

(*Tyrannus vociferans*), a species apparently hitherto undetected in the State. In the course of his work Mr. Hanna camped for a few days in the Bull Mountains, about 16 miles to the southward of Roundup, Musselshell County. The principal forest covering of these hills consists of groves of yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), which cover much of the higher ground and extend northward to the valley of the Musselshell. Among these pines the birds were found in small groups—three individuals on August 5, two on August 6, and four on August 7. They flew from one clump of pines to another, stopping only on the tallest trees, and there only for a short time. Three specimens were collected—two adult males on August 5, and a young bird on August 6. The last was still in juvenal plumage, and manifestly so recently from the nest as to make it practically certain that it was raised in the vicinity. These specimens are now in the Biological Survey collection.—EDWARD A. PREBLE, *Washington, D. C., July 5, 1921.*

**A New Bird for Larimer County, Colorado.**—About May 10, 1921, a Mexican boy captured alive a barn owl (*Aluco pratincola*) near Laporte, five miles west of Fort Collins. This owl is now in a cage in a local garage.—W. L. BURNETT, *State Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colorado, June 10, 1921.*

**Flocking Habits of the California Valley Quail.**—The following observations were made between December 1, 1919, and May 1, 1920, on a farm which is located near Ripon, California, and about a mile from the Stanislaus River. The farm consists mainly of orchard, the trees being of three varieties, almond, cherries and peaches. A large brush pile was located at one edge of the orchard, about thirty yards from the dwelling house. The first time I noticed the particular flock of Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californicus vallicola*) in question was one morning about ten o'clock when I saw twenty-three birds making their way through the orchard to this brush pile. I found that this action was of regular occurrence with the flock and each morning, some time between the hours of nine and eleven, the flock gradually wended its way towards this protection. My first thought was that in addition to their using it as a place of refuge during the day, the birds roosted in the brush pile at night.

But upon further observation I found that the birds, instead of roosting in the brush pile, merely collected there during the day time for shelter when not searching for food. The "come-right-here" call was often sounded by one member of the flock which was posted some distance above ground for wide observation, though usually hidden in the brush. If a person approached, the bird would utter a call of alarm and disappear into the brush. The brush pile was of considerable size and though I tried to frighten the birds by beating the brush with sticks they merely retreated farther into the middle for protection.

Later observations showed that the birds roosted in some eucalyptus trees about two hundred yards from the brush pile. Each evening at dusk the flock came through the orchard toward the eucalyptus trees usually from a given direction along the bank of an irrigation ditch. As these trees were located in the stable yard the birds usually fed near the barn for some ten or fifteen minutes before flying to their roosting place. It was interesting to note that, usually, only one bird was in flight to the trees at a time, though once stimulated to flight by the leader, the whole flock was lost among the leaves in a remarkably short time. If a part of the flock was disturbed after the flight had begun, the remainder, instead of flying straight to roost, would fly out into the orchard for a time. This was probably a protective measure to lead one off the trail.

At dawn the flock would fly from the trees and proceed into the orchard for food. I wondered if the birds had a definite route of travel, but was unable to follow this out if such were the case. They traversed different parts of the orchard on different days. After foraging in the orchard and adjoining fields they would return to the brush pile for the middle part of the day. The direction from which they came to the brush pile varied on different days. They again returned to the orchard for a feeding trip in the afternoon after which they proceeded to the gum trees to roost.

Their modes of progress while in the field were interesting. At times I was led to think that a certain member of the flock was always followed as leader, while at other times there seemed to be no definite order, the one taking the lead which did not lag behind to feed. The flock, however, usually presented a definite "V" shape, the apex

being in the direction in which the flock was progressing. Certain of the birds were always on the alert more than others and when approached would utter a soft chucking sound which has been described as "*whit, whit, whit*". I have seen, on a few occasions, birds posted in orchard trees near where the flock was feeding. While they were usually engaged in preening their plumage they were probably sentinels on guard for they were the first to utter the cry of alarm when approached.

Early in April the large flock of birds began to decrease in size and instead of there being twenty-three birds in the flock there were at first two flocks of smaller size and later in the month I failed to find more than seven birds together at any one time. Also, instead of using the same brush pile as a place of refuge, two other brush piles at the opposite side of the orchard were appropriated by a part of the flock.

My observations were brought to a close the first of May and while no nests had been made as yet, it was probable that the flocks further subdivided into pairs or groups of threes for nesting purposes. The assemblage of the birds in large flocks after the nesting season will make an interesting study. Do the birds from each individual nest remain together and constitute a flock till the next breeding season, or do several families unite in the autumn?—JOHN F. KESSEL, *Berkeley, California, June 18, 1921.*

**The Doves of Imperial County, California.**—The intention of the observations recorded in this article was to determine the extent of the breeding season of the doves nesting in Imperial County. Of the three species nesting in this immediate locality (Brawley) two, the Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*) and the Mexican Ground Dove (*Chaemepelia passerina pallescens*) are residents. The third, the Western White-winged Dove (*Melopelia asiatica mearnsi*) is migratory.

A nest of the White-winged Dove was found May 24, 1921, about a mile from my ranch, containing two full-grown young.

The Mourning Dove furnished the following data in 1920:

January 18,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
February 7,	3 nests containing 2 eggs
May 10,	10 nests contained eggs or young
June 22,	16 nests contained eggs or young
July 17,	7 nests contained eggs or young
August 12,	5 nests contained eggs or young
September 23,	1 nest contained eggs or young

The Ground Dove furnished the following data:

January 22,	1 nest containing 2 full grown young
February 14,	same nest containing 2 eggs
April 10,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
May 5,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
June 2,	2 nests containing 2 eggs
August 12,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
September 23,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
November 7,	an old dove seen feeding half-grown young

The Mexican Ground Dove appears to be partial to old nests, using its own or that of a Mourning Dove generally; but I have seen a pair trying a Sonora Red-winged Blackbird's nest; and during 1921 a pair has used an old Abert Towhee's nest for three broods, beginning to sit January 30, on the first eggs, and June 21, on the third set. I have never seen more than five of these doves about at one time. The area covered contains about one acre, the farm residence and 83 trees, mostly eucalyptus and a few pepper-trees.—JOHN C. FORTINER, *Brawley, California, July 1, 1921.*

**A Specimen of the Black Swift from San Diego County, California.**—With one exception, all of the published records of the occurrence of the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger borealis*) in southern California, which have come to the writer's notice, have been based on "sight" records. The securing of a specimen by J. B. Dixon, 4 miles north of Escondido, San Diego County, California, on June 5, 1921, is therefore of interest. This bird was picked up under a telephone wire. It had met death by flying into the wire as