

**Notes on Waterfowl in Central West Virginia.**—Since published records of water birds in West Virginia are scarce, I will record some recent observations. On the morning of November 2, 1932, we had what was, for central West Virginia, an unusually heavy flight of wild ducks and geese. On that morning I was fortunate enough to be taking a group of students on a field trip along the Buckhannon River, in Upshur County, and we recorded five flocks of geese and twenty of ducks in an hour. Most of the ducks were scaups, but two which alighted quite close to us were Shovellers. These were carefully observed with 6x glasses. Later in the day I examined a specimen of Bufflehead killed by Mr. B. A. Hall of Buckhannon, West Virginia. Both of these latter ducks are considered rare in this state.

On December 26, 1932, I saw an American Bittern flying along French Creek, in Upshur County. This is an exceedingly rare winter species in this locality.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

**Winter Range of Tufted Titmice.**—Tufted Titmice (*Baeolophus bicolor*) have visited my traps during only three of the six winters that we have spent in Columbus, namely, 1927-28, the following fall, and 1932-33. They were here in considerable numbers from October to the middle of April, and thirteen were banded with aluminum and celluloid bands. During the early part of the winter the birds remained in small flocks with definite ranges; the flock of eight birds which fed daily at my shelf trap ranged over about twenty acres. Other flocks of approximately the same size were met to the north, west, and southwest of the home flock. The latter part of February the flocks broke up and I began to catch my banded birds (as well as unbanded ones) in the traps set for Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia beata*) more than a quarter mile from our house, besides getting two new birds in the range of the home flock.

The weights of the titmice varied between 20.3 and 25.3 grams, the median of thirty-five findings being 22 grams. The lightest bird yielded six weights ranging from 20.3 to 23.7 grams, the heaviest seven weights ranging from 23.1 to 25.3 grams. No tendency to grow fat in winter was found with these birds, in contrast to the behavior of the Song Sparrows here.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio.*

**A Day with the Bald Eagles.**—On March 2, 1933, I visited a few nests of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) which were already known to me in James City County, Virginia. After breakfast we headed for Jamestown Island, where Captain John Smith and the early Virginia settlers landed. There were two eagle nests on the island which had been used each season for at last twenty years, and collecting eggs from a place so rich in historical interest appealed to me more than usual, so the trip was anticipated with much pleasure. The Bald Eagles of this section of the state invariably build their nests in live original growth long-leaved pines (*Pinus palustris*), and never build in dead trees like the Ospreys nearly always do. Sometimes the tree dies after they have had their nest in its for a number of years, and where this occurs they will continue to use the nest until it falls. The nest is never found far from water, as their food supply comes from the rivers and ponds where fish, ducks, and muskrats can easily be procured.

We drove the car to the lower end of the island, and parked only a few hundred yards from the nest. Nest No. 1 was in a pine growing along the edge of the tidewater marsh, and before we reached the tree the old white-headed

female eagle left the nest, and the racket that she made soon brought her mate to the scene. They both circled around the tree continuously, but did not come very close to us. The nest tree was not as large as those usually harboring eagles' nests, so getting to the nest was not much trouble. To reach the top of the nest was another problem, and it took nearly an hour to pull out part of the bottom and side of the nest so as to clear up a limb on which to climb around the nest. With a very high cold wind blowing in from the bay this proved to be a cold experience, but the top of the nest was finally reached and the three eggs lowered to the ground in a binocular case. These eggs proved to be odd, in that they were glossy like the eggs of the woodpeckers. Incubation had gone on about ten days. The distance from the ground to the top of the nest was seventy-seven feet. The outside of the nest was ten feet deep by five and one-half feet across the top and seven feet in diameter near the middle. The interior was fourteen by five inches.

Nest No. 2 was supposed to be in a dead tree less than half a mile distant, but as the tree was in plain sight and no nest could be seen we knew that the tree had broken off with the accumulated weight of the nest. Before we reached the old tree we could see the nest in a green pine close by, and while still some distance away several deer which we jumped in passing close to the nesting tree flushed the old bird from the nest. This eagle did not make much of a disturbance, owing to her eggs being newly laid, and after making a few wide circles and getting into an argument with some Fish Crows, she left and was not seen again. This tree was a large one, forty-two inches in diameter and an even ninety feet to the nest, which was reached without any difficulty. Two eggs were collected and lowered to the ground. The nest proved to be new, and had been built only this year, as the old nest had fallen just a short time ago. The exterior width was four and one-half feet, and the exterior depth was four feet. The interior measurements were sixteen by twelve inches. We next went over to take a look at the old nest, or what used to be a nest, and found that the old birds had repaired it this season, apparently with the expectation of raising another family there. Quantities of fish bones and feathers were found throughout the whole nest, and the amount of material which comprised the nest was fifty-one cubic feet. This ended the morning and we drove back to town for dinner.

