

to be in nonbreeding condition; it lacked any evidence of a brood patch and had no cloacal protuberance. The forehead showed no indication that the bird had been caged. The bill was black with a silver, blue-gray shading on the basal portion of the lower mandible as described by Ridgway (U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 50: 267, 1902). I sent closeup photographs of the chest to Allan Phillips who wrote me (in litt.) as follows: "Your bird certainly is *Icterus w. wagleri* as the subspecies are currently understood, i.e. on the basis of color. I agree the chestnut band is too vague and indistinct for the west coast race, but is exactly like some Guerrero specimens; others have no hint of chestnut at all."

These data represent the first documented records of the Black-vented Oriole for the United States, although there is a questionable sighting by Herbert Brown (Phillips, Pap. Archeol. Soc., New Mexico, 1: 129-162, 1968) from the Patagonia Mountains, Arizona, "years" (see pp. 143-144) prior to 1887. South of the border it occurs "from Sonora, Chihuahua, and Nuevo Leon, south through Guatemala and Honduras and El Salvador (in winter) and northern Nicaragua" (Miller, Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore, Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 33, 1957, p. 284). The nearest Mexican records to Big Bend National Park are about 350 airline miles south in the state of Coahuila where Ely (in litt.) saw one at Las Vacas on 4 July, "and collected specimens there July 23 (pair) and 24 (stub-tailed juvenal). A pair was present in scrub desert, 6500 feet, north of the Sierra Guadalupe, October 11. I observed at least four in tall yucca 'forest' 15 miles southwest of Gomez Farias, April 27."

At Rio Grande Village *I. wagleri* ranged within a one-quarter square mile area of a combination of very dense floodplain habitat and the campground proper where willow, cottonwoods, sycamore, and honeylocust occur scattered over the Bermuda grass lawn. By late July the bird became very shy and could be found only after a considerable search. By 5 August its usual associates had disappeared, and it was last seen on 27 September, exactly one year after its first discovery.—ROLAND H. WAUER, *Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834*.

**The Giant Canada Goose in New Zealand.**—From 19 February to 12 March 1968, I had many opportunities to study and photograph the Canada Geese of New Zealand. The birds that have established themselves successfully on South Island originated from 50 birds imported from eastern United States in 1905 and 10 birds from Vancouver in 1920 (Delacour, *The waterfowl of the world*, vol. 1, London, Country Life Ltd., 1954, p. 157). Imber and Williams (Wildl. Mgmt., 32: 256, 1968) point out that several subspecies of Canada Geese may have been included in these introductions. Delacour (idem: 161) states that *Branta c. canadensis* was first introduced to New Zealand in 1950, and that smaller birds (probably *taverneri*) were also imported from Vancouver in 1920.

All the Canada Geese that I saw on sanctuaries run by various Acclimatization Societies and on lakes in the Alps were very large geese. I know of one collected yearling goose that weighed 10 pounds. Others held in captivity were reported to weigh as much as 18 pounds. Photographs that I took of Canada Geese at a sanctuary near Lake Ellsmere on 17 February 1968 show the major characteristics of the Giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) so well-described and illustrated by Hanson (The Giant Canada Goose, Carbondale, Southern Illinois Univ., 1965). The birds in Figure 1 show the swanlike necks and upright stance characteristic of the subspecies *maxima*. The center goose in Figure 1A appears nearly identical to the one in Hanson's (idem) Figure 32. The fourth goose from the right in Figure 1B has a white forehead similar to those illustrated in Hanson's (idem) Figures 29 and 35. Note in several birds the

posterior extensions of the cheek patches, which Hanson (idem: 37) regards as "an excellent indicator of a *maxima* population." Also the nail of the bill in *maxima* is rounded and more bulbous at the tip than in *canadensis*, *interior*, and *moffitti*; Hanson (idem: 31) states that the nail tends to cup around the lower mandible to a greater extent than in the other subspecies, and the bill is also less tapered and appears relatively blunt. These characteristics and the massiveness of the bills are evident in Figure 1.

