

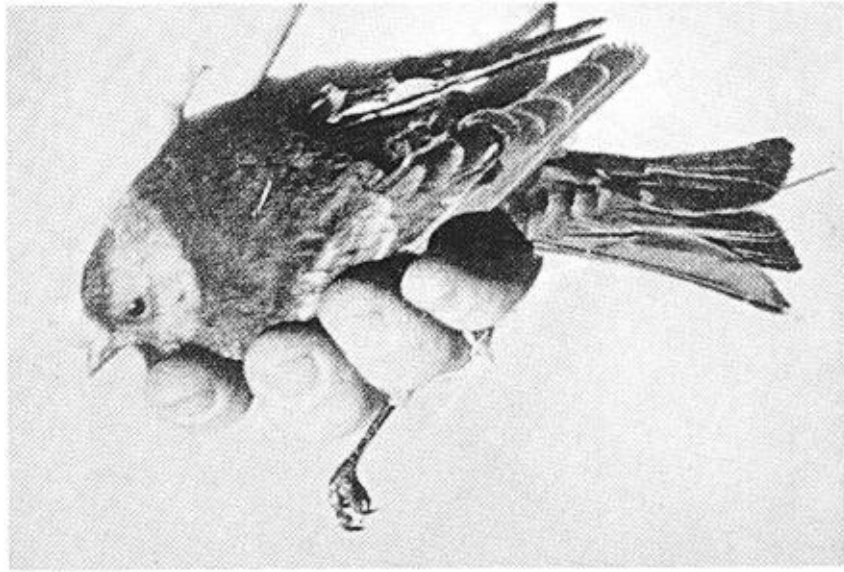
Sioux Pass. Mr. Merovka, while scouting for ducks' nests, flushed a Crow from its nest in a heavy growth of reeds. The nest, which contained but one egg, was on the damp turf among the tall reeds, adjacent to a small inlet to Lake Manitoba. There were no trees in the immediate vicinity; the nearest ones were at least a mile from this point. The second nest was found by Mr. Merovka on Flea Island, only a short distance west of Sioux Pass. As in the first case, the Crow flushed from the nest although there were no eggs in it. There were no trees in the immediate vicinity. Continuing westward from Flea Island, we visited the James Ford Bell Duck Hatchery at Delta. E. Ward, the foreman, told us that a short time prior to our arrival he had found near the hatchery a Crow's nest in tules over the water in a marshy area of Lake Manitoba. The nest contained three eggs when observed by Mr. Ward. In that vicinity there is an abundance of trees and willow growth fringing the lake, in which many Crows had built their nests.

On June 18, 1935, while searching for ducks' nests on Long Island, a low-lying piece of marshland in Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba, the writer discovered a fourth Crow's nest on the ground. This one contained five eggs. As the accompanying photograph shows (Plate 24), the nest was located on marshy ground among the reeds. Trees and brush fringed the entire island, yet the Crow chose to nest on the ground. Many nests of Crows were noted in the trees, placed anywhere from six to twenty feet above the ground.—C. M. ALDOUS, *U. S. Biological Survey, Orono, Maine.*

Elevation of nests of the Western Crow.—On April 26, 1936, Mr. J. D. Graham, teacher in the Benicia High School, and I had the opportunity of examining a number of nests of the Western Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis*) on a ten-acre tract near Dixon, Solano County, California. The house on this property was occupied by a very old couple who had seldom disturbed the crows, though they reported having at one time fired a shotgun at them when they were seen stealing eggs from the henhouse. Other than this, the actions of the birds seemed to indicate that they had not been disturbed for a long time.

