

paper record resurrected recently, and used to erect a record for this species in Colorado.<sup>1</sup>

This list by Lowe places in scientific ornithological literature a record of a bird which has hitherto not been observed in the United States, and one of (probable) great rarity even in Mexico, and is a record based on data which seem rather dubious, and clouded by uncertainty. The writer's interest in Colorado ornithology impelled him to send two other letters of inquiry to Capt. Dortenbach but they remain unanswered up to the present moment (December 4, 1917). The above facts are published, not only to add to the completeness of this alleged record, but to exhibit the ground on which the writer personally feels warranted in rejecting this record, and in advising his ornithological confreres to do likewise.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

**The Happy Eagle in Colorado.**—An interesting example of the great care necessary in placing occurrences of rare species on permanent record, is contained in 'The Auk' for October, 1917. In a paper appearing in this issue by Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe, entitled 'Remarks on Colorado Birds,' is a record for the Harpy Eagle, *Thrasaëtus harpyia*, which, if valid, would not only be new for the Colorado list, but in all probability would constitute the only record for North America. The occurrence is based on a specimen "shot by Geo. Cress of Lees, Pueblo Co., some years ago and preserved by (W. F.) Doertenbach of Pueblo".

Immediately upon noting the above, I wrote to Mr. Doertenbach, who had previously afforded me considerable assistance in clearing up other records credited to Colorado, asking for a statement regarding the specimen and for the address of Mr. Cress. An interesting correspondence ensued which, through the courtesy of Mr. Doertenbach, I am permitted to use, together with a photograph of the mounted specimen, still in the possession of Mr. Cress, now of Carson City, Nevada. In replying to my original inquiry, Mr. Doertenbach wrote in part, as follows:—"...the specimen ...we think is a Harpy Eagle...[and I]...will...send you a photo of the mounted specimen. The bird was not mounted with the ruff about the head spread so it will not resemble the specimens in the National Museum collections. Also the specimen was larger than the one displayed in that collection and the feathers about the head were not so grey.... The bird in question may not have been a Harpy but it is distinctly different from any other eagle that I have ever handled".

From the photograph sent with the above it was at once apparent that the bird was not a Harpy but was an immature Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, which is, however, rare in Colorado. The peculiar plumage of the young of the latter species evidently caused the confusion. I thereupon had the photograph of the Harpy Eagle in Mr. C. W. Beebe's book

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<sup>1</sup> Remarks on Colorado Birds. Willoughby P. Lowe. Auk, October, 1917, p. 454.



'The Bird,' copied, sending one copy to Mr. Doertenbach and another to Mr. Cress, with the request that they advise me whether or not it resembled the specimen in question. Both agreed that it did not. Mr. Cress, in his reply, stated positively that the photograph sent him "does not compare at all" with his specimen, stating further that "it has no extra long feathers on the back of the head like your photo", but that "its head is smooth like the Grey Eagle or Bald Eagle".

It seems probable that at the time of the collection of the specimen, considerable discussion was engaged in by the interested parties, the conclusion that it was a Harpy being reached without the proper knowledge of the status or appearance of this species. — F. C. LINCOLN, *Denver, Colo.*

**Sap Drinking by Sapsuckers and Hummingbirds.**— Mr. H. Mousley's notes on 'Sap Drinking Habits of Warblers' bring to mind some of the experiences which Mrs. Wright and I had through considerable of the summer of 1912. The ensuing fall Mrs. Wright made the following notes which might have some interest in this connection.

Mr. Alvah A. Eaton has written of Anna's Hummingbird in California visiting the holes of a Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*). Mr. Frank Bolles has told of his observations of the Ruby-throat (*Trochilus colubris*) in Maine as a regular attendant at the holes of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Last summer we had the pleasure of watching this interesting phenomenon.

We were camping near Dorset, Ontario. Nearby there were many trees girdled with the holes of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Yellow birches were the favorite haunts. Two birches just behind the camp seemed the special rendezvous for both sapsuckers and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Indeed the Hummingbirds seemed very much at home, delicately sipping sap at the table of their yellow-bellied friend. As the holes were about fifteen feet from the ground, we fastened a platform between a ladder and the tree on a level with the holes. Even this unsightly object did not lessen the birds' visits, and one could stand at the top of the ladder with camera on the platform scarcely six feet from the birds. The birds were so active however, that it proved difficult to get many pictures.

There was at least one whole family of sapsuckers who came frequently. Their different modes of approach were interesting. Sometimes, one would fly to a large tree near by, and then directly to the holes after looking all around, or he might fly to the top of the tree and then work his way down the trunk. One bird almost invariably flew to a branch below the holes and one the far side of the trees, edged along this branch, then flew to the side of the tree away from the platform, and next cautiously worked his way around to the fresh holes.

Quite different was the hummer's approach. The first intimation of his visit was likely to be the whirl of wings past one's ears. Quite frequently, he visited the tree while the sapsucker was there, and at times when he



Lincoln, Frederick Charles. 1918. "The Happy Eagle in Colorado." *The Auk* 35, 78–79. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072388>.

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