In the afternoon we visited a nest on Green Spring farm, the former home of Governor Bacon of colonial days, but it developed that a bootlegger had killed one of the eagles two weeks previously and the other bird had deserted the nest. This nest was two years old and built near the top of a large pine leaning over a marsh along the James River, and from the way the bark was scratched many raccoons had been using it for a sun parlor at times. The top of the nest was flat and measured six feet wide by three and one-half feet deep. Previous to building here the eagles had occupied a pine tree a short distance away, and owing to the limbs not being properly spaced for continuous building from year to year, the eagles had a three-story affair. Two years ago lightning struck the tree and killed it, after which the eagles deserted it and took the nest of a Red-tailed Hawk as the foundation of their new nest.

Nest No. 4 was on Pine Dell, in a dense swamp making back from the river, and not having been to the nest for two years I became confused in my bearings, and after walking around for about an hour I had to make a fresh start from where I first went into the swamp. This time I did better, and on arriving at

the tree found that the old eagle was at home. This nest also was in a large green pine, ninety-seven feet up from the ground, and was three years old. This nest contained two eggs which were considerably larger than those collected in the morning. They measured 3.03x2.35 and 2.88x2.37, and were incubated about ten days. The exterior of the nest was six feet in width by four feet in depth, and the interior was twelve by six inches. The bulk of the nest, as all others, was composed of sticks with enough discarded ones lying around the base of the tree to build a fair-sized nest. The lining was of shredded cedar bark and green pine twigs, while the other three were lined with marsh grass, cattail down and seaweed.

By the side of an old fish pond was an eagle's nest which I used to regard with admiration when a boy, and whenever in the neighborhood I generally pay it a visit. To pass it by this time would have made it seem that something was lacking in the day's program with the eagles. Long before we reached the nest we could see it plainly, even through the big timber, and on account of the isolated situation the birds were not wild at all. The old eagle did not leave the nest until we were at the foot of the tree. This pine tree was still living and one of the few nest trees which I never had any designs on collecting the eggs from, as it must have been ninety feet to the first limb and no trees growing very close to it. The nest was at least fifty years old, and it was one which most any eagle could be proud of, if bulk were taken into consideration. Going around to another cove of the pond I counted seventeen eagles sitting in one pine tree and quite a number of others flying around. These were all in immature plumage, some appearing almost black, others gray and some having a mottled appearance. This is not unusual, however, for I have frequently seen flocks of immature eagles, but not as many together as on this occasion. As far as I have observed the eagles do not breed until past four years old, for none but the white-headed ones were ever seen at a nest. I had other nests in view which in the beginning I had intended to visit before returning home, but as the eggs were further advanced in incubation than I wanted them, I decided that day with the eagles was sufficient for the season.—F. M. JONES, *Independence, Va.*

**The Iowa Specimen of Pacific Loon Re-examined.**—On November 16, 1895, an immature male Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica pacifica*) was shot by W. H. Eldredge of Sabula. This bird was swimming in the Mississippi River in front of the town of Sabula, Jackson County, Iowa. The specimen was given to Harold J. Giddings, who mounted it, and since that time (except for a few months when it was forwarded to the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., for examination) it has remained in Mr. Giddings' collection at his farm home, three miles north-west of Sabula.

This specimen was examined by the writer on April 15, 1933, and its identity as *Gavia a. pacifica* was satisfactorily corroborated. This loon is in winter plumage with the throat and entire underparts white, somewhat discolored due, no doubt, to the many years it has stood as an *objet d'art* in the "sitting room" of the Giddings' home. Each dark feather on the back of the bird is faintly margined with grayish, an entirely different pattern than the spotted-backed appearance of *Gavia stellata*.

Measurements of the specimen, in inches, recently taken by the writer are: wing, 11.95; tail, 2.28; tarsus, 2.70; exposed culmen, 2.02; depth of culmen at base, .54; depth of culmen at nostril, .48; culmen from nostril, 1.53. The dis-