

GENERAL NOTES

Zone-tailed Hawk breeding along Colorado River.—Since the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) nests principally in canyons of mountainous country from central Arizona southward, a report of its breeding in the immediate valley of the lower Colorado River on the western border of Arizona is of interest. On July 13, 1946, I found a juvenile Zone-tail, obviously not long out of the nest, perched on a branch of dead mesquite in the Bill Williams River delta, Yuma County, Arizona. At my close approach it made no effort to escape, and when I reached to pick it up, its only defense was to spread its wings and open its bill. I tested its ability to fly by tossing it into the air. It flapped clumsily and came to an awkward rest on a near-by bush. During this time the parent birds were flying boldly overhead, uttering a shrill screaming, and frequently alighting in a large dead cottonwood near by. Upon scanning the cottonwood, I discerned a moderate-sized nest of twigs about 40 feet from the ground in one of the main crotches of the tree. Since there were no other suitable nest trees close by, this was undoubtedly the birds' nest. A thorough search (as thorough as the denseness of the brush would permit) failed to reveal the presence of more than the one juvenile, and from the actions of the parent birds I judged that there were no more.

The general area is an almost impenetrable jungle of dead mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*) and rank arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), from which protrudes an occasional stark, dead cottonwood. Close at hand is a small beaver-dammed stream, flowing through the dead mesquite and arrowweed; further away are willow-cottonwood woodlands and towering cliffs. The nest tree is about half a mile from where the small stream of the Bill Williams River joins the waters of Havasu Lake (impounded by Parker Dam).

In this same restricted area, I had seen Zone-tailed Hawks before: on August 14, 1943, three (including one I thought to be a juvenile); on August 25, 1943, two; on September 7, 1943, two; and on May 29, 1946, one. (I did not visit the area in 1944 or 1945.) My latest fall record for the Colorado River valley is September 16 (1946), when I saw one along the Colorado River, about two miles southwest of Parker Dam, in San Bernardino County, California.—GALE MONSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Parker, Arizona.*

Late nests in Yellowstone National Park.—Yellowstone National Park has long been known as a favorite nesting locality for American Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*). For many years these birds have used Eagle Nest Rock in Gardner Canyon and the lofty pinnacles in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Apparently one of these picturesque sites has been occupied every year at least since 1875. Skinner, former park naturalist (in A. C. Bent, 1937. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 167:359) reported 25 nests on pinnacles of the Grand Canyon during the spring of 1914 and a larger number in tree sites. David de L. Condon, Chief Park Naturalist of Yellowstone National Park (letter of January 7, 1947) wrote that on one trip to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone during July 1946 he casually noted 17 nests in use; he added that Ospreys were common nesters throughout the Park, probably about as common as in 1914.

Nest construction and incubation ordinarily take place during May and June. The birds usually produce but one brood in a season, but if their first attempt is unsuccessful they may nest again after an interval of three or four weeks. For the northern part of the United States, Bent (page 361) mentions May 25 as the earliest date recorded for nests containing young and June 18 as the latest date for eggs. In the Yellowstone eggs have hatched during the very last of June. Young Ospreys develop slowly, remaining in the nest from 35 days to 8 weeks.

During the last two weeks, by which time the wings are well developed, the young exercise their wings vigorously. Bent says that the birds may leave the nest as early as July 26, but Yellowstone records indicate that the young may leave any time in August (there are no records of young Ospreys unable to fly after the last of that month). According to Skinner's records (Bent, page 375), October 7 is the latest date on which Ospreys have been recorded in Yellowstone; Condon noted one in the Park on October 7, 1946; he remarked, however, that Ospreys may have remained there much later.

On September 23, 1946, I saw young Ospreys in three nests on pinnacles in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. In one of these nests the young bird was just beginning to emerge from the downy stage. In the other nests the primaries were about half developed. In two hours of observation I did not see the young exercise their wings, a fact which would suggest that they were far from ready to leave the nest. Their size, appearance, and habits indicated that the birds would require at least another two weeks before they could fly.

Other species also were known to nest late in Yellowstone in the summer of 1946. On September 22 and 23, 1946, I noted a female Barrow's Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta islandica*), with her brood of six downy young, on Yellowstone Lake near the "Thumb." The young appeared to be less than two weeks old.

In Yellowstone the mercury is low before the last of September, and snow almost invariably has covered the ground before that time. The cold wet spring of 1946 may have caused failure of the first nesting attempts of these birds, so that the young Ospreys and Golden-eyes noted on September 22 and 23 were probably the result of second nestings.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago 54, Illinois.*

Another atypical House Wren song.—Along the Greenbelt road near Branchville, Prince George's County, Maryland, on July 10, 1946, I heard a completely unfamiliar song given by a House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon*). In its fullest version, the song was: three to five *chukka's*, a *tsuh-swee* (the *swee* rough, yet musical, and rising in pitch), then a typical bubbly wren-song. Sometimes the *chukka's* were omitted and the song began with the *tsuh-swee*; at other times the bubbly song was omitted and only the first two sections given—it was this version that led me to search the bird out and watch it sing, which I did at only a few yards' distance. Murray (1944. *Wils. Bull.*, 56:49) has reported atypical song by a House Wren in Virginia.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

Western Palm Warbler in Colorado.—The Western Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*) has been listed from Colorado on the basis of one observed by H. G. Smith in Denver on June 20, 1891. We now have a specimen (No. 25375) collected in the State, a female taken near Limon, Lincoln County, by Joseph Stephens, on May 13, 1947.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *The Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver.*

An Oven-bird incubates a record number of eggs.—On May 23, 1947, I found a nest containing one egg of the Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) and three eggs of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in a woods five miles southwest of Ann Arbor, Michigan, where I had previously studied the Oven-bird and the Cowbird (Hann, 1937; 1941. *Wils. Bull.*, 49:145-237; 53:209-221). On the following day, about 11 a.m., I revisited the nest and found the same Oven-bird egg (which I had marked) and four Cowbird eggs. (Three of the Cowbird eggs were quite similar in coloration, being finely mottled with brown, but the fourth was whiter and had larger markings, a possible indication that more than one Cowbird had laid