

Breeding Record of Pacific Godwit.—Among sets of eggs recently added to my collection there is one of the Pacific Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*). It consists of three eggs collected by an Eskimo girl in July, 1928, on the Ashookto River about 100 miles southeast of Barrow, Alaska. The nest was on dry ground away from the water and was composed of dry root fibers and moss of reddish color. Both the male and female were snared at the nest and are now (nos. 42956-57) in the collection of Dr. Louis B. Bishop, Pasadena, California.—WILSON C. HANNA, Colton, California, November 14, 1929.

Two More Victims of the Cowbird.—Two species can be added to those listed by Friedmann (*The Cowbirds*, 1929) as hosts of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in any of its various races. Both of these instances were recorded at Azusa, California, in the territory of the Dwarf Cowbird (*M. a. obscurus*).

In 1927 I found a Green-backed Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus*) incubating three of its own eggs and one of the cowbird's. The eggs were later abandoned before they had hatched.

In June, 1928, I observed an almost full-grown cowbird following, and being fed by, a pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers (*Polioptila californica*). This latter species is one of the very smallest birds known to be successfully parasitized by the Cowbird.—ROBERT S. WOODS, Azusa, California, December 3, 1929.

Some Night Observations on the Western Horned Owl.—During the winter of 1928-29, two Western Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus pallescens*) were repeatedly observed to be ranging along a cottonwood-bordered creek a few miles east of Aurora, Colorado. In the months of January and February they occupied widely separate parts of their territory, and neither had any regular roosting place. One of the owls was unusually dark, dusky predominating in the plumage, and was rather fearless for a bird of this species, not flying until a person was within 100 feet or closer. The other bird was of a distinctly lighter coloration, having the normal amount of buffy for this variety, and was much more fearful. From later observations it was concluded that the former was a female and the latter a male.

From the latter part of February onward, the female showed an attachment to a certain dense group of trees, always roosting in one of them during the day, and often not flying until the observer was directly beneath its perch. Since December, hooting had been heard, and on March 16, 1929, the female was heard to call at intervals of one-half to three minutes for one and one-half hours during the late afternoon.

There were eleven Magpie nests, varying in age and degree of dilapidation, in the locality preferred by the owl. On March 23, the female was sitting on one of the oldest of these, about 25 feet from the ground, in a tree located on the southern edge of the timber. After nightfall the nest was watched from behind a fallen tree about 200 feet distant. At 7:35 p. m., the male came to the nest and a conversation of deep *whoo-whoo's* followed, lasting for ten seconds or more. Also one of the birds uttered a shrill *chee-chee-chee* call. Then, after flying from tree to tree in the vicinity of the nest for a few minutes, the male departed.

A single young owl was hatched during the third week of April. From numerous observations made in the daytime, it was evident that the dark-plumaged bird did all of the incubating.

On the night of April 27, the female was hovering the young. At 7:00 p. m. a muffled *chee-chee* began coming from the nest, with, occasionally, a harsh rasping note. After about five minutes, the mother owl arose, stood on the edge of the nest for a second, and then flew away over an open field to the south, uttering the rasping call as she went. The notes of the young bird became louder and more continuous, resembling the cheeping of a young chick. At 8:05 p. m. the mother returned, evidently with some small article of food, for the owlet was silent from then on. The mother bird remained silently hovering the young until observation was discontinued an hour later.

On May 23, the ear tufts and wing feathers of the owlet were well developed. At 9:30 p. m. the mother owl appeared on the nest, where she and the young were

quite active, picking and tearing at some food. At 9:43, the parent flew to a branch nearby and was there when I left an hour later.

The parent owls made no visits to the nest on the night of May 27 during observations from 7 to 9 p. m.

While watching the nest May 28, one of the parents was seen to alight on it at about 9:00 p. m. What took place there could not be discerned because of darkness, and the only sound heard was a snapping of the beak. After a few minutes the adult flew off down the creek. The young owl called after it with a rasping *peerahhh*, and the parent answered by the same note. This calling and replying continued for about five minutes, the sounds varying in length and sharpness, sometimes amounting to a scream. A parent once uttered a whistling *whee-whee* note. A short period of silence passed and then both parents were heard in a tree near the nest, holding a confused conversation, one uttering the *whoo* and the other giving *erreeuh* calls accompanied by a loud snapping of the beak. The latter was evidently the female, since it flew to the nest a few minutes later, after the other left, uttering the same calls, and showing the usual tameness when I walked close to the tree. Another of her calls was a series of sharp *tchi-tchi-tchi* sounds, ending in a harsh screech.

The nest was watched from 8:00 to 10:00 p. m. on the nights of May 30 and June 5, but no activity was detected on account of the foliage having become dense and the wind preventing hearing.

The young owl left the nest on June 6. With its parents it remained in the nesting territory for over a month. By June 24, it was the equal of the parents in power of flight. A trait that I had not observed before in these birds was their roosting among the grasses and weeds on the damp ground below the trees during the hot days of June. Once one was observed to return to the ground a few minutes after the observer had withdrawn.

From the foregoing observations, it would seem that the horned owls have as great a variety of call notes as some of our more easily observed diurnal birds.—LEON KELSO, *Aurora, Colorado, November 16, 1929.*

Migratory Flight of Swainson Hawks.—In *Bird-Lore* (XXI, 1910, p. 147) I recorded a flight of Swainson Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) seen at Buena Park, California, on April 8 and 9, 1909. Since that times the species has been observed here on April 8, 1910, when four birds were seen; on March 16, 1918, a large flock; and on May 8, 1926, two birds. At 6:30 a. m., April 1, 1929, several large hawks were noticed flying over some open pasture land near my home, and taking my field glasses I went to a place where I had a clear view; in about twenty minutes I had counted twenty-five Swainson Hawks, scattered over an area of about forty acres. Some were on the ground, some on fence posts and others in the air, soaring in ascending spirals, and, after gaining considerable elevation, gliding away to the northwest on set wings. The same day, between 11:50 a. m. and 12:20 p. m., twenty-three more Swainson Hawks were seen on some open pasture lands near Cypress, California, about three miles to the southwest of the place of earlier observation. At this time there was a strong southwest breeze blowing from the ocean and the birds gave some interesting demonstrations of soaring flight. As in the early morning these birds were gliding away to the northwest as they reached an elevation estimated to be about a thousand feet.

Some of these birds lingered in the locality, or were replaced by other birds from the south, as, on April 2, three were seen; April 3, seven; April 8, fifteen; April 9, ten; April 10, four; April 12, ten; April 13, four; April 15, five; April 16, three; April 25, one; and on April 29, two. With a strong breeze blowing the birds would rise from the ground or from a fence post and soaring to a height of 100 feet or more would head into the wind and hover in one spot for a long time, with only a slight flexing of the wings and a spreading of the tail to keep them in equilibrium, as they searched the ground below for food. If prey was sighted, they dropped to the ground, but if none was seen they would glide to another location and hover again.

Of all the birds seen during this migration, only one, seen on April 1, was in very dark plumage, the others all being in varying degrees of the light phase.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, October 27, 1929.*