

Unusual Plumage Condition of Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). — At my banding station, in Hudson Heights, P.Q., on Dec. 2, 1944, I banded #39-315657 of this species. The following notes were made: "large bird, beautifully marked plumage, blue areas rather pale. Outermost rectrix on each side without any black barring. The bill is notched near tip of upper mandible (maxillary tomium)".

On February 1, 1946, this bird recorded its first "return". The only notes of interest made on that date were "Flight feathers, especially tertials, very bright; weight 4 oz. The bill is now only slightly notched near tip of upper mandible and there are a few indentations further towards gape along edge of the maxillary tomium."

On Aug. 31, 1946, the second "return" was recorded. This bird's plumage was then in a very peculiar condition and the following notes were made: "practically no feathers on poll, face or neck which are covered with short stiff bristles. The outermost and next from outermost rectrices are very short, the white tips just emerging from quills. The wings are bright but alula feathers are just emerging from quills. There is a bare patch on the middle of lower part of breast but no thickening of the exposed skin observable. The blue of the back is pale, the upper tail coverts very short. The ear orifices are clearly visible on the bare auricular areas. The skin, usually covered by axillars is bare, the under wing coverts "ragged" with black tips emerging from quills. The upper mandible is notched as described on date of 1st "return" but the inner indentation is not as pronounced as at that time.

On Dec. 18, 1946, this bird registered its third "return" when nothing abnormal was noted about its plumage and following were noted, "Distal 5 secondaries very worn along outer edges the remaining proximals and tertials showing no wear and being lighter blue. Alulas and greater primary wing coverts are all barred with black, the greater secondary wing coverts are all broadly white tipped. All rectrices are barred with black, the outermost and next inward (each side) have each only one bar near the tip. Bill still decidedly notched near tip of upper mandible."

On April 4, 1947, the blue jay returned for the fourth time. Its plumage at that time was in good bright condition.

On December 31, 1947, the bird was retaken in one of my traps on its fifth "return". Though there were some minor differences in the plumage when compared with notes made on the fourth "return", particularly the barring of rectrices which is now distinct on all the feathers including the outermost, I noted nothing otherwise abnormal or remarkable. The only notching of the bill is now a slight depression on the maxillary tomium about 1/16" from tip of bill.

Thus between Feb. 1, 1946 and Aug. 31, 1946, the jay came to have defective plumage, not attributable to any normal moult, and by Dec. 18, 1946, a normal plumage had been regained. Was this defective plumage due to disease, faulty feather growth or other causes? — G. G. OMMANNEY, Hudson Heights, Que.

ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE IN EASTERN CANADA: — After two centuries ornithologists are not able to expand much on the simple statement of George Edwards¹, that the "White-tailed Eagle (Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) is a native of Hudson's Bay, in the northern part of America...". A search of ornithological literature pertaining to eastern Canada shows a gradual accumulation of evidence on the breeding of this species in this part of the continent, but it does not disclose proof in the form of specimens collected. However, complete documentation on summer occurrence and reported nesting (historic and recent, recorded and unrecorded, definite and vague) leaves no doubt that the Golden Eagle is a native of this region and leaves one with the impression that it is impossible to have knowledge of the current status of such a species over such a vast and largely uninhabited area. A review of evidence, presented geographically, is as follows:

Beginning at the western edge of the eastern Arctic, a significant report comes from Mr. L. A. Learmonth, a Hudson's Bay Company Factor with long experience in the Arctic, and a person who has made careful observations on birds and collected scientific specimens. Mr. Learmonth has informed me that the Golden Eagle is of rare but regular occurrence at Repulse Bay (at the northwest of Hudson Bay, at the base of Melville Peninsula). He states further that he examined a skin of a Golden Eagle shot by a native at

¹ A Natural History of Birds. Vol. 1, 1743, p. 1.

² Notes on Birds Observed Along the West Coast of Hudson Bay. Condor, 33: 157.

Repulse Bay in August, 1929. The report of regularity and the mention of a specimen taken in summer ties in with other high boreal records for spring, summer, and fall. Sutton² has recorded an apparent female, which he examined, that was shot a short way inland from Eskimo Point (middle west coast of Hudson Bay) during the fall of 1929. This specimen is now in the National Museum of Canada³. He has also recorded a Golden Eagle observed on May 23, 1931 not far south of Churchill, Manitoba, and the probable observation on two eagles on Coats Island⁴ (in Hudson Bay) during the late summer or fall, probably in 1923.

