

at Okanagan Landing, British Columbia. After attaching a few pellets of mud to the rough edge of the board both birds disappeared. In 1926, at approximately the same date, a pair of Barn Swallows was noted investigating the premises and in a day or so the birds commenced adding to the nest foundation made the previous year, which now was supported underneath by the addition of a board nailed at right angles to the rafter. Work on the nest was discontinued in a few days and again the birds disappeared.

On May 20, 1927, a pair of Barn Swallows again visited the shed and immediately began building on the same site, using the old foundation which had remained intact on its supporting shelf. Building was carried on intermittently and the nest was not completed until nearly four weeks later. During this period both birds roosted at night on the shelf beside the nest. After a week or so of close association with members of the household the birds became quite tame and were not disturbed by the opening and closing of a door within a few feet of the nest. A favorite perch of the male was on top of a clothes wringer, and here he would chatter excitedly as a person passed by, sometimes within arm's length.

On a day when the nest appeared to be finished, the cup being well lined with white hen feathers, the female was seen to be hurt. The next day I picked her up from the ground and she died in my hand. For several weeks following, the male visited the shed daily, the first few days bringing hen feathers to the already over-lined nest and chattering from his favorite perch on the clothes wringer. At other times he might be seen motionless on a telephone wire in front of the house. It was expected that he would secure another mate but he did not do so.

When, in early May of 1928, a pair of Barn Swallows again appeared, the shed had been torn down and on its site stood a half-finished room in which carpenters were at work. The windows were not glazed nor was the outside door hung. Through these openings the swallows entered a number of times, flew about the room and investigated the premises.

Under the house is a cement basement, the outside door being about twenty feet from the site of the old woodshed. Finding a bridged ceiling joist an excellent nesting site, the swallows at once began to build and in due course the nest was completed and five eggs laid. During this time workmen were tearing down part of the cellar wall beside them, and various activities were being carried on with a great deal of noise right under the nest. In spite of all this the eggs were hatched and the young reared. Of course their occupation of the basement meant that the door had to be left open all summer, an inconvenience that seemed small payment for the pleasure of entertaining these delightful tenants after so many disappointing experiences.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, January 15, 1929.*

Least Bittern near Portland, Oregon.—On August 7, 1927, while rowing along the shore of Blue Lake, Multnomah County, I saw two Least Bitterns (*Ixobrychus exilis*). They were only a few yards away and disappeared into a growth of cat-tails. Several times in May and June of 1928, I worked this place carefully in hopes of finding evidence of their nesting there but was disappointed. These two individuals are the only ones I have ever seen west of the Cascade Mountains in either Oregon or Washington.—ED. S. CURRIER, *Portland, Oregon, January 10, 1929.*

The E. B. Richards Collection of Birds: Changes in Names.—A valuable collection of more than two hundred birds collected by the late Mr. E. B. Richards, was presented by him to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology some months previous to his death. The specimens were obtained in the Grass Valley district of Nevada County, California, during a period of nearly twenty years, from 1910 to 1926. The greater portion of this collection was the basis of Mr. Richards' "List of the Land Birds of the Grass Valley District, California" (*Condor*, xxvi, 1924, pp. 98-104). In cataloging this collection, several changes in identification have been made, and it seems advisable to record such as pertain to the above mentioned published report.

Falco columbarius columbarius (p. 100) based on records of "only two in this locality". The two specimens referred to prove to be adult males of *Accipiter velox*.
Archilochus alexandri (p. 100). The two specimens so identified in the collection prove to be *Calypte anna*.

Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys (p. 102). The four specimens in the collection are *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*, which is the winter visiting race in this district—not *Z. l. leucophrys*.

The record of *Dendroica townsendi* (p. 103) taken on September 8, 1918, should be changed to *Dendroica occidentalis*.—MARGARET W. WYTHE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, December 18, 1928.*

On the Courtship of the American Bittern.—On May 8, 1928, near the north end of Osooyos Lake, British Columbia, the writer and Mr. S. J. Darcus of Penticton, British Columbia, witnessed the display of a male American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and the consummation of his courtship.

The observers' attention had been attracted by a Bittern's "pumping" coming from a recently flooded meadow where the growth was not sufficient to conceal any of the birds that were present. A scrutiny of this area with 6-power binoculars revealed the author of the sounds, some ninety yards distant, standing bolt upright in the shallow water, with neck outstretched and bill pointing skyward. Twenty-five yards farther out, fully exposed to view on dry ground bare of vegetation, crouched a second bird with head drawn in close to the body which was in a nearly horizontal position. This second bird proved to be a female. Suddenly the nearest bird began to "pump"; two "pumps" in quick succession, then repeated a minute or so later. During these efforts the body was thrust forward and bill pointed towards the water. After "pumping" the third time he assumed a stooping attitude and stalked slowly through the shallow water toward the motionless, crouching female, displaying as he did so a large area of white behind the shoulders. When within six feet or so of his mate he began walking around her in a circle, still stooping and displaying still larger patches of white. Suddenly came a movement so fast as almost to escape detection, and the female disappeared beneath the outspread, vibrating wings of her mate. Congress completed, the male stood quietly to one side while the female shook herself just as a domestic fowl does under the same circumstances.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, December 3, 1928.*

Eight-mile Censuses in 1927.—In the CONDOR for May, 1927 (pp. 144-147), I discussed 13 eight-mile censuses made over a tract of diversified country in central Oklahoma during 1926. Since we have left Oklahoma, it seemed advisable to give the results of the five censuses taken in Cleveland County in 1927, so that they can be compared with the corresponding ones of 1926. (Numbers of species are given first, individuals second.)

1926. January 1, 39: 2400; February 1, 35: 1400; March 20, 45: 600; April 24, 61: 460; May 4, 66: 450.

1927. January 8, 33: 760; February 22, 36: 1600; March 28, 47: 900; April 24, 59: 500; May 5, 67: 600.

The numbers of species are very much the same during the two years except in January; the numbers of individuals differ more, but not very much, again with the exception of January. In 1927 there were more birds from late February on, than had been seen in 1926 except on April 24 when they were practically the same. The reason for the striking difference in the two Januaries lies largely in the great abundance of blackbirds in 1926 and their entire absence in 1927; moreover, twice as many sparrows were recorded in 1926 as in 1927, and four times as many Crows and Meadowlarks.

The really surprising agreement of the findings in both years in March, April and May—the main migration months—gives additional evidence of the relative stability of the bird population in this region, due apparently to the small number of transients.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio, January 3, 1929.*

Bird Notes from Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, During the Summer of 1928.—On July 1 a Dusky Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii californicus*) was flushed from under a pine near Pine Knot. This species seems to be of rather unusual occurrence in this locality and had probably drifted up from the more favorable surroundings of the desert slope to the east.

Two Western Gnatcatchers (*Poliptila caerulea obscura*) were seen on July 1 in a little cañon at 7000 feet altitude, among the pines in a typical Transition associa-