

GENERAL NOTES

A Golden Plover in Central New York in Spring.—On March 21, 1942 a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*) was found in an upland field close to Cayuga Lake, Kings Ferry, Cayuga County, New York by a group of Cornell University ornithology students which included myself. It was in company with three Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*). The next day, accompanied by Harrison Tordoff and Herbert Bleich, I returned and found the bird again in exactly the same place. It was feeding busily despite an inch of snow which had fallen during the night. The plover was collected and is now in the Louis Agassiz Fuyertes Memorial Bird Collection at Cornell University. Mr. Lloyd Hulbert made a complete dissection and found it in excellent condition with no apparent injuries or disorders of any sort. The full stomach contained earthworms (*Lumbricus*) and numerous disintegrated insect remains. The specimen is a male in winter plumage. The testes were very small, 1 x 3 mm.

I am aware of very few authentic spring records of the Golden Plover in New York State: April 7, 1882 (one) and May 10, 1885 (two), both from Shinnecock Bay, Long Island (E. H. Eaton, *Birds of New York*, 1, 1910: 347). A. C. Bent (*U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 146, 1929: 190) gives records for Long Island City, April 17, and Fair Haven Light, May 3, but does not give the source. W. Sedwitz (*Proc. Linn. Soc. N.Y.* Nos. 50–51, 1940: 55) reports one seen in the New York City region on April 18, 1937. There is apparently no previous spring record for the Finger Lakes region.—ROBERT M. MENGEL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

A Nest of the Acadian Owl in Michigan.—On May 1, 1942, I discovered an adult Acadian Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) and her brood of seven young in an artificial squirrel den at the Swan Creek Wildlife Experiment Station in Allegan County, Michigan. The young ranged in age from approximately five days to two weeks. The smallest of the brood was downy and quite helpless, while the oldest was almost entirely feathered out.

The artificial squirrel dens in use at the experiment station are wooden boxes 18 inches high by 12 inches square made of one-inch pine lumber. The entrance, placed near the top of one side, is 3 inches in diameter. The box in which the owls were found is 21 feet high in a 13-inch (DBH) black oak (*Quercus velutina*) in an upland area composed mainly of second growth black oak and white oak (*Quercus alba*).

There are only two other records for the Acadian Owl in the experiment station files. One is of an adult found dead near the Kalamazoo River on October 25, 1939, and the other of one taken alive in a box trap on November 29, 1939.—PHILIP BAUMGRAS, *Game Division, Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing, Michigan.*

Western Burrowing Owl in Indiana.—On Sunday, April 12 of this year I collected a male Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) in McClellan Township, Newton County, Indiana. Apparently this is the second record for this species from Indiana, the first specimen having been taken April 16, 1924, in the dune region of Porter County by Ashley Hine (*Auk*, 41, 1924: 602).

The location for the 1942 record was about two miles from the Indiana-Illinois state line. Spotted from a car, the bird sat on a mound at the mouth of a woodchuck burrow atop the spoil bank of a dredge ditch bordering a county road. When struck with a charge of light shot, the owl pitched into the burrow. It was recovered from a depth of about five feet. The head and neck region of the owl was abundantly parasitized by two species of mallophaga *Philoapterus*

spectyti (Osborn) and *Kurodaia* sp., probably *K. pectinatum* (Osborn). Dr. B. B. Morgan of the University of Wisconsin identified the lice. The skin of this owl, prepared by Clinton Conaway, is now in the collection of the Purdue Wildlife Laboratory.

I was with Dr. W. H. Elder when he took a male Burrowing Owl that was the first Wisconsin record (*Passenger Pigeon*, 1, 1939: 62). The date of the Wisconsin record was Sunday, April 9, 1939. It is interesting that the first Indiana record was made on April 16, and the first Illinois record was made April 9, 1930 by E. L. Lambert (*Wilson Bulletin*, 42, 1930: 213). The collection dates for all of these owls fall within a calendar week. All of the birds were males. These facts may be pure coincidence. On the other hand they may indicate a tendency of male Western Burrowing Owls to move eastward in the spring.—CHARLES M. KIRKPATRICK, *Department of Forestry and Conservation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.*

Strange Behavior of Two Cliff Swallows.—On July 7, 1940 while watching a colony of Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) in the bank of the Ohio River three miles west of Henderson, Kentucky, we witnessed very peculiar actions on the part of two Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon albifrons*).

During a period of about ten minutes both birds entered holes in the midst of the Bank Swallow colony, and disappeared completely from sight. One bird only entered once, emerging in a short time; the other went into a different hole at least three times, remaining a minute or more in each instance. This procedure attracted no attention from any of the Bank Swallows, and we were unable to ascertain whether the holes thus entered were occupied. Many of the Bank Swallow holes, however, contained well-grown young. Both Cliff Swallows were collected and proved to be male and female, well past full breeding condition. No evidence of Cliff Swallow nests was found anywhere in the area, and no others of the species were seen during our two day stay.—BURT L. MONROE, *Anchorage, Kentucky* and ROBERT M. MENGEL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Du Bus' Types of *Cyanocorax unicolor* and *Sylvia taeniata*.—The type locality of *Cyanocorax unicolor* was given in the original description (*Bull. Acad. Roy. Sci. Belgique*, 14, pt. 2, 1847, séance of Aug. 7: 103) simply as Mexico. It was later (*Esquisses Ornithologiques*, livr. 4, 1848: pl. 17 and text) restricted to Tabasco, although two localities in Oaxaca and also Vera Paz, Guatemala, were included in the range. Hellmayr (*Field Mus. N.H., Zool. Ser.*, 13, pt. 7, 1934: 58, footnote) has very properly challenged the supposition that this species could occur anywhere in Tabasco and suggested a re-examination of Du Bus' type in the Brussels Museum. I examined this type in July, 1939. It is definitely and in detail the specimen from which was drawn the description and subsequent plate. Du Bus had two other birds from Mexico, respectively from San Pedro, near Oaxaca, and Tepitongo, Oaxaca but both of them are young of the year and have parti-colored bills. These were mentioned by Du Bus but have no standing as co-types, although someone (probably Dubois) has marked one of them as such both on the label and in the catalogue. The type, collected by Auguste Ghiesbreght in "Tabasco," probably in the spring of 1838 or 1839, is a very good example, in color, and in size an extra large one (sex not indicated; wing, 172; tail, 165), of the race currently known as *Aphelocoma unicolor coelestis* Ridgway. That name of course becomes a synonym of *Aphelocoma unicolor unicolor* (Du Bus) and the south-central Mexican race will probably be known as *Aphelocoma unicolor concolor* (Cassin) *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 4, 1848: 26). A critical re-examination of Cassin's type must be made, however, especially in view of the initial uncertainty of the type locality.