Concerning more easterly portions of the Canadian Sub-Arctic, we have the statements of several authors that the Golden Eagle nests at the "Forks" in Ungava. Reference to Low⁵ shows this situation to be the juncture of the Larch and Kaniapiskau Rivers, which form the Koksoak, about eighty miles south of Ungava Bay. This nesting site was apparently first recorded by Turner⁶ in 1885. Packard⁷ repeated Turner's record precisely and Macoun⁸ repeated it in part but added the observations of Spreadborough who, travelling with Low, saw what he took to be a Golden Eagle at the Forks, the date being approximately mid-August, 1896. Spreadborough also saw the skin of a Golden Eagle which had been killed on the Koksoak River near Fort Chimo in late August or early September (the time estimated from Low's itinerary⁹). Though these Ungava reports are for a period more than fifty years ago, descriptions of the country and the geographic location persuades one to suspect that the species may still be established there.

An early Labrador observation was sketchily recorded by Low⁹ who states that the Golden Eagle breeds at the head of Lake Michikamau and that the species was observed in several places along the upper Hamilton

River (in 1894). It seems plausible that this remote region may still harbour the species.

Pertaining to a middle belt through eastern Canada and starting in the interior, we have the records of Preble¹⁰. He found the Golden Eagle at Hell Gate Gorge on the Nelson River (northeastern Manitoba) on June 28, 1900. Several birds were seen and at least two nests were noted on the cliffs. Here again one can see no reason why the species would not persist in this locality.

A more recent report comes from an area a considerable distance to the south but approximately on the same longitude. Mr. Douglas Mair, a Scotsman living near Emo, Ontario, related to the writer that during the late spring of 1927, he observed an occupied nest of the Golden Eagle on a seventy-five foot cliff on Pipestone Lake, approximately thirty miles north of Emo, Rainy River District, Ontario. Mr. Mair knew the species in Scotland and had collected its eggs there. Here again we have good circumstantial evidence and documentation but lack positive proof. It is known that the species is a regular and not infrequent winter resident of extreme western and northwestern sections of the Province. It is frequently taken by trappers, particularly in wolf sets.

A recent report from the northeastern section of Ontario has been recorded by Snyder¹¹. Proof of late spring occurrence and documentary evidence of breeding was given for the area inland from Cape Henrietta Maria on Hudson and James Bays. To this can be added that Messrs. T. M. Shortt and C. E. Hope, R.O. M. Z., observed a Golden Eagle at Cockispeny Point (between Moosonee and Fort Albany) on June 5, 1942.

In the Lake Superior region there is the historic nesting station recorded by Raine¹². The Golden Eagle was stated to nest on Thunder Cape near Port Arthur on Thunder Bay, in and prior to, 1891. This site is no longer used. The most recent summer occurrence reported from this general region is that of Baillie and Hope¹³. They observed a Golden Eagle on June 20, 1936, at Peninsula, Ontario.

The evidence indicates that at one time, fifty to one hundred years ago, the Golden Eagle occupied certain rugged escarpments

² The Birds of Churchill, Manitoba. *Annals Carnegie Mus.* 23: 27.

⁴ The Birds of Southampton Island. *Mem. Carnegie Mus.* Vol. XII, Pt. II. Section 2, pp. 81-82.

⁵ Report on a Traverse of the Northern Part of the Labrador Peninsula from Richmond Gulf to Ungava Bay. *Annual Rep., Geol. Sur. Can.*, 9: 21L.

⁶ List of the Birds of Labrador, including Ungava, East Main, Moose and Gulf Districts of the Hudson Bay Company, together with the Island of Anticosti. *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, 8: 244.

⁷ The Labrador Coast. 1891, p. 425.

⁸ Catalogue of Canadian Birds. *Geol. Sur. Can.*, 1903. No. 822, p. 243.

⁹ Report on Explorations in the Labrador Peninsula Along the East Main, Koksoak, Hamilton, Manicouagan and Portions of Other Rivers. *Geol. Sur. Can.*, 8: 7L and 325L.

¹⁰ A Biological Investigation of the Hudson Bay Region. *N. Am. Fauna*, No. 22, p. 107.

¹¹ Golden Eagle Reported Nesting in Ontario. *Auk*, 57: 565-566.

¹² Bird Nesting in North-west Canada. 1892, p. 12.

