

**Two new breeding birds for the United States.**—In the course of field work on avian ecology in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona, there have been discovered breeding populations of two birds previously believed to nest only southward from the vicinity of Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico. Attention is now called to these in order that other ornithologists may be alert for their detection elsewhere in southern Arizona.

**WEST MEXICAN KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus melancholicus occidentalis*.**—This now stands in the A. O. U. 'Check-list' on the basis of a casual specimen taken in Washington in mid-November. It has been once recorded from Arizona, on the basis of a female taken at Fort Lowell, near Tucson, May 12, 1905 (Peters, Condor, 38: 218, 1936; cf. also Coues, Amer. Naturalist, 6: 493, 1872, and Bendire, Special Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 3: 244, "1895"). On July 14, 1938, I collected a pair of these kingbirds near Tucson, and later at least two or three other pairs were found and a third adult was collected. Three young apparently several days out of the nest (tails half to two-thirds grown) were found high in a cottonwood on July 31, and these were again noted August 1, 3, and later. The maximum of six or seven birds was seen August 19, when the young were foraging for themselves but still following the adults; a juvenile was collected for the record. On my next visits, on September 11 and during November, none was seen.

In 1939, none was seen during March and early April, nor on a rapid trip through a small part of the region on May 6. A pair was seen on May 27, and on May 30 two pairs were located and another bird was seen briefly. On June 2 one was carrying what appeared to be straws into a cottonwood, but no search was made for the nest. The other pair was again seen June 7; on July 15 they had almost full-grown young and the family group numbered five birds. This family was at practically the identical spot as the 1938 family. On August 26, 1939, and again on September 3, five birds, in three groups, were seen; the third group may well indicate an additional pair, previously overlooked, making a total of possibly four pairs present in the area covered in 1939. On September 10, none was seen. Bulk departure thus appears to occur early in September.

The call of this kingbird is strikingly different from those of the three northern kingbirds, being of a metallic rather than a throaty quality. It consists of a rapid series of short, staccato notes in an ascending, high-pitched series, and might be rendered as *pit-it-it-it-it-it-it-it-it*. In form the call somewhat resembles that of the Vermilion Flycatcher, but it is much louder, sharper, and higher-pitched. Besides the call, the heavy bill, whitish throat, bright yellow belly, and brownish, emarginate tail all help distinguish it in the field, and the tail characters are obvious in flight even at some distance. In spite of these several easy distinctions, it seems probable that the birds have been allowed to pass for Arkansas Kingbirds by the few ornithologists who have entered their restricted ranges in the summer months.

It seems evident that the West Mexican Kingbird is a regular summer resident at the present time near Tucson, from May 12 to September 3 at least. The numbers present are not great. The birds have been seen by a few other observers, also, including Dr. A. A. Allen, A. H. Anderson, Dr. Wm. L. Holt, F. W. Loetscher, Jr., and Gale Monson.

**SONORA GRACKLE, *Cassidix mexicanus nelsoni*.**—This bird has not previously been recorded north of Mexico. On June 23, 1938, with the aid of Messrs. Dean Amadon and Ben Tinker, I took a worn male in irrigated farmlands near Tucson. This was prepared by Amadon and proved to be almost in breeding condition. Later in the summer another male and a female were taken, and at least one or two other males

and another female were seen. Tinker saw a flock of nine in late July. A female was seen carrying nest material on June 27, but I could find no nests. On August 3, however, A. H. Anderson and I saw a female with a young bird able to fly fairly well (tail one-third to half grown). Since that date, so far as I can learn, no grackles have been seen in the Tucson region. Their failure to reappear in 1939 leaves their status doubtful.

There can be no doubt that grackles have only recently invaded Arizona. Mr. Claude Higgins, proprietor of the pool near which they nested, first saw them in 1937, when a male and two females were seen, the arrival being about April 10; in 1938 they arrived about April 25, and I saw two or three males, two females, and one young bird there. Tinker saw two males at his home between April 25 and May 1, 1938—their first appearance there. A total of ten was detected during the summer!

Gale Monson has recorded "Great-tailed" Grackles from Safford, Arizona (Wilson Bull., 48: 48, 1936; Condor, 39: 254, 1937). On examining my Tucson specimens, he concluded that these records referred to *nelsoni*, also; he has kindly allowed me to make this statement. The Sonora Grackle is apparently the only grackle validly recorded from Arizona as yet.

The grackles that have established themselves in recent years at Lordsburg, New Mexico, cannot yet be identified subspecifically. These birds seem to have a different status from the Arizona populations; the data given by Peterson (Condor, 41: 217, 1939) indicate much earlier nesting, and I saw about ten birds there as late as October 22, 1939. It may also be mentioned that my mother, Mrs. William X. Foerster, saw one there May 21, 1939, and I saw two on September 17, 1939. All these Lordsburg records were made during brief stops in passing, so they are not representative of the numbers present.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.*

**Parasitism of the Red-wing by the Cowbird.**—With reference to the note on this subject by R. D. Ussher (Auk, 55: 545, 1938), Friedmann (The Cowbirds, p. 212) states that *Agelaius* is a "fairly common but rather local victim." On May 16, 1937, for the first time in Wisconsin, I found an egg of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in a nest of *A. p. arctolegus* at Crystal Lake, Dane County. Here the species nests commonly in willows, elderberry bushes, and saplings at heights of four to six feet. At this lake on May 15, 1938, two of the four nests examined were parasitized. One nest contained two eggs of the owner and two of the Cowbird; and the other contained two eggs of the owner and one of the Cowbird. All of the four nests had wool on their exterior. Wool was abundant on an adjacent barbed wire fence under which the sheep passed.—A. W. SCHORGER, *163 North Prospect Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.*

**New food habit for Common Redpoll.**—The following food-habit observations on the Common Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria linaria*), being new records, are of interest: giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), October 1938, Bottineau, North Dakota; prairie sunflower (*Helianthus petiolaris*), January 1939, New England, North Dakota; marsh elder (*Iva xanthifolia*), January 1939, New England, North Dakota.

The U. S. Biological Survey in recent correspondence relative to the above observations stated: "Our stomach-examination records do not show *Helianthus petiolaris*, *Iva xanthifolia*, or *Ambrosia trifida* as being food of the Common Redpoll. *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, however, has been recorded in 18 stomachs. Undetermined species of *Artemisia* have been recorded in 189 stomachs of the redpoll."—ADRIAN C. FOX, *Park River, North Dakota.*