

nest, in an aspen, was likewise abandoned, but the adult birds were not seen later. A Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) nest, suspended from a branch of a small pine, was found to be hanging from one side only, and one egg was broken on the ground beneath. Neither male nor female was seen again.—LOUISE HERING, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, December 23, 1946.*

Cause of Death of a Flammulated Owl.—On September 8, 1946, Walton Brown and I found a dead Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) on a slope forested with lodgepole pine (*Pinus murrayana*) at an altitude of 9,500 feet near Jackson Lake in the Sierra Nevada of northeastern Fresno County, California. A bulky lump, which was evident in the throat of the owl, on autopsy proved to be a large long-horned grasshopper (family Tettigoniidae). Apparently the owl had attempted to swallow this insect head first. However, one of the long jumping legs had become twisted in such a manner as to lodge across the thorax of the insect. This increased its bulk to such an extent that it was unable to pass between the two arms of the wish bone. The owl might still have survived by disgorging its recalcitrant meal. However, the grasshopper's other legs with the abdomen formed a tangled mass which prevented this alternative and death resulted. Aside from the complications that arose, it would appear that this insect was rather large for the owl to swallow whole. It measured 3.3 cm. long by 1 cm. in diameter dried and not including the legs. However, it appears that grasshoppers and crickets are routine items in the diet of the Flammulated Owl (Jewett, Condor, 30, 1928:164; Marshall, Condor, 41, 1939:77; 44, 1942:66).

In addition to the long-horned grasshopper the stomach contents, which were saved and later analyzed, consisted of 4 crane flies (Tipulidae), 1 caddis fly (Trichoptera), 7 moths (Lepidoptera), 1 serpent fly (Raphidae), and 11 harvestmen spiders (Phalangida).

The owl was prepared as a study skin. Since it had apparently been dead for several days, minor decomposition prevented the determination of its sex.—KARL W. KENYON, *Mills College, Oakland, California, December 17, 1946.*

Belted Kingfisher Nesting in Ventura County, California.—Early in April, 1946, my boys informed me that a pair of Belted Kingfishers (*Megasceryle alcyon*) were digging a hole in a dirt bank along Sespe Creek, Ventura County, California, a short distance from my home. I immediately investigated and found the hole which was in the shade of a large eucalyptus tree; several low hanging branches of the tree were used as perches by the birds. The bank where the hole was found was about two hundred and fifty feet from the stream, and the entrance to the burrow was five feet two inches from the bottom and three feet seven inches from the top and measured four inches across and five inches high. The bottom of the burrow had a decided ridge in the center with a furrow on each side, evidently made by the birds' feet in going into the nest cavity.

On May 3, 1946, we decided that there should be a full set of eggs, so we used a trout rod to determine the depth of the hole, which we found to be about seven feet. The hole curved so that we could not see to the end. Digging to one side of the hole, we broke through to the nest cavity. One of the birds flushed from the entrance and on examining the cavity, which held no nesting material, I found seven fresh eggs lying on the bare ground about eight inches from the rear end of the hole. The eggs are distinctly larger than eggs of eastern Belted Kingfishers and measure in inches, 1.510 × 1.135, 1.545 × 1.147, 1.531 × 1.141, 1.421 × 1.132, 1.460 × 1.130, 1.439 × 1.131, 1.431 × 1.149. This is, to my knowledge, the first nesting record for the species in Ventura County.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, December 23, 1946.*

Orange-crowned Warbler Wintering in Oregon.—On January 11, 1947, while investigating my bird traps in Eugene, Oregon, I found a dark olive-green warbler in a government sparrow trap. Upon closer examination it proved to be a dark form of the Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). It was banded (46-23907), weighed (8.74 gms.), and released.

It is regretted that this bird was not saved as a specimen, since it may have been of the race *V. c. celata*, which is considered a rare bird in Oregon (see Jewett, Condor, 48, 1946:285).—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, January 22, 1947.*

Notes on Mississippi Kites in Hemphill County, Texas.—Allan and Sime (Condor, 45, 1943:110-112) reported on the distribution of Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in the Panhandle of Texas. They stated that there might be assumed to be a pair or more of these birds per square mile in optimum habitat. The conservatism of this assumption was shown by a study made August 14-22, 1946. An area of 575 acres of federally-owned land about 14 miles east of Canadian, Hemphill County, Texas, was found to have in residence 34 adult (seemingly 17 pairs) and 15 young kites. The latter were associated with 10 pairs of adults. From a suitable spot on the area late in the afternoon of August 21, 24 of the 49 resident birds were simultaneously in view.

