

BALD EAGLE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

About May 1, 1923, I was in the office of the Kentucky Fish and Game Commissioner at Frankfort. While there I saw a mounted specimen of a young Bald Eagle in the dark plumage (the "Black Eagle"), killed last fall in Franklin County. When I lived in that county there was a tradition that a pair of Bald Eagles had lived and nested for years in a certain tract of woods near Woodlake, about seven miles from Frankfort. I looked and hunted for them faithfully during my residence there (from March 1, 1897, to November 3, 1904), but never saw one, and did not include the Bald Eagle in my list of birds of Franklin County, though I did note this legend as indicating that formerly these birds had probably nested there. According to the information received from Mr. Meredith, the Superintendent of Game Wardens of Kentucky, this eagle was killed in or near the exact locality indicated by the tradition referred to above and seems to confirm the tradition.

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RANDOM NOTES FROM COLUMBUS, OHIO

The European Starling appears to have established itself permanently in this vicinity. I first observed it on November 20, 1921. In the fall of 1922 several individuals were seen in widely separated localities. This winter, a flock of over 30 has been seen continuously near Greenlawn Cemetery.

At least two Myrtle Warblers spent the winter in Greenlawn Cemetery this year. Although they appear to winter not uncommonly in the East, this is the first winter record for Ohio which has been called to my attention.

On March 18 at Buckeye Lake, a party of which I was a member observed what certainly must have been a male of the Barrow's Golden-eye. The specimen was quite tame and was well observed in a good light. All of the five members of the party were equipped with 8x prism binoculars and in addition I viewed the bird through a 30x telescope. The distinguishing characteristics were carefully noted: purplish gloss to head; long narrow white spot at base of bill, fully one inch in length, and the comparative lack of white on the shoulders and scapulars as contrasted with the other species. I am satisfied that I saw two males of the same species in early March of last year, also, but was unable to verify the identification.

Due, no doubt, to the open winter and the abundance of beech nuts and wild fruits of all sorts, many more birds wintered in this vicinity than usual. Red-headed Woodpeckers were to be found in every beech woods. Robins and Bluebirds were not uncommon. In common with other localities throughout the United States Pine Siskins were seen frequently all winter, as were a few Redpolls. Other rather unusual winter species were: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rough-legged Hawk, Towhee, Wilson's Snipe, many flocks of Cedar Waxwings, and numbers of Meadowlarks.

On January 28 a flock of about ten Black Vultures were carefully observed below Sugar Grove, 37 miles southeast of Columbus, and for some time we had an opportunity to note their distinctive characteristics.

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NOTES ON THE FLORIDA BURROWING OWL

In looking over some Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto*) from Florida, I noticed those taken at Miami Beach were much darker than those from the interior of the state. This owl is rather rare in the coastal area, and does not at the present time occur on the large prairies adjoining Cape Sable. No doubt the large filled-in area around Miami Beach, and the three golf courses, has attracted these birds to this point, though I have noted them further north, along the Ocean Boulevard,* where no clearing other than the right-of-way has been. A comparison of my interior state specimens (Okeechobee), with specimen kindly loaned me by the National Museum (Kissimmee River), compare favorably, though mine were taken in the breeding season, May, while theirs were in February. In comparing the Bahama form of *Speotyto*, kindly loaned by the National Museum, with those of Florida, I find the breeding bird (June 28) worn and in the same plumage as the Okeechobee breeding birds, while the winter plumage, December 20th, Bahama birds correspond equally as well with the February birds from the interior of Florida.

Personally, I find little, if any, difference to have made the Bahaman form from. As a rule, all males in the *Speotyto* run lighter in color than the females, though I have one female from the Beach that corresponds favorably with a male. I have always been opposed to the hair splitting subspecies game, unless the specimen can show some great and easily distinguished difference in color or size (such as *Falco S. paulus*). While the coastal birds are easily distinguishable by their darker coat and heavier white markings in wings and back, and finer markings of white on head, I am refraining at the present time at least from becoming a real hair splitter.

H. H. BAILEY,

Miami, Beach., Fla., March 5, 1923.

* See Oologist. Nov., 1922, Page 164.

A BABY HUMMER

One day last spring, 1922, while I was taking my Nature Study class on a field trip, we saw a full-grown female Hummingbird rise from a tree and fly across an open space. What seemed to be a large Bumblebee followed her. Purely by accident I looked closely at the supposed Bumblebee, only to find that it was a baby Hummingbird, not one-fourth the size of its mother. Since I was within a few feet of the birds I could not possibly be mistaken, especially when three dozen students