Having obtained permission from the old folks, we climbed to the ten nests, which were in Osage orange, almond, and black and English walnut trees. A very evident fact was disclosed by the elevations of these nests, namely, that the height of the nests from the ground was contingent upon their distance from the highway and their proximity to the ranch house; the hypothesis was that crows prefer to construct their nests at lower elevations but ordinarily build high up because forced to do so in order to escape persecution. Of these ten nests, four of which were in trees bordering the state highway to Sacramento, on which the tract fronts, all were between fifty and sixty feet up. Two of these were very difficult to reach because of spines on the Osage orange, one was high in an almond, and the fourth was in the very top of a tall black walnut. Farther back from the highway, some one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet from the house, where the birds were not in much danger of being disturbed, the nests were only from twenty to twenty-five feet from the ground. Still closer to the house, two nests, one in an English walnut and the other in a black walnut, were only fifteen feet up. These latter were so easily reached that it seemed odd indeed for a bird ordinarily so wary to be found building so low.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California.*

Varied Thrush at Richmond, New York.—In the 'Bulletin' of the Staten Island Institute for January, 1937, it is stated that Mrs. John H. Boesch and Miss Euphemia Mackie observed a bird, unknown to them, feeding on persimmons in



GROSS: HEPBURN'S ROSY FINCH IN MAINE



ALDOUS: CROW'S NEST ON THE GROUND

company with Robins in their garden, 421 Edinboro Road, Richmond, New York. It appeared first on November 24, 1936, and was still present on November 26, when it was identified by Mr. William T. Davis as a Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus varius* subsp.). On November 27, the bird was observed for several hours by Dr. William H. Wiegmann, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Wilmott, and Mr. Davis. Mr. Wilmott focussed his camera on some persimmons placed as bait and in due time secured a picture of the bird, which, although the image is small in the photograph, is perfectly identifiable as of this species. It was seen in the garden or vicinity until December 6, 1936, and was observed by a number of persons in addition to those mentioned.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Penna.*

Varied Thrush at Clementon, New Jersey.—On November 26, 1936, a male Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus varius* subsp.) appeared at a feeding station about ten feet from the sun porch of my house, and was seen about the place almost daily until March 20, 1937. Dr. Witmer Stone tells me he has record of four other appearances of this bird in the East since 1848.—M. L. PARRISH, *Pine Valley, Clementon, New Jersey.*

Bicknell's Thrush in Virginia.—On October 3, 1936, in the course of field work at Kiptopeke, on the eastern shore of Virginia, I came upon the remains of a Bicknell's Thrush (*Hyllocichla minima minima*) that had apparently been killed by some bird of prey. The feathers of the side of the head were grayish, lacking the buffy tone as well as the prominent eye-ring of the Olive-backed Thrush, while the breast feathers were only lightly tinged with creamy. The wing, tail and bill were intact, and measured as follows: wing, 3.8 inches; tail, 2.6; bill, 0.5. From these dimensions it seems safe to conclude that the bird was a Bicknell's rather than a Gray-cheeked Thrush. This seems to be the first instance of the discovery of the bird in Virginia.—WILLIAM J. RUSLING, *335 Central Ave., West Caldwell, New Jersey.*

Parula Warbler in Washington in December.—On December 14, 1936, J. P. Schumacher of Washington, D. C., brought me a fine specimen of the Northern Parula Warbler (*Compothlypis americana pusilla*) that had been found dead the day before by Mrs. Schumacher in Woodridge, a section of northeastern Washington. The bird was obviously a male, a fact later proved by dissection, which also established the fact that it had died from a fracture of the anterior cervical vertebrae. It was in excellent condition and preparation of the specimen necessitated the removal of a considerable amount of fat from the skin.

The latest previous record for this species in the Washington region was October 17, 1919, and for this race, October 5, 1917 (Cooke, May Thacher, 'Birds of the Washington, D. C., region,' Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 42, pp. 1-80, 1929).—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

A note used during migration by the Yellow Warbler.—Here in New England, toward the middle of August, before there is any hint that summer is ending, there come sometimes warm, tranquil days, when the trees, still dense with green leaves, stand motionless and we can hear the slightest sound. Most of the birds have stopped singing and the woods are silent; there has been little sign that birds are moving southward, except, in the night, the notes of the flying migrants. As we walk under the trees, listening, we hear a long, wild, high, sharp bird-note, abrupt, and very slightly vibratory, lasting perhaps half a second. It is a characteristic sound of this time of year, and we hear it best on these quiet, silent days. It comes from a bird moving restlessly up in the trees, and before we can see the bird, it is gone. I have