

records], but probably is a resident." According to Bergtold (A Guide to the Birds of Colorado, 1928:109), upon whose account Alexander bases his statement, the Short-eared Owl is a "frequent resident; mostly on plains but also up to 8000 feet; . . . most common in northern Colorado in summer." The basis for this statement is open to question; in any event field observations would indicate that the Short-eared Owl is at best a rare or only sporadic resident in northeastern Colorado. On June 10, 1942, Short-eared Owls were seen in three separate localities in the area north and northeast of Fort Collins, Colorado. The first group, an adult with several nearly grown young, was flushed from a roadside ditch near the main highway between Fort Collins and Cheyenne about 15 miles north of Fort Collins. As we proceeded toward Fort Collins, going first some distance to the east, other adults were seen perched on fence posts. The last bird was observed about five miles northeast of Fort Collins. It appeared that in this area, at least, the owls were fairly abundant. In 1943 this general area was visited on three occasions, but no owls were noted.

It is possible that during certain periods the Short-eared Owl may nest as far south as Boulder County, but until breeding birds are actually observed it should be listed from there only as an infrequent winter resident.—MALCOLM T. JOLLIE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 20, 1944.*

Diving Habits of the Shoveller Duck.—Shoal-water or river ducks of the subfamily Anatinae normally obtain their food on land, on the surface of the water, or by tipping. Rarely are surface feeders found diving for food, although they experience no difficulty in diving to evade enemies during the period of molt and when crippled.

On September 21 and 22, 1942, at a small pond on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, some 10 miles south of San Antonio, New Mexico, the writer observed three to five male Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*) repeatedly diving for food. The pool was 2 to 3 feet deep and had been formed by a washout during a serious flood down the Rio Grande River. The dives were clean-cut actions; the birds disappeared completely under the water and submerged for several seconds at each dive. Furthermore, the diving seemed to be a concerted action, that is, if one Shoveller dived, the others did so immediately. This abnormal feeding habit was probably the result of insufficient surface food in the particular section of the country where the birds were accustomed to feed; consequently, they had learned to dive for their food.

On a number of occasions the writer has seen Black Ducks and Mallards dive—in a protected area that had been baited—for wheat or corn placed 2 to 4 feet in the water.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, November 13, 1944.*

Foster Parentage of a Mourning Dove in the Wild.—Adoption or foster parentage among birds in the wild apparently is not a common occurrence. There are relatively few instances recorded in the literature, and most of these appear to concern adoption of a juvenile after it has left the nest in which it was hatched; in one such case reported by the writer (Bird-Lore, 28, 1926:334), a towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) cared for a juvenal cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) which had been hatched in the nest of an Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*).

An interesting case of adoption was observed in 1941 by Lee W. Arnold of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Arnold and the writer were studying the life history of the White-winged Dove (*Melopelia asiatica*) in the big mesquite thicket on the Gila River Indian Reservation south of Komatke, Arizona. A blind had been set up near a nest containing two squabs about three days old, and at 5:14 a.m., sun-time, on August 12, 1941, Arnold entered the blind for the purpose of obtaining a full day's record of the care of the young doves. The adult female flushed from the nest at his approach and another adult flushed from the same tree; the female returned to the tree at 5:22 and to the nest at 5:35. At 5:52 another adult perched briefly in the tree, but after that hour no other White-wing entered the tree during the day.

At 7:34 a.m., about the normal hour for the adults to make their regular exchange in parental duties, the brooding female became restless and suddenly left the nest and flew from sight. From that hour until 4:36 p.m., sun-time, no adult White-wing appeared near the nest, though at intervals it was in full sunlight. Several species of birds inspected the nest and young doves during the day, but none attempted to harm them.

At 3:11 p.m., a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), apparently attracted by the peeping of the hungry youngsters, alighted near the nest and inspected the young White-wings, then walked to the nest and immediately began to brood them. From 3:13 to 3:50, the Mourning Dove fed the young White-wings several times and continued to brood them.