

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Deplumed Pileated Woodpecker.—In front of my residence on the shore of Okanagan Lake is a grove of cottonwoods which are infested with the large larvae of the goat moth (*Cossus*). These attract many woodpeckers, occasionally the big Pileated (*Ceophloeus pileatus*).

On February 5, 1944, I heard the extra loud strokes which indicated that one of these was at work. When I saw him, his appearance was astonishing as he had been denuded of feathers on his back and breast; a few tufts of scanty down remained together with one feather of the dorsal tract. The damage had been done some time before, as the scapulars were commencing to grow again and showed as a long line of black points. Although the temperature was down to 20° F. he did not seem to be suffering.

I have no doubt that he had been in the clutches of a hawk, most likely a Goshawk, and had escaped after being partially plucked. Usually these big, tough woodpeckers are not attacked by hawks; the only record I have of one being killed by a hawk was a bird taken by a Red-tail.

It would be hard to believe that a bird could survive such an ordeal for the length of time it would take a hawk to deplume it if I had not once seen a Bald Eagle on the topmost branches of an enormous dead fir completely deplume an adult male Golden-eye; only the feathers of the head and wings were unplucked. The duck was in the clutches of the eagle for at least twenty minutes, yet when I fired at the eagle with a .22 rifle the duck flew off and made for the nearest water, an extraordinary sight. The snow beneath the tree was littered not only with feathers but also with many strips and fragments of bloody skin with the feathers attached.

For the next two weeks I frequently saw the luckless victim sitting beside small fresh-water pools some distance from the seashore, but I do not think it survived.

I could recount many other instances which disprove the general conception that predators always kill their prey as soon as captured.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, February 11, 1944.*

The Louisiana Heron in Oregon.—In the latter part of October, George M. Benson of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon, reported a small heron of a species unknown to him that had been seen several times on the swamp along the Blitzen River near the Witzel Patrol Station. As Mr. Benson has been familiar with the birds of this region for over twenty-five years, he was instructed to collect the bird so that it might be properly identified. This he did on October 31, 1943. It proved to be a male Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*) in first-fall plumage. This species has never before been recorded in Oregon. Its occurrence so far north of the breeding range of the species is just one more example of the wandering habits of herons after the nesting season.—JOHN C. SCHARFF, *Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Burns, Oregon, February 2, 1944.*

Brown Pelicans and Breaking Waves.—On December 12, 1943, at Dillon Beach, Marin County, California, my attention was drawn to four Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) which were moving back and forth along the beach in the usual single file. Several times prior to 10:30 a.m. I had noticed four pelicans soaring along the crest of a wave and about ten feet above it. Finally it occurred to me that the four were always the same birds; the second and third birds in the line were in immature plumage. By watching them make a round trip, which measured about three miles, I found that they were the same individuals. Between 10:30 and 11:02 a.m. they made six round trips, or a distance of approximately 18 miles at an average speed of 35 miles per hour.

The wind was offshore and from the northeast, but was not strong. The pelicans soared just inside the mounting wave no matter whether they were going north or south. On the southward trip the speed was apparently greater, but in the 32 minutes I timed them I did not see any individual flap its wings. The altitude varied little, if at all. No fishing was observed, and the birds never pointed the bill downward as is customary when actively fishing.—HARVEY I. FISHER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 4, 1944.*

Occurrences of the Blue Goose in New Mexico.—Through regional officials of the National Park Service we have learned of a recent occurrence of the Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) in New Mexico. Last autumn, a single bird came into a small pond on the Lucero Ranch near White Sands National Monument, west of Las Cruces. There it remained for a time with some domestic ducks. On November 17, 1943, the bird was studied at close range by Messrs. Arthur F. Halloran