

in identification of landmarks. During an exceptionally heavy rainstorm in the early morning hours of April 18, 1958, as we were driving on Texas State Highway 27 between Kerrville and Ingram, Kerr Co., Texas, we noticed two Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) in the south center lane of the road, a quarter of a mile apart.

At the time the birds were observed (1:30 A.M.) the night was very dark and the rain exceedingly heavy, so that the road was running with water, stippled with raindrops, and reflected the sheen of headlight glare in a manner similar to that of bodies of water. The first bird was located only 200 yards west of a small bridge and dam on Goat Creek, and the highway runs parallel to the Guadalupe River, some half a mile to the south. It would seem plausible that the birds were forced down by gusts and rain and landed on the road—mistaking it for the river or the creek.

Both birds were alive, and remained sitting in the "decoy position" despite the passing of the car. After observing the second bird, we returned to investigate it further, and drove the car to within two feet without disturbing it. The senior author, by leaping out from behind the headlights, was able to catch it by hand. Presumably the birds, unable to dive or take off, were confused by the lights and did not know what to do. The captive bird was completely uninjured, showed no ill effects, and was later released. The first grebe had been run over and killed by the time we reached it again, not five minutes later.—HENRY L. SHORT AND DAVID E. CRAIGIE, *Division of Vertebrate Ecology, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore 5, Maryland.*

Treatment of Foot Pox at a Feeding and Trapping Station.—During the fall of 1957 the incidence of "foot pox" became increasingly prevalent, particularly in the House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) frequenting our feeding and trapping areas located in the chaparral above Hollywood. This affliction increased greatly during the late fall and early winter and gradually began to extend to other species, including Brown Towhees (*Pipilo fuscus*), Oregon Juncos (*Junco oregonus*), White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*) and Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). The incidence among all of the other species was, of course, considerably lower than that of the House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), which proved to be the carrier.

"Foot pox" is a viral infection called Avian Lymphomatosis, caused by a micro-organism which enters the foot usually between the scale openings, but also can be contracted orally and through open lesions. In its usual form it affects the foot of the bird, causing swelling, scaling and eventually gangrene, resulting in the loss of first the nails, then complete toes and eventually in the loss of the complete foot. It also causes protuberances about the face, eyes and base of the mandible. The incidence of fatality is very high. In addition to the species mentioned we have found it to occur in Anna's Hummingbird and Abert's Towhee. Different strains of this disease affect various groups of birds, when this infection occurs in chickens, pigeons, it is known as "fowl pox." Mr. Merton Rosen of the Department of Fish and Game, State of California, has been kind enough to confirm my diagnosis of the disease in birds I had captured and kept for him to check.

As preventive measures all of the feeding areas were sterilized; solutions of carbolic acid were used, which proved to be effective in killing the causative organism. We then conducted a series of experiments, using the House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) and found that the disease could be transferred through

the same perches being used by both diseased and healthy birds. Examination showed that living organisms were exuded from infected feet, and wherever contact had been made either through feet or through intake of food, the bird ingesting such food could become infected. We further explored the possibility that birds in traps might make contact when putting their bills through the mesh and infect the base of their upper mandibles. Since some of the birds which contracted the disease were old favorites at my banding stations, various infected birds were kept and given individual treatment using several different materials in an effort to alleviate the condition. The most successful treatment consisted of a daily injection of a solution of streptomycin sulphate in a proportion of .008 grams per cc, with a dosage of one minim per day per ounce of body weight—for a five-day period. This made the dosage per ounce of body weight of streptomycin sulphate .0005 grams. The injections were made into the upper leg muscle, using a 1 cc tuberculin syringe and a #27 gauge $\frac{1}{2}$ inch needle.

Using this five day treatment on Brown Towhees, Oregon Juncos, House Finches, Golden-crowned Sparrows and one Fox Sparrow, we found that all of the birds responded well, with the exception of one junco in which the disease had already progressed so far that the entire head was involved in lesions and swelling. This bird succumbed the day following the start of the treatment. The balance of the birds that had lesions on both the feet and around the bill and head immediately improved, and within a short period of time the lesions healed and the birds were released, apparently in good health with the exception of the scar tissue formed where the lesions had existed.—DON BLEITZ, *Bleitzi Wildlife Foundation, Los Angeles 38, California.*

A Winter Roost of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*).—Not finding any reference in the literature to communal roosting of Purple Finches, my observations of one in Nashville, Tennessee from December, 1957 to May 1, 1958 are worthy of note.

During the 1956-1957 fall and winter season, no Purple Finches were found in the Nashville area (1957, Audubon Field Notes, 11 (3):274), but on October 20, 1957, the arrival of a singing male in a city park was reported by H. C. Monk. On the afternoon of December 19, 1957, I found a group of ten perched in a bare deciduous tree on a hillside thickly grown with cedar, interspersed with deciduous trees, on the south edge of Davidson County where suburban residence property adjoins farmland, and where I had been making regular weekly field trips. On later dates the number of birds arriving gradually increased and I found that they were using the densely-foliaged cedar trees as a roost.

On January 9, 1958, we counted 192 Purple Finches and a few Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*) that could be seen from the roadside. This doubtless did not include the total number because it was impossible to enter the fenced woodland to examine the entire area which extended .3 of a mile along the road and a considerable distance north toward Nashville.

On the numerous occasions that I watched, usually with the aid of other observers, and attempted to count the birds as they went to roost, their behavior followed a regular pattern. On account of the sloping terrain and the obscuring evergreens, it was necessary for observers to take stations at intervals along the roadside. Small groups of birds began to arrive from the Nashville side of the woods and alighted in a deciduous tree to perch for a few minutes or perhaps for a half hour before dropping into the nearest cedar. Occasionally one or a few