

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 northwest 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-

tance from the base of the culmen to the anterior point of the loreal feathers is less than from the latter point to the anterior extremity of the nostril. The culmen is slightly convex and definitely does not have the concave line at the nostril, as found in *G. stellata*. The length of the tarsus is less than the inner toe with claw.

R. M. Anderson (*Birds of Iowa*, pp. 151-152, 1907) includes the account of the capture of this bird published by Giddings in the *Iowa Ornithologist*, II, p. 73, 1896. Anderson stated that the bird was taken by Mr. W. Eldridge, while it was swimming in the Mississippi River a little way from the shore opposite Sabula, on November 15, 1895. The slightly different details of its capture as I have stated them above were contained in a letter received from Mr. Giddings on October 11, 1932, and recently verified at the time of examining the specimen.

F. Seymour Hersey has shown (*Auk*, pp. 283-290, 1917) that all records of *Gavia arctica* from the United States and Canada actually refer to *G. a. pacifica* or to some other species of loon, the range of the Siberian bird being restricted to the west coast of Alaska, with a straggling record at Victoria, British Columbia. Based upon Hersey's study, no doubt, the A. O. U. Check-List, 4th Edition, stated the wintering range of *G. a. pacifica* as, "mainly on the Pacific coast of North America from southeastern Alaska and British Columbia to southern Lower California. Accidental in Arizona, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and New York (Long Island)." It should now be amended to include this single Iowa occurrence.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.*

Cardinals Re-claim a Deserted Nest.—On May 2, 1932, I found the nest of an Eastern Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*) containing a single egg of the Eastern Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*). On May 6 the nest still contained the single egg, and I decided that the Cardinals had deserted the nest. I had observed on a number of occasions that if a Cowbird deposits an egg in the nest of another bird before it is finished, or before the owners of the nest have deposited an egg, the owners will, almost without exception, desert the nest. On the other hand, if the Cowbird is patient enough to wait until the owners of the nest have deposited even one egg, before depositing her own, she may rest content that her egg or eggs will almost always be accepted and cared for.

I do not know what I had in mind on May 6, 1932. I didn't expect the Cardinals to return. But the parasitic habits of the Cowbird exasperate me at times, and I tossed the egg out of the Cardinal's nest. And the Cardinals returned! On May 7, the nest contained one of their eggs; on May 8, another, and so on until four eggs were laid. In due time three young Cardinals clamored for food, one egg having failed of the proper issue. Again the parent birds deserted the nest, now sadly showing signs of abuse, but the three youngsters accompanied them.

I wondered why the Cardinals had returned to the deserted nest. Surely they had not been idle during those days when the nest housed a Cowbird's egg. I was inclined to believe that a second attempt at nest building elsewhere had met with failure and they, in passing, had discovered that the first built nest had in some inexplicable way again become fit for Cardinal habitation, and had hastened to benefit by the discovery.—GRANT HENDERSON, *Greensburg, Ind.*