

five yards may have been the reason for the choice of nesting site. We cut down the nest, which contained three eggs, newly laid, and photographed it, leaving it at not more than two feet from the ground, and inclined at an angle of about 55 degrees. We removed the eggs, as we had been urged to do by neighboring farmers and the Secretary of the Game Protective League. Judge of our surprise, on re-visiting the nest on June 1 to find four new eggs! These we also removed, and the Crows finally abandoned the nest. It seemed to us very unusual for the Crows to re-occupy the nest especially when so close to the ground and at such an angle.—JAMES E. HORNING, *Luscar, Alberta.*

The Mynah.—A Study in Adaptation.—One of the most interesting and, at the same time, abundant birds found in Fiji is the common or Indian Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*) a member of the passerine family Sturnidae. This bird is a native throughout the entire Indian region and has been introduced into various parts of the world; the Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand and Fiji included, in all of which it breeds and thrives to an amazing degree.

While acting in the capacity of entomologist and ornithologist on the University of Iowa expedition to certain South Sea islands during the past summer opportunity was given me to see, study and collect examples of this fine appearing bird and the following paragraphs contain an account of my own observations.

The Mynah was introduced into Fiji several years ago in an attempt to control noxious insects. However, the results have been somewhat disappointing for it has not done the good which had been hoped for. Other food than noxious insects has been more easily secured; native birds are to some extent molested and their numbers more or less held in check by this thrifty, pugnacious bird; and the habitations of the people are made unsightly by it. Its habit of building nests in spoutings, chimneys and protected places of houses has not made many friends for the bird among the human population of the islands. So adaptive, resourceful, hardy and successful in maintaining its existence in the new country has the Mynah proved to be that now it, in turn, is considered a pest and is no longer lawfully protected.

Indeed, an interesting analogy prevails between the Asiatic people and the Fijians on the one hand and the Mynah and the native Fijian birds on the other. The hardier and more aggressive Chinese and Indians, the later introduced in great numbers into Fiji largely under the indenture plan of labor, are slowly but surely forcing down the Fijians who, though seemingly powerless to help the situation, hate the newcomers most heartily; the more so as they see business and property along with wealth and all that goes with it gradually coming into the power of the invaders. So it is with the hardy and aggressive Mynah as compared with the native birds. This crafty and quarrelsome introduced species stands back for no native bird and is gradually outstripping the native species in the

struggle for maintenance. The same condition prevails in the Hawaiian Islands and may become true in New Zealand.

The Mynah is a trimly built bird about ten inches in length with the upper parts, breast and sides brown, the head and neck black, the lower parts white and a white bar on the wings. The short blunt bill is yellow and there is a bare patch of yellow skin behind the eye. Mynahs are mainly terrestrial and gregarious; they have a considerable variety of notes and are great imitators. Their nests, loose bulky affairs, are sometimes placed on the branches of trees but more often in gutters and unused chimneys of houses, the birds partaking in this respect of some of the bad traits of the European House Sparrow.

Situated on the southeast side of the island of Viti Levu is Suva, the political capital and largest city in the Fijis. Here, Mynahs are plentiful and a nuisance about dwellings. The principal street known as Victoria Parade closely follows the contour of the beach where, at low tide, hundreds of the birds congregate, amid a great chattering, to feast on worms, molluscs, crustaceans and the like that have been temporarily stranded on the low mud flats by the receding tide. These aquatic forms are more abundant and more easily secured than most noxious insects on the island and the Mynah is not tardy in taking advantage of the situation.

About twelve miles northeast of Suva and four miles off shore is situated the little island of Makaluva upon which is located the Government Quarantine Station. On this bit of disintegrated coral about eight acres in area where temporary quarters were established by us Mynahs are common and a number were taken for specimens. The birds usually go about in small flocks and after once being shot at they become very wary and difficult of approach. When wounded they often fly some distance before coming down, sometimes alighting in the tops of the coconut palms where it is impossible to secure them.

Although apparently successful in the struggle for existence the battle is not always in favor of the Mynahs for they too have their enemies among which may be mentioned man and certain parasites. The prevalence of parasitism and the extraordinary degree to which it may be developed is well illustrated by one Mynah taken on June 19, 1922, which served as hosts for the following parasites: several thread worms between the conjunctiva and the cornea of the eye; both eyes were infested and more than a dozen worms each measuring from eight to ten mm. in length were taken from the two organs. Some of these worms have been submitted to Dr. B. H. Ransom, Chief of the Zoological Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, who pronounces them to be a species of *Oxyspirrura*, probably new, and adds that the Mynah forms a new host for representatives of the genus. In addition to these parasites this bird bore two small owl flies and two small biting lice. Eggs of the latter were also discovered and probably other individuals of all three types of parasites escaped observation.

Another bird examined contained a large round worm in the abdominal cavity. Other Mynahs were found to be infested with these parasites though none other examined was so markedly afflicted as the individual above mentioned.

Notwithstanding a considerable diversity among the major parasites, attacking them and the presence of other natural and unnatural enemies these vigorous birds not only survive but even seem to increase.

In conclusion, by way of summarizing, it may be stated that the factors which seem to contribute to the success of the Mynah when introduced into a new country are its audacity, hardihood, adaptability, wariness in eluding enemies, its omnivorous food habits and its selection of breeding places. After all, one can not help admiring this bird.—DAYTON STONER, *State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia.*

Spinus pinus macropterus, an Addition to the A. O. U. Check-List.—There are five specimens of *Spinus pinus* from San Pedro Martir, Lower California, in the collection of the Carnegie Museum, taken by Mr. A. W. Anthony in April, 1889, and May, 1893. These are obviously different from the common run of specimens and upon comparison prove to be referable to the Mexican race, *Spinus pinus macropterus*, with authentic examples of which they agree well, both in color and size. *S. p. macropterus* averages decidedly paler than *S. p. pinus* in the same condition of plumage, with the streaking less distinct. This record is a new one for Lower California, and brings *S. p. macropterus* within the scope the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' It involves a great extension of range for the form in question, with discontinuous distribution.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Nesting of the Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) in Southern Connecticut.—I was somewhat surprised to see a pair of Slate-colored Juncos June 5, 1922, at Hadlyme, and soon found their nest which contained four young and observed both parent birds feeding young.

Nest was in a ledge of dirt and sheet rock. A little of the dirt was dug out from between two layers of rock and the nest was built therein, composed of fine grasses. As this is the first record of their nesting in Connecticut to my knowledge, I thought it worth reporting. May 9, 1920 I found a nest and three young of the little Saw-whet Owl at Hadlyme.—ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, *Hadlyme, Conn.*

A Dickcissel in Rhode Island in Winter.—On December 20, 1922, a Dickcissel was captured in my Sparrow trap at a bird banding station in Pawtuxet on Narragansett Bay, a few miles south of Providence, R. I. The bird was examined by Edward Howe Forbush who declared that the condition of claws and plumage indicated clearly that it was a wild bird rather than an escaped cagebird. The bird was then taken to Mr. Outram Bangs at the Peabody Museum and compared with skins. Mr. Bangs decided that it was a male bird and probably in its first winter plumage.