

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The Black Swift in Glacier National Park.**—The Black Swift (*Nephoecetes niger borealis*) appears to be a rare bird in Montana. No record of its occurrence is given by Saunders in his list of Montana birds (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 14, 1921). In "Wild Animals of Glacier National Park: The Birds" (Nat. Park Service, 1918), Mrs. F. M. Bailey gives no record for this species, but indicates (p. 106) a possibility of its being seen on rare occasions. More recently I have published records of its occurrence at Libby (Auk, XLVII, 1930, p. 98) and in Glacier Park (*ibid.*, p. 98, and Bird-Lore, XXXIII, 1931, p. 175).

During the summer of 1931, I visited Glacier Park on four occasions, and observed Black Swifts twice. During a one-day visit on June 7, I observed three of the birds flying above McDonald Creek near the mouth of Avalanche Creek. On August 17, I traversed the length of the Garden Wall on the trail from Logan Pass to Granite Park, climbing to the summit twice, and descended from Granite Park to McDonald Creek Valley, without seeing a Black Swift. The next morning, however, I saw four birds of this species near Avalanche Lake. On two occasions later in the summer I was in Glacier Park for a few hours, but did not observe any Black Swifts.

The new A. O. U. Check-list (p. 177) questions the inclusion of Montana in the breeding range of the Black Swift. The records cited and described above indicate that it probably breeds sparingly in Glacier National Park.—WINTON WEYDEMAYER, *Fortine, Montana, January 14, 1932.*

**A Station of Frequent Observation of the Cowbird in the San Francisco Bay Region.**—The lower stretches of Coyote Creek between San Jose and San Francisco Bay provide an attractive region for the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*, subspecies?). The stream here flows through the rich alluvial soil of the lower Santa Clara Valley, has built up the dikes characteristic of California streams in such places, and these in turn provide a luxuriant growth of cottonwoods, box elders, red willows and other trees, with a rank undergrowth of brambles, poison hemlock and other coarse herbs. Such a condition provides ideal breeding grounds for many small birds such as the Russet-backed Thrush, Song Sparrow, Traill Flycatcher, Willow Goldfinch, Pileolated Warbler and Yellow-throat. These breeding birds in turn provide hosts for the Cowbird. It was in this region that Smith (Condor, XXVIII, 1926, p. 245) located eggs of the Cowbird but did not observe adult birds. Since that time adult Cowbirds have been observed with some regularity on the Coyote about two miles above its entry into the salicornia marshes of the Bay and in the vicinity of the bridge over this stream on the cross-road connecting the towns of Alviso and Milpitas.

Males and females have been observed. The males have been clearly seen in gurgling flight and in full song; and at one time three of them sat and performed on telephone wires immediately over the heads of a group of us. Dates before me of actual observation of adult Cowbirds are as follows: July 8, 1930, one male in flight; July 19, 1930, three males immediately above our heads on telephone wires, one male in full song on a box elder tree; May 9, 1931, a pair; May 14, 1931, notes of two or three and a pair (male and female together); July 28, 1931, male, singing.—GAYLE PICKWELL, *State College, San Jose, California, November 4, 1931.*

**Note on the Food of an Arizona Spotted Owl.**—The Arizona Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) may be classed as one of the rarer North American owls. In fact the references in literature to specimens collected or observed are few, while notes on this owl's food habits are almost lacking. E. S. Steele in 1927 recorded (Condor, XXX, 1927, p. 123) the capture of a young Arizona Spotted Owl near Reserve, New Mexico, and his observations upon its behavior. This owl readily preyed on the rats and mice while confined in a barn, and willingly accepted dead squirrel, chipmunk, rat or mouse from its captor's hand. So far as Mr. Steele was able to observe, its diet was entirely mammalian, the flesh of birds being scorned.

In contrast to these observations, there are records (Richardson, Condor, VIII, 1906, p. 57; Daggett, Condor, xv, 1913, pp. 40-41) of two Spotted Owls (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) from the mountains in the vicinity of Los Angeles, California, that were cannibalistic. Each of the birds had eaten a Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma californicum*) shortly before it was collected.

Another and entirely different type of food was found by the writer when he skinned and dissected an adult male Arizona Spotted Owl, which was secured at Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, on June 23, 1931, by E. H. Quayle, one of a party making collections in that region for the San Diego Society of Natural