

On June 14, 1948, I witnessed an encounter between an immature Golden Eagle and a red fox. I was flying in a Piper Super-Cruiser plane near the mouth of the Colville River, on the arctic coast of Alaska. The pilot first saw the fox and took it to be a wolf. Shooting wolves from small planes, for bounty, is the favorite pastime of Alaskan bush pilots, so he swung the plane around and dove toward the fox. We flew about fifty yards to one side and fifty feet above the running fox, and suddenly an eagle, which we had not seen previously, stooped close to the fox. No blow was seen. As we pulled up and circled, the eagle stooped again and apparently struck, for the fox was knocked over backward into a shallow pond of melting snow water. It may be that the fox fell over backward, for he had arisen on his hind legs in an apparent attempt to snap at the eagle.

As we came around the third time, we saw the eagle sitting on the ground some distance away. The fox was coming at him on a dead run, and the eagle turned to face the fox. At the last possible moment the eagle took off directly over the fox's head. This seemed to end the encounter, as the eagle continued to soar and the fox kept on running.

I do not believe that this was attempted predation on the part of either eagle or fox. There were thousands of Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*), ducks of several species, including Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), eiders (*Somateria* sp.), Pintail (*Anas acuta*), and others in the vicinity. On land, Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) were evident, and the holes of ground squirrels (*Citellus parryi*) were common in the sandy river banks. There was, in short, no lack of available food for either species.

Rausch (personal communication) believed the two cases mentioned by him (*op. cit.*: 171) were attempted predation. Dixon (*loc. cit.*) does not say whether or not he thought the instance he recorded was attempted predation, but the tone of his remarks conveys this impression. Seton (*Lives of Game Animals*, New York, 1, 1937:506, 539) says that foxes guard against eagles by staying in brush. Eagles take pups from the open near mouths of dens, but even this rarely, because the mother watches too closely. Very rarely is an old fox taken by an eagle, but one such occurrence at Estevan, Saskatchewan, is cited (W. M., *Forest and Stream*, Feb. 8, 1896:114). A. Murie (*op. cit.*: 217) says that eagles swoop at foxes just as they do at other mammals, including grizzlies. He also cites an instance of an eagle-wolf encounter: "About a dozen times the eagle swooped, barely avoiding the wolf which each time jumped into the air and snapped at it. The eagle turned upward at the right moment to avoid the leap, and apparently was enjoying the game." His examination of 632 eagle pellets disclosed no fox remains, and he believes that instances of fox capture by eagles are exceptional. The chief food of the eagle is the ground squirrel, a most abundant mammal. Eagles take very small numbers of caribou calves (p. 162) and mountain sheep lambs (p. 99), while the bulk of the food is largely composed of marmot, mice, ptarmigan, and small birds, in addition to ground squirrels (pp. 225-229).

Olaus Murie (*Condor*, 42, 1940:198-202) found blue fox remains only once out of 399 items in 28 nests of the Bald Eagle on the Aleutian Islands. This was a fox pup, and may well have been carrion. Even so, this represents only 0.3 per cent of the eagle food items. He concludes that Bald Eagles are not a serious menace to the blue fox population, as has been alleged.

In short, it appears that cases of actual predation by eagles on foxes must be extremely rare. It is possible that the cases cited above are actually attempted predation. The fact that the encounter I witnessed occurred within view of more easily obtainable food for each participant tends to disprove this, as do Adolph Murie's statements.

Another possibility is that these encounters are a sort of dominance expression between two large and vigorous species. However, it seems likely that these apparent attacks, or some large proportion of them, are entered into in a spirit of play by the eagle, and probably also by the fox.—RAYMOND J. HOCK, *Arctic Health Research Center, Anchorage, Alaska, March 29, 1952.*

An Early Specimen of the Eastern Fox Sparrow from Colorado.—In 1918 (*Auk*, 35:236), the writer reported what was then believed to be the first record of the eastern race of the Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*) in Colorado. The specimen was collected in the Clear Creek valley, six miles west of Denver, on November 1, 1916, by Robert J. Niedrach. It is preserved in the Denver Museum of Natural History.