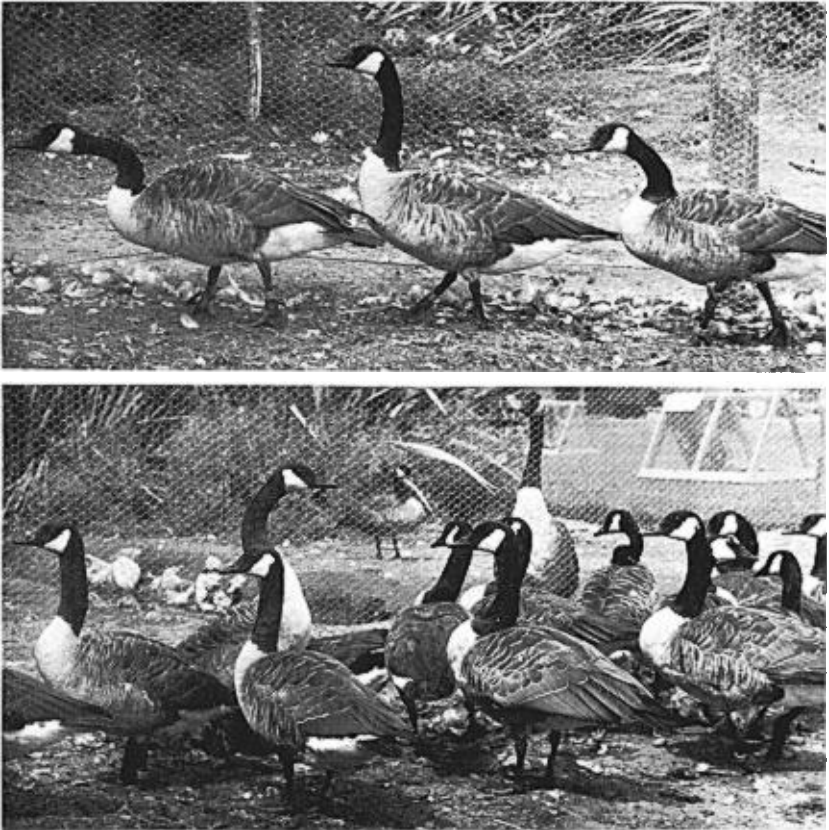


Figure 1. Typical Giant Canada Geese on a sanctuary near Christchurch, New Zealand.

Figure 2 shows the "pachydermal" appearance of the legs of a large gander. The scutellation of this tarsus is obviously similar to Hanson's (idem) Figures 1 and 19. Hanson (idem: 33) points out that the scutes on *maxima* are more plaque-like, their central portions are depressed, and the grooves between the scutes are deeper and more pronounced than are those of the subspecies *interior*, *moffitti*, and *canadensis*, whose tarsi are suggestive of a smooth-skinned colubrid snake. The color of the tarsi of the large gander in Figure 2 tends to be grayish, another characteristic of *maxima*.

The nesting grounds that I saw Canada Geese using in New Zealand, a cliff along the



Figure 2. Feet of a gander showing "pachydermal" aspect and other *maxima* characteristics mentioned in the text.

west shore of Lake Ellsmere, was similar to habitats geese nest in along the Snake River in Washington (Yocom, *Pacific Discovery*, 20: 26, 1967). I did not see the geese that nest in the Nigger River region of the Esk River; this population may be a different subspecies.

Harold Hanson has written me (pers. comm.) that "the prairie giants were evidently widely used as call geese in the United States. Easily obtained in the early days, they must have been used in all parts of the country, which explains how New Zealand stocks of *maxima* could have been obtained in eastern United States."—CHARLES F. YOCOM, *Division of Natural Resources, Humboldt State College, Arcata, California 95521*.

**Osprey nesting survey in British Columbia, Canada.**—During the summer of 1969 we surveyed for Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) in 200 miles of the Rocky Mountain Trench, from Golden to the United States border. Flights in a Cessna 140 aircraft on 13 May, 23 June, and 30 July revealed 43 nests, located mainly near shallow lakes (mean depth < 15 feet) and sloughs. No count of eggs was possible as close passes by the aircraft seldom flushed incubating females from the nests. The 19 nests classified as active fledged 21 young. Henny and Wight (*Auk*, 86: 188, 1969) suggest that this recruitment of 1.1 young per active nest could maintain a stable population.

In Connecticut where DDT residues were high in fish and Osprey eggs, Ames (J. Appl. Ecol. Suppl., 3: 87, 1966) found only 0.4 young per active nest. The higher nesting success in the Trench region may reflect the limited use of pesticides by the major land-users, forestry and ranching. Four nests of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in the area surveyed produced at least two young. We thank Dr. I. McT. Cowan for financial assistance.—J. BRYAN KEMPER, *Department of Zoology*, and DON S. EASTMAN, *Wildlife Research Division, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, British Columbia, Canada*.