

been of benefit to the nuthatches and chickadees to store and feed upon as much of the seed as possible while the crop was still available. Time was important. By working in association, individuals of each species may have foraged more actively and continuously than they would have alone.

A question raised by Levins (1968) is how precise an adaptation can be to a resource that is patchy in time and space. But what is involved here is a strategy (Levins' term) of opportunism, one whereby Red-breasted Nuthatches take advantage of the seed crop of one conifer or another, whenever such are available, and migrate elsewhere when they are not. This latter was the situation in the winter of 1973-74. I was unable to locate a single Red-breasted Nuthatch in Lyme in months of searching. The hemlocks were covered with nearly as many cones as in the year previously, but all were old cones, no longer attractive to animals of any kind.

Morse (1970) and Krebs et al. (1972), among others, have reviewed reasons for the formation of mixed flocks. None of the theories presented have appeared to fit the situation encountered in the hemlock cone year exactly. The association of *S. canadensis* and *P. atricapillus* with the hemlocks was indeed something of a model system, ecologically speaking, one that might well repay further study in other localities.

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- LAWRENCE KILHAM, *Department of Microbiology, Dartmouth Medical School Hanover, New Hampshire 03755*. Accepted 28 Jan. 74.

First Oregon specimen of *Icterus galbula galbula*.—The eastern subspecies of the Northern Oriole, nominate *galbula*, occurs regularly in small numbers in the southwest, especially southern California (sight records in Audubon Field Notes and Amer. Birds 16-27, 1962-1973) and has been collected in San Diego County, California (McCaskie and Banks 1966). The eastern subspecies occurs only rarely in northwestern North America. A female collected at Logan (ca. 14 km east-southeast of Oregon City) in the Willamette Valley, Clackamas County, Oregon on 4 June 1907 is in the University of Utah Museum of Zoology (No. 239a). The specimen is quite worn in the primaries and secondaries but less so in the rectrices and appears to be in first-year adult plumage (*sensu* Amadon 1966). The original label does not indicate collector or additional information. The poor condition of this specimen precludes determination of the presence of an incubation patch.

Phenotypically the specimen is "pure" nominate *galbula* according to indices of Sibley and Short (1964) and Rising (1970) and to characters given by Hubbard

(1972). The upper parts of the specimen are yellowish olive spotted with black throughout the upper back and on the top of the head. The underparts are yellowish orange from vent to bill with traces of black spotting on the throat. The primaries are brownish.

The Logan specimen is the first specimen record of *I. galbula galbula* west of the Cascade Mountains. Kridler and Marshall (1962) reported an adult male singing in the Great Basin at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon on 1 June 1960. The bird, a male in second-year adult plumage collected at the refuge headquarters the same day (1960, Audubon Field Notes 14: 410), is in the National Museum of Natural History (No. 467080). The Malheur specimen is "pure" nominate *galbula* but the black at the base of the outer rectrices is somewhat reduced and is restricted to the outer webs compared to specimens of nominate *galbula* collected in the northeastern United States. The rectrices (longest rectrix 61.5 mm) are all about equally new, the outer ones being about 80–90% fully grown (cf. Sibley and Short 1964). Measurements of wing chord (99.6 mm) and tarsus (24.7 mm) of the Malheur specimen suggest that the bird originated from the zone of contact between the nominate subspecies and *bullockii* (cf. Rising 1970). Worthen (1973) collected the second specimen from the Great Basin, a male in first-year adult plumage, near Milford, Beaver County, Utah on 27 June 1964. Other specimens examined, especially those in the National Museum of Natural History, from the Great Basin belong to the western subspecies *bullockii* (*sensu* Rising 1970: 331).

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Effect of parentage on egg characteristics.—In a paper analyzing variations in egg characteristics of the House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, Kendeigh et al. (1956, *Auk* 73: 42–65) state that "the influence of parentage on length and breadth was relatively small." This conclusion is based on statistics for "Partition of variability (per cent)" in Tables 3 and 4 in that paper.

Thomas H. Manning has recently called my attention to an error in these statistics caused by transposing "m" and "n" in the formula used (Preston and Preston 1953,