

Island and in confirmation we have several typical specimens of the saturated form, *C. cafer cafer*, from that island, with faint traces of red nuchal bars. One specimen from Graham Island even shows a fawn overwash to the gray throat that is indicative of a taint of *auratus* blood. Northward, birds from Jasper Park and the Yellowhead Pass are strongly hybrid, averaging about fifty-fifty in relation to the two species. Those from Hazelton are *auratus* but with appreciable *cafer* influence. Mr. M. Y. Williams saw flickers sixty miles below Carcross and at Carmacks, Yukon Territory, that he referred to *cafer*; but other observers in the region have noted only *auratus* which seems to be the prevailing form there. J. A. Allen on the map accompanying his monograph of the hybrid flickers plots a hybrid at Sitka, Alaska, and specimens in the Canadian national collections from the Chitina Glacier near the south end of the Alaska-Yukon boundary, while strongly *auratus* have a perceptible tinge of gray in the fawn throat indicating some *cafer* influence.

The problem in so freely hybridizing species is, what prevents the ultimate complete mongrelization of both species? It is a matter of mathematics to show that, in the course of time, unless there is some handicap to the persistence of cross-bred strains, the hybridizing process should gradually extend east and west, north and south, until finally there would be no pure blood of either species left. That it has extended in some degree throughout the northern range of *cafer* is evident. That it has not seriously encroached on the territory of *auratus* is surprising and suggests that *auratus* is the dominant aggressive species, invading *cafer* territory rather than the contrary. Of course our records are not complete enough through time or in detail for us to say definitely that complete specific hybridization is not in progress. Allen cites evidence to show that when he wrote in 1892 hybrids were regarded as recent occurrences in California, but such later evidence as is on file is negative as to its current increase anywhere in the disputed territory. As far as can be demonstrated on present evidence the relations of the two species to each other are quite stationary.

The subject of the non-survival of hybrids is not confined to the flickers but enters into the cases of other species that cross frequently or occasionally. It is well known that many hybrids are completely sterile, others are partially so. On casual observation the two flickers seem to be fully fertile with each other, but it may well be that there is sufficient handicap in this direction to prevent indefinite continuance of the hybrid strain in competition with either parent stock. The flickers offer unparalleled opportunities for studying these phases of hybridity, and to those favorably situated they present possibilities for interesting research.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum, Ottawa, Canada, September 10, 1933.*

Records of the Nesting of Certain Birds in Eastern California.—*Querquedula discors*. Blue-winged Teal. On July 2, 1933, in Long Valley, Mono County, California, a nest of this bird was found containing ten badly incubated eggs. The female flushed from the nest and accompanied by the male flew about in the vicinity of the nest which was located in a hummock of sage and marsh grass where a creek had been overflowing; at this date the water had receded, leaving the nest location out of the wet area.

Astur atricapillus striatulus. Western Goshawk. On June 26, 1930, a pair of these birds was found nesting in a dense grove of pines at 8500 feet elevation at June Lake. On this date the nest held three young birds sprouting pin feathers and estimated to be six weeks old. This same nest was visited again on June 6, 1931, at which time it held two young just hatched and one infertile egg. On May 8, 1932, a set of three eggs was collected from this nest, in which the incubation was advanced about one week. At all times the parent birds were vicious and it was not safe for anyone to inspect the nest while alone; such attempts resulted in clawed faces, arms and legs. But the birds were afraid of a group of people and more alarmed at a dog which accompanied us on these trips.

At all times a careful watch was kept for signs of food supplied the young, and our observations indicated that the food consisted entirely of marmots and chipmunks. The female would leave the nest and return within a few minutes with a chipmunk or marmot and proceed to shred the meat and feed it in small bits to the young. No feathers were noted in or around the nest at any time, although grouse

were quite plentiful near-by. The nest was placed about thirty feet above the ground and against the north side of the trunk of the tree; it was made of dead conifer twigs both inside and out, no lining except smaller dead twigs being used.

Cryptoglaux acadica acadica. Saw-whet Owl. On June 6, 1930, a nest of this bird was located at June Lake, Mono County, at about 8000 feet altitude. The nest was situated in a large dead fir stub in a deserted woodpecker hole and contained at this date one infertile egg and one young bird just ready to fly, apparently the last young bird to leave the nest.

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii. Nuttall Poor-will. On June 6, 1933, near June Lake, a nest of this bird was found containing two fresh eggs. The site was on a steep, well wooded western slope at about 7000 feet elevation, and the nest was located at the base of a mountain mahogany which gave it some protection from the snow which at this date covered the ground about two inches deep. No attempt had been made at nest building, the eggs lying upon the pumice pebbles which covered the ground.

Hyllocichla guttata sequoiensis. Sierra Hermit Thrust. On June 7, 1931, at June Lake, a nest of this bird was located thirty feet from the ground in a large pine tree and within one hundred yards of the occupied nest of the Western Goshawk. The nest held four slightly incubated eggs on this date.

Molothrus ater artemisiae. Nevada Cowbird. On June 28, 1933, an egg of this bird was found in a nest of the Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla* subsp.). The nest was found on Reverse Creek, Mono County, and was placed upon the ground at the base of a small wild rose bush and under a dense grove of aspens.

Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi. Western Evening Grosbeak. On June 23, 1932, three pairs of these birds were seen at one time picking up nesting material by the side of a well traveled public road at about 7000 feet altitude in Inyo County. The females were doing all the work and the males busied themselves fighting each other and assisting the females in finding the proper material. The males never carried any material, although they always followed the females to and from the nests. Two of the nests were located: one 110 feet up in the top of a large white fir; the other about 40 feet up in a white fir. On July 2, 1932, the nest held three and four eggs in which incubation was well begun. The females were sitting closely. The nests were located in a dry, heavily wooded valley. Since Western Tanagers were very common and nesting in the same grove and because of the resemblance between the nests, grosbeak nests were difficult to identify as such. Apparently there was an abundance of the proper food at this time and place for both of these birds, sufficient to cause them to nest there, for we have never seen either species at this place before or since.

Melospiza melodia saltonis. Desert Song Sparrow. Two nests of this bird were noted on May 12, 1932, on the west bank of the Colorado River about five miles upstream from Laguna Dam, Imperial County, on the California side of the river. One nest held four badly incubated eggs and the other contained three fresh eggs.

Among other birds found nesting within a twenty mile radius of June Lake, Mono County, were Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis canadensis*), five pairs of which with young well grown were seen on June 15, 1933. A resident informed us that the geese had eggs in their nests on March 26, 1933, when the snow was yet on the ground. A nest of the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus flammeus*) with six fresh eggs was collected on June 15, 1933; and a family of Marsh Hawks (*Circus hudsonius*) with four young well feathered was found, in addition to two sets of four eggs of the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). These seemed to be rather unusual finds for such a high altitude.—JAMES B. DIXON, *Escondido, California, September 28, 1933.*

Banded Laughing Gull Recovered in El Salvador.—The Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) appears to be a rare bird anywhere on the west coast of Central America, although several investigators have recorded its presence on both coasts of northern South America. According to both the 1910 and 1931 editions of the A. O. U. Check-List, it winters south to Chile, but Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 19, 1932, p. 410) in a footnote states that "*Larus atricilla* (Linnaeus), sometimes credited to Chile, has never been found there." The southern limits of its Pacific coast range are accordingