

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Identification of Feathers in a Tree Swallow's Nest.—A casual examination of an occupied nest of Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) at Springhouse, British Columbia, on June 20, 1941, revealed such a quantity of duck feathers in the nest cavity that I made a point of returning to collect it after the young had left. The nest occupied a large hole three feet from the ground in an aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), one of several at the edge of a bluff on a wide prairie much frequented by ducks. The nest was cushioned on a deep deposit of sawdust, the product of ants' activities. The feathers as identified consisted of the following items: Mallard, ♂ 45, ♀ 5; Pintail, ♂ 9, ♀ 7; Baldpate, ♂ 8; Shoveller, ♂ 3; Redhead, 11; unidentified duck feathers, 4; Sandhill Crane, 13; total, 105.

The majority (77) of the duck feathers were from the flanks; nine were lower tail-coverts, two were breast feathers and four were from the back. Those of the Sandhill Crane consisted of twelve contour feathers and one tail covert measuring six and three-quarter inches, the largest feather in the nest. Flank feathers have a natural curve which easily fits the rounded contour of a nest, and it would appear that a preference for this type of feather is indicated.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, October 27, 1942.*

Another Record of the Great Gray Owl in California.—In October, 1941, Mr. C. E. DeLong, then residing in San Diego, donated to the San Diego Society of Natural History a mounted specimen of a Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa*), for which he was able to provide accurate data. He stated that it was taken between Coarsegold and Finegold, Madera County, California, on Denver Church's Ranch, elevation about 3200 feet, in May or June of 1930. This locality is some twenty miles in an air line south of Yosemite National Park. The owl was shot by two boys because they thought it was after pigeons.

The mount had evidently been used as a mantel ornament and was darkened by smoke. However, it has been very satisfactorily cleaned and converted into a cabinet specimen which now bears the number 18526, S.D.S.N.H. In view of double handling and compression, the present over-all length is valueless, but other measurements are: wing, 440 mm.; tail, 250; tarsus, 68; middle toe, without claw, 31; culmen, 42.2. Sex, of course, is indeterminate; but there are no bare incubating patches.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, October 17, 1942.*

Black-and-White Warbler at Altadena, California.—Records of the Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) in the West are so few in number as to warrant the recording of another positive identification. At 8 a.m. on the morning of October 8, 1942, while at breakfast in our sun porch, an individual of this species which I judged to be a female of the year suddenly appeared on the trunk of a sycamore tree at a distance of less than ten feet. All of the identification marks were plainly noted together with the creeper-like habit, unique in this species of warbler, of scampering around and along the trunk of the tree. The bird was watched for nearly a minute as it gleaned the tree for food and there can be no possibility of error in identification.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Altadena, California, October 24, 1942.*

Pneumaticity of the White Pelican.—Recently I have studied the respiratory and pneumatic systems of two fresh specimens of the White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). Certain comparisons with these systems in the Brown Pelican (*P. occidentalis*), based on my earlier work on this species (Condor, 41, 1939:13-17), are of interest especially in view of the different feeding habits of the two kinds.

The external nares of the White Pelican are small but are not partly or completely closed by horny skin as are those of the Brown Pelican. This might be predicted, in that White Pelicans rarely if ever plunge into the water (Hall, Condor, 27, 1925:155) as the Brown Pelicans habitually do, and water would not be strongly forced into their nostrils. The structure of the larynx, including the possession of two outward-opening, flap-like valves just within the glottis which prevent the ingress of any water, did not show any significant differences in the two species. Likewise the lungs, internal air-sacs, and superficial air mattress did not differ. Such basic structural similarity might be expected between two species of the same genus, but it was anticipated that the White Pelican, because it does not fish by plunging, would have a less highly developed cushioning air mattress. However, the mattress is even more highly developed in this species. The two White Pelicans, when inflated under water by human lung pressure, displaced 38 and 34.5 per cent of their total inflated volumes.