

black-billed bird, the voice is the same in all the varying notes and calls. But the iris is the same color as that of the Old World forms and differs from that of *hudsonia*.

During four years in France the writer was surprised to note the great difference in voice between the Old and New World Magpies, the latter to his regret have no call that he can imitate sufficiently well to decoy the birds to him, the former on the other hand had two easily imitated calls and decoyed readily. A more striking distinction was the color of the iris, plain dark brown in the Old World forms and brown with a conspicuous outer ring of milky white in *hudsonia*.

That the solid brown iris of *Pica pica* extends across the whole of the Palaearctic region is proved by the record of that very careful observer Dr. Leonhard Stejneger who, in Bulletin 29, U. S. National Museum, gives the color of the iris of the form *kamschatica*, which he regards as a full species, as altogether dark brown.

To sum up the situation, *nuttalli* agrees with *hudsonia* in voice but not in eye color, with the Old World forms in the latter character but differs from them in voice. In the color of the bill and head skin it is unique.

*Hudsonia* agrees with *nuttalli* in voice which is absolutely distinct from that of the Old World forms and it also has an unique character, the color of the iris.

Eye color is a much more permanent character than that of the bill, many birds regularly change the bill color with the seasons, but the color of the iris once acquired is almost invariably permanent.

So the logical action is either to regard both of the American Magpies as distinct species or both as subspecies of *Pica pica*. The present writer leans to the view that they are both entitled to specific rank as *Pica hudsonia* and *Pica nuttalli*.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Comox, B. C.*

**Migrating Blue Jays.**—The sentence at the bottom of page 439 of the July, 1930, number of 'The Auk' reads "He also insists that Blue Jays migrate." This must have surprised many readers, especially those living in the Mississippi Valley region, who have seen thousands of migrating Blue Jays. It brings up the question "Do Blue Jays of the Atlantic Coast have a different habit?"

In the interior of North America the migration of Blue Jays is as regular as that of the White-throated Sparrow with which it closely coincides in time, occurring for about a month in the spring and a similar period in the fall. Several flocks of these migrants may be seen in each season by those who spend time out-of-doors. The migratory flocks, varying in numbers from eight to a hundred or more, often fly so low that they can be identified by the naked eye. Quite often a flock of these birds will alight in the trees about one's home, sometimes indulging in their "jay jay" calling, and having taken a short rest, they fly onward in their scattering flock formations.

The description given by Dr. Barrows in 'Michigan Bird Life' is accurate

for Iowa also. He says that thousands of migrating Blue Jays are seen in that state. Dr. R. M. Anderson in "The Birds of Iowa" states "While common throughout the year, the species seems to perform an imperfect migration, as scattering flocks containing hundreds of individuals are often seen flying southward in September or October, and northward in the spring." In "The Wilson Bulletin" for December, 1930, Fred J. Pierce in his article "Birds of Buchanan County, Iowa" makes this statement "The species is migratory to a considerable extent and becomes very common during the spring migration. In late September large flocks are sometimes seen proceeding southward. I have seen as many as 200 in such a flock."

Throughout its range in Canada and in the United States the Blue Jay is reported as seen by most of the takers of the Christmas Bird Census. Future investigations may find a reason for many of the species remaining within their breeding range in winter, while others migrate. Feeding tables have been visited by the same Jays all the year round, proving that they are "permanent residents."—ALTHEA R. SHERMAN. *National, via McGregor, Iowa.*

**Late Nesting of the Goldfinch in North Carolina.**—In the January number of "The Auk," vol. XLII, Mr. James J. Murray reports from Blowing Rock, Watauga County, North Carolina the nest of a Cedar Waxwing, containing four eggs, observed by him from August 12 to August 28, 1929, and a fledgling Goldfinch, apparently having just left the nest, seen during the same period. In connection with these interesting late dates I believe it worth while to report the equally phenomenal circumstance of the nest and eggs of a Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis tristis*) observed by me on September 10, 1930 at Highlands, Macon County, North Carolina, on the estate of Mr. Robert Eskrigge, at an altitude of 4,200 feet. The nest was located in an exposed situation on the extremity of one of the lower branches of a fruit tree two or three rods from the house. Due to the position of the branch, overhanging a steep embankment, I could not reach the nest to count the eggs, the tops of which, however, were visible from the tree-trunk. Moreover, Mr. Eskrigge, who called the nest to my attention, had noticed it but a few days before, and as I left Highlands myself three days later I have no way of knowing in what period of incubation the eggs then were or whether the brood was successfully reared. But in any event, I believe this date to be a very late one for the nesting of the Goldfinch.

The female, who was on the nest when I first observed it, was, like Mr. Murray's Waxwing, very tame and apparently quite unconcerned about the presence of four or five people gazing up at her from below. Finally, wishing to see more of her than her head, which protruded over the side of the nest, and also the interior of the structure, I had to resort to the expedient of shaking the tree before she would take wing.—CHARLTON OGBURN, JR., *Highlands Museum and Biological Laboratory, Highlands, N. C.*