As late as August 18, one young bird was still in the nest, although the other young observed were awing, most of them capturing their own food. Since Mississippi Kites leave the Panhandle (Allan and Sime, *loc. cit.*) by the end of September, it seemed likely that the late nestling was doomed. At any rate, it was killed and eaten in the nest—presumably by one of the abundant raccoons—on the night of the 18th. From the remains, it was determined to have been a female. Other nests were found but not examined.

Cicadas appeared to play a prominent role at this season in the food habits of the kite. These insects were abundant. On several occasions I flushed cicadas from clumps of grass or shrubs. A nearby kite, with a "stoop" like that of a falcon, would seize the insect within 50 feet of me. The impact of foot with insect was distinctly audible at that distance. I tossed a number of cicadas and large grasshoppers into the air, but, despite attempts by several birds, only a single Kite succeeded in catching one of the insects.

Dragonflies and grasshoppers were seen to be captured. The most unusual food item observed, however, was a small bat brought to a treetop over my head. The bird and its prey were carefully observed with binoculars at 50 feet. Judging from its size and tawny coloration, I believe the bat may have been a pipistrelle. Bats, to my knowledge, have not been reported previously as food of the Mississippi Kite. This species, by contrast with the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), appears to take little mammalian prey.—PHILIP F. ALLAN, *Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth, Texas, January 13, 1947.*

Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Arizona.—The late H. H. Kimball collected large numbers of hummingbirds in the Chiricahua Mountains near Paradise, Arizona. The majority of these he had identified correctly, but in the collection which I acquired was one he evidently recognized as especially rare, since he had made a small wooden coffin-like box, just fitting the bird, in which he had carefully placed the skin, and then had packed it among a number of Arizona Blue-throated and Rivoli hummingbirds collected at about the same time. This specimen, a male obtained on July 16, 1925, has an azure blue forehead and crown, back dusky with faint greenish gloss, tail with greenish cast, primaries dusky glossed with violet, an immaculately white chin, throat, breast, and belly, and white undertail coverts with dusky central portions. Dr. Alexander Wetmore identified the skin as *Amazilia violiceps ellioti*, the Northern Violet-crowned Hummingbird.

Kimball's specimen is an almost exact duplicate of one in my collection taken by Berry Campbell on July 11, 1935, about 95 miles south of Paradise, Arizona, at El Tigre Mine, Sonora, Mexico, labeled "male, juv." Van Rossem (*Occ. Papers, Mus. Zool., Louisiana State Univ., 21, 1945:306*) has given this location as "lat. 30° 37'; long. 109° 20'; alt. (probably over) 5,000 feet." The latter specimen was also identified by Dr. Wetmore as *Amazilia violiceps ellioti* and apparently represents the most northern record for Mexico.—MAX M. PEET, *Ann Arbor, Michigan, January 7, 1947.*

Bird Notes from Southeastern Arizona.—*Aix sponsa.* Wood Duck. We can find no published report of the occurrence of the Wood Duck in the state of Arizona. Hargrave (*Museum Notes, Museum of Northern Arizona, 9, 1936:30*) stated that "it is rumored to have been seen near Flagstaff," but he gave no details.

On November 20, 1941, at sunset, we saw a male Wood Duck in Binghamton Pond, six miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. The light was rather poor as we watched the bird with 8x binoculars at a distance of about 200 feet. None of the bright colors could be distinguished but the pattern of light and dark areas was clearly seen. Two females swimming close to the male may also have been of this species, although positive identification in the increasing shadows was impossible.

On November 23 we visited the pond again. No ducks were seen, but we found a number of fresh, brightly-colored feathers scattered in a small area on the bank near the water. It appeared that some predator had torn some feathers off its prey at this spot before carrying it away. We collected the feathers and sent them recently to Dr. Alden H. Miller for identification. We are indebted to Dr. Miller who, in his letter of November 1, 1946, states that these feathers "are indeed those of a Wood Duck. Some of them compare very closely with the peculiarly marked flank feathers of this species. I do not believe there is anything else that could be confused with them. The feathers from other areas of the body likewise correspond."

Chlidonias nigra. Black Tern. We saw seven at Willcox Playa, Cochise County, August 13, 1946. Six were in summer plumage; the seventh was either an immature or an adult in winter plumage. There are only a few published records of the Black Tern for this area.

Tyto alba. Barn Owl. Swarth (*Pac. Coast Avif. No. 10, 1914:29*) regarded this owl as rare in southern Arizona. On May 2, 1934, Anders H. Anderson found a dead, dried bird at Binghamton Pond,