

Thus, Dr. Leonhard Stejneger has kindly informed me that in April, 1883, he saw, but was unable to obtain, a cormorant, apparently of this species, on the southeast shore of Bering Island. In his report on the birds of the Commander Islands (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 29, 1885, p. 318) he noted that Pallas (Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat., 2, p. 297) wrote that *P. carbo* was found in Kamchatka, and he (Stejneger) suggested that the "Japanese form may occur on the western shore near the southern extremity of the peninsula." Dr. Stejneger also informs me that Pennant received a list of Kamchatkan birds from Pallas. On going through the literature we find that Pennant (Arctic Zoology, 2, 1785, p. 581) writes that "*Pelecanus carvo*" ranges, "even to Kamtschatka."

It is quite likely, then, that this bird does range north beyond the Japanese Islands, and it is not improbable that the individual here recorded may have struck the westernmost part of the Aleutian chain and followed the course of those islands eastward. A cormorant could readily negotiate the distance involved, especially as it could feed all the way across. Possibly the abundance of other cormorants in the Aleutian Islands might have been a factor in attracting it eastward, once it had gotten as far as the western outliers of that chain.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., November 10, 1932.*

Trapping of Cowbirds and Chats in Alameda County, California.—On Sunday, June 5, 1932, my son Donald accompanied me on a trip to Irvington, Alameda County, California, to locate the nesting ground of the Long-tailed Chat (*Icteria virens longicauda*). We left our home in Oakland at 6 a. m., arriving at Irvington about an hour later. Leaving our machine where the road ends at the railroad tracks, we walked along the tracks, possibly a mile, before we heard the song of the chat. A close search inside a wire fence among a tangled mass of blackberry vine revealed the chat's nest containing four young birds. We desired to raise two young chats from the nest, but found the birds too young to remove, so we planned to return a few days later after the tail feathers were sprouted.

Returning to the edge of an open field, we saw several Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). We decided to make use of our opportunity and, if possible, take a pair home for aviary study. A choice supply of insect life and seed of watergrass was placed in small box cages on the ground in plain view of the birds. About five minutes later a cowbird flew down to the cage and was caught. It proved to be a mature female. We waited for some time in the hope of getting a male cowbird, but other birds kept us busy by insistent visits to our cages. We caught and liberated in quick succession, four Black-headed Grosbeaks, two Mourning Doves, and three Willow Goldfinches.

On Sunday, June 19, another trip was planned for the woods around Irvington. We found our young chats had flown, for we were unable to return as we had planned, a week earlier. However, we were anxious to procure a male cowbird as a mate to the one captured here on June 5. We gave all our attention to this task. We lost no time in placing our small box cages, each containing a tempting meal, in spots where we knew cowbirds were to be found.

It was possibly ten minutes before we heard the clear ringing call note of the cowbirds. They fly swiftly over the fields in a straight line, usually about three feet from the ground. One came on toward us and alighted on a bush only a few feet away. His keen eyesight detected our dangling meal-worms tied in the cage, and down he flew, entering the cage as the door closed behind him. This bird proved to be a fine male, just what we had hoped to procure. Donald went over and removed it from the cage, then events of much interest to us happened in quick succession. As my son walked towards me holding the cowbird in his hand, the bird gave several loud clear calls. Almost immediately cowbirds began to arrive from several directions, lighting in the trees around us, calling incessantly in answer to the newly caught bird. Looking back, I saw another cowbird caught in the cage and two others attacking it from the outside through the wires. Three more cowbirds flew over my head as I ran over to save the second bird captured, from injury, and to drive the others away. This last capture proved to be a female.

In the meantime, the male cowbird responsible for all this commotion was placed on the ground in a cloth covered cage. He was still calling in answer to the cowbirds all around us; he then surprised us by breaking into song. The song imitated closely the sound of water bubbling or gurgling in a brook.

Now that we had three captive cowbirds we decided to move on toward chat territory. About an hour later we heard the chat's song. The chat is shy and retiring but we knew one weakness—he likes spiders. Accordingly we prepared a tempting meal and waited, possibly fifteen minutes, before we caught one, and soon after caught another—two very fine specimens, one mature male chat and a young male, a bird of the season.

The three Cowbirds and the two Long-tailed Chats are now objects of much interest in the aviary, where they remain in the best of health and condition.—JOHN A. BROCK, 5840 Seminary Court, Oakland, California, June 22, 1932.

The Hawk Owl in Northern Idaho.—On August 27, 1923, I was walking along the Lolo Trail which follows the divide between the Lochsa River and the North Fork of the Clearwater, Idaho County, Idaho, when what I believe to be a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) flew out of a thicket and alighted near the top of a scrubby hemlock within forty feet of me. It took wing again almost immediately, but during the few seconds that it remained I noted the unmistakable round head, particularly as its method of flight had led me to believe it to be some species of hawk.

On November 3, 1925, I collected a young male specimen of Hawk Owl at Stanley Butte, some ten or twelve miles south of the Lochsa River. The August record I present only as a possible indication of the nesting of this bird in northern Idaho. As a bit of corroborative evidence I might mention the fact that before I had shot the November specimen I was positive as to its identity with the bird that I had seen two years previously, even though these two were the only living specimens of the Hawk Owl that I had ever seen.—R. L. HAND, *Avery, Idaho, October 6, 1932.*

Zonal Range of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in Northwestern Montana.—The breeding range of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) is generally considered to be the Canadian life-zone. The latest A. O. U. Check-list (p. 238) names only this zone in describing the entire geographical breeding range of the species in North America. This limitation to the Canadian zone is concurred in by most references concerning the range of this nuthatch in the Rocky Mountain region. Thus Cary, in his report on the life zones of Wyoming (North American Fauna, no. 42, 1917, p. 44), lists the Red-breasted Nuthatch as a breeding bird only in the Canadian zone. In the adjoining state of Montana, however, according to Saunders (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 14, 1921, p. 159), this species "breeds in yellow pine forests in the Transition zone, and is only found in summer where such forests occur."

During the past twelve years I have become quite well acquainted with the habits of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in extreme northwestern Montana. Throughout the country with which I am familiar—which includes nearly all of Lincoln County, the western and northern parts of Flathead County, and portions of the western slope of Glacier National Park—this bird, during the breeding season, ranges from the lowest forested valleys to timberline, nesting regularly in the Transition and Canadian zones, and probably at times in the Hudsonian zone. During spring and summer, individuals may be found locally in every type of coniferous forest occurring within this area.

The birds seem to nest most commonly in Transition-zone woods of western larch and Douglas fir, and in forests containing these two trees with a mixture of western yellow pine or of lodgepole pine. (A census of the breeding birds inhabiting an 80-acre tract of fir-larch-yellow pine woods near Fortine, taken each season during the four years of 1928 to 1931, showed the presence of 11, 9, 14, and 11 pairs, respectively, of Red-breasted Nuthatches.) Less commonly, during the nesting season, these birds regularly inhabit yellow pine forests of the Transition zone; fir-larch-lodgepole pine forests in the lower portions of the Canadian zone; upper Canadian zone woods containing one, two, or all of the last named trees together with alpine fir; and forests of alpine fir and Engelmann spruce in this zone. The preferred Canadian-zone habitat appears to be the basins and valleys at the headwaters of mountain streams, where the spruce-alpine fir type of forest predominates. In this zone the Red-breasted Nuthatch is comparatively rare in forests representing various mixtures of western white pine, western red cedar, grand fir, and western hemlock. It occurs frequently, how-