Recently, while studying Fox Sparrows in the United States National Museum, a Colorado specimen of this race was discovered that antedates the Clear Creek bird by more than 30 years. It was taken at Denver in December, 1884 (exact date not given; U.S.N.M. no. 125,312). The specimen was

received from Rollo H. Beck but was collected by W. T. Strong who, so far as is known to the writer, has had no other part in the ornithology of Colorado.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., April 26, 1952.*

Additions to the Check-List of Birds of Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona.—The Check-List of Birds for Grand Canyon National Park, including additions of recent years, lists 179 species and subspecies, of which 15 are water birds. Specimens of birds taken for the Park Museum by Allan R. Phillips in Havasu Canyon, from September 23 to 26, 1950, include five species new to the park, bringing the total to 184. These additions are: Wright Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*); Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris plesius*); Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*); Savannah Sparrow (*Paserculus sandwichensis nevadensis*); and Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). The Dickcissel is the first modern record for northern Arizona. A flock of nearly a hundred Savannah Sparrows was observed by H. C. and Amy M. Bryant just west of Grand Canyon Village on September 12, 1950; a few remained there until October 3, 1950, and later. The Marsh Wren represents the proposed race *pulverius* Aldrich, according to Phillips.

Other species of more than ordinary interest identified by Phillips in Havasu Canyon in September were: Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos scalaris*), Virginia Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*), Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*), and Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*).

In the fall of 1950 there was an extraordinarily conspicuous fall migration. For example, five species of warblers were seen in the same tree (a black walnut at El Tovar Hotel) within one week, September 14-21, 1950: Calaveras, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Audubon and Macgillivray. The Green-tailed Towhee also was a conspicuous and abundant migrant.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Grand Canyon, Arizona, February 1, 1952.*

A New Nesting Record of the Cinnamon Teal in Humboldt County, California.—On May 25, 1951, while we were conducting a waterfowl nesting study in Humboldt County, California, a female Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) was flushed at 10:45 a.m. from a nest containing seven eggs. The nest was situated in a coastal fresh-water marsh composed of nigger head (*Juncus effusus*), and bog rush (*Carex obnupta*). The nigger head was the dominant cover plant with only a fraction of 1 per cent being comprised of bog rush. About 5 per cent of the water surface was open, the balance was closed over with a continuous mat of water buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) and smaller duckweed (*Lemna minor*). The nest itself was placed on the south side of a nigger head clump, six inches above the water and was constructed of dead nigger head leaves. Little down was present at the time of discovery. Water, sixteen inches in depth completely surrounded the plant growth containing the nest. A second visit was made to the nest on June 2. At that time the female was flushed again and the nest revealed an increase of three eggs, making a clutch of 10.

This female and her mate were the only Cinnamon Teal observed in the quarter section included in the nesting study. A review of the literature indicates that the Cinnamon Teal seldom nests in the humid coastal belt of California, but frequently is found in the interior (Grinnell, Bryant, and Storer, *Game Birds of California, 1918:126*; Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:74*).—NED DOLLAHITE and MORRIS P. ANDERSON, JR., *Humboldt State College, Arcata, California, July 10, 1951.*

Additional Nevada Bird Records.—There follow some of the more significant items extracted from our notes which supplement Linsdale's recent publication, "A List of the Birds of Nevada" (*Condor, 53, 1951:228-248*). In addition our personal notes contain many other items of less importance, but which would alter Linsdale's information on the distribution and abundance of some birds within the state, particularly the ducks. We will retain this information until such time that a more extensive report on the birds of Nevada is undertaken.

Chen caerulescens. Blue Goose. This species is not listed by Linsdale. An adult, shot by a hunter at Carson Lake, Churchill County, in December of 1950 is now mounted and on display at the Sagebrush Cafe in Fallon. Hunters report seeing a few of these birds at Carson Lake almost every winter since 1937.

Chen rossii. Ross Goose. This species is not listed by Linsdale. Hunters report seeing occasional geese of this species in Churchill County since 1933 and it is not uncommon for one or more to be