a record than the above), another very dishevelled Old-squaw was seen in San Diego Bay, in an obscure buffy plumage frequently found in summering birds in the East. It also was very tame, and spent most of its time on shore, within a few yards of the spot where the 1928 bird was noted. It seemed to be in unhealthy condition.

My notes contain references to other northern ducks in the San Diego region, but none seems worth giving in detail except the following, since they concern such species as the American Golden-eye and Red-breasted Merganser. On March 27, 1928, a female American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) was observed with great care from a short distance as she fed in the surf just off the breakwater at Coronado in company with many Surf Scoters. This bird was observed almost daily until April 18, when I left California. On April 6 she was joined by an adult male in excellent plumage, and this individual also remained at Coronado until my departure. Even had this unmistakable male bird failed to appear, the female American Scoter is more easily identified at sight than females of either of the other two species when the birds are resting on the water and the white wing-patch of *Melanitta deglandi* scarcely visible. Like the Old-squaw, the scoters are extremely abundant winter ducks on Long Island, New York, and I have known them all well for many years.

Although the attitude of western ornithologists is more conservative toward sight records than that of the easterners, the observations cited above should not, it seems to me, invoke more than a minimum of uncertainty in the minds of even the most cautious.—WILLIAM TOD HELMUTH, III, *East Hampton, New York, April 9, 1939.*

Some Unusual Arizona and New Mexico Bird Records.—The following records were obtained in the course of field observations made during the period September, 1936, to December, 1938, inclusive, by the writer on the Navajo and Hopi reservations in Apache, Navajo, and Coconino counties, northeastern Arizona, and in parts of McKinley, Valencia, and San Juan counties in northwestern New Mexico. Most of these records represent the first published occurrences of the species in the respective parts of these two states.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus. Bald Eagle. An adult observed October 29, 1937, at Long Lake in the Lukachukai Mountains, New Mexico; Transition Zone.

Pandion haliaetus. Osprey. One flying over the San Juan River at Farmington, New Mexico, October 7, 1938.

Dendragapus obscurus. Dusky Grouse. A pair seen in Lukachukai Mountains above Sanastee, New Mexico, October 26, 1937. This big upland game bird is rare in these mountains that lie along the New Mexico-Arizona state line. Seen in forest of aspen, Douglas fir, and ponderosa pine.

Numenius americanus. Long-billed Curlew. One seen August 3, 1938, at a small reservoir near Mexican Springs, New Mexico; another August 11, 1938, at Ganado Lake, Arizona.

Limnodromus griseus. Dowitcher. One seen at a small reservoir near Bodaway House, about ten miles southwest of Gap Trading Post, Arizona, March 24, 1937. Still in gray plumage.

Lobipes lobatus. Northern Phalarope. One observed at an almost frozen-over pond about eight miles north of Sanastee, New Mexico, November 19, 1937. This, the only record I have for the species, is apparently an unusually late one.

Chlidonias nigra. Black Tern. A flock of six flew over Ganado Lake, Arizona, August 11, 1938.

Coccyzus americanus. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. One seen and others heard at Waterflow, New Mexico, July 20, 1938. Waterflow is in an irrigated district, with many cottonwoods and other trees.

Asio flammeus. Short-eared Owl. One observed September 30, 1938, near Egloffstein Butte, about twenty miles southwest of Keams Canyon, Arizona; Upper Sonoran grassland.

Megaceryle alcyon. Belted Kingfisher. One seen September 25, 1936, at Laguna Creek Dam near Dinnehotso, Arizona; another on October 9, 1937, near a small lake in the Lukachukai Mountains above Crystal, New Mexico.