¹³ The Summer Birds of the Northeast Shore of Lake Superior. *Cont. Roy. Ont. Mus. Zool.*, No. 23, p. 7.

in the eastern counties of southern Ontario. Vennor¹⁴ recorded a once-frequented nesting site (abandoned about 1837) on the Hastings Road, in the proximity of the York branch of the Madawaska River, in Hastings County. Another nesting site mentioned by him was situated some miles to the eastward, in a wall of rock rising from the waters of Mazi-naw Lake in Barrie Township, Frontenac County. The most recent evidence of summer occurrence of the Golden Eagle for this section of the Province has been found in the *Journal* (in R. O. M. Z.) of the late J. H. Fleming. He states that a specimen, shot on July 30, 1905 at Lake Massanoga, Bon Echo P. O., Frontenac County, Ontario, was examined by him.

Eastward, in the Province of Quebec, we have the statement of Vennor¹⁴ that Wm. Couper records from personal observation, (Couper original not found) the occurrence of the Golden Eagle on the south coast of Labrador (north shore, Canadian Labrador) in June, and remarks that it probably breeds there. For this general region we also have the early (1882) list of Merriam¹⁵ which states that the species breeds in the vicinity of Point de Monts. Comeau¹⁶ repeats this record and adds photographs of specimens shot on May 7, 1895. All these records lack definite breeding evidence and refer to a period fifty or more years ago.

Lewis¹⁷ has referred to the record of Schmitt (original not available to the writer) which states that the Golden Eagle once (1904) was a resident on the Island of Anticosti, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, adding that a nest was found on a cliff, beside the Jupiter River, in the interior. Reference to the more recent list of Braund and McCullagh¹⁸ (1940) gives no evidence that the species still persists on Anticosti.

Finally, concerning Nova Scotia, we have the historic record of Gilpin¹⁹ which states that the Golden Eagle was resident (1882) of that Province throughout the year. Dwight²⁰

recorded that he saw a live specimen in young plumage, captured June 23 (1892) near New London, Prince Edward Island, but after visiting the locality where the bird was trapped, doubted that it was bred in that locality. He suspected its source to be a wilder region such as Cape Breton to east, in Nova Scotia. Bent²¹ mentioned Colchester Island²² in Nova Scotia as a breeding station but gave no particulars.

To summarize, documentation on the summer occurrence and breeding of the Golden Eagle, from the Arctic northwest coast of Hudson Bay, northeastern Manitoba, and western Ontario, east to northern Ungava, Newfoundland, Labrador and Nova Scotia, covers a period of more than two hundred years. Many of the stations reported, which now fall within or on the border of settlement, are now abandoned. The total of evidence, with due consideration to the vastness of the area and the remoteness of many stations, strengthens the probability that migrant Golden Eagles observed in the settled south (late October to early December), emanate from existing breeding stations in the north-eastern part of the continent. L. L. SNYDER, Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ont.

²¹ Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. No. 167, p. 313.

²² It has not been possible to locate an island of this name as cited by the original author (Bent, A. C., Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. No. 167, p. 313).

An Indian Ice-pick from the Ottawa District.

— As at many other places in Canada the environs of Ottawa have preserved to us evidence of the presence of aborigines now represented by Indians mostly remaining in Reservations. Artifacts are frequently collected although less commonly now than formerly. The neighbourhood of White's Bridge below Hogs Back on the Rideau River, is said to be one such collecting ground at which, personally, the writer has found nothing more impressive than a few flakes of chert apparently from the Indians' workings. At Fairy Lake on the rocky slopes of the Wrightville side are solid nodules of chert still imbedded in the rock strata, such as might have been a source of arrow-point material.

This note is more directly concerned, however, with another find within the Ottawa district. In July, 1946, on the closing day of Woodland Boys' Camp at their new site above Luskville, Que., and across the Ottawa

¹⁴ Our Birds of Prey, or the Eagles, Hawks, and Owls of Canada. 1876. p. 76 and p. 77.

¹⁵ List of Birds ascertained to occur within ten miles from Point de Monts, Province of Quebec, Canada; based chiefly upon the notes of Napoleon A. Comeau. Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 7:238.

¹⁶ Life and Sport on the North Shore of the Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf. Quebec, 1909. p. 424 and opposite p. 312.

¹⁷ List of Birds Recorded from the Island of Anticosti; Quebec. Can. Field-Nat., 38: 89.

¹⁸ The Birds of Anticosti Island, Quebec. Wilson Bull., 52:105.

¹⁹ The Birds of Prey of Nova Scotia. Can. Sports. and Nat. 2:153.

²⁰ Summer Birds of Prince Edward Island, Auk, 10: 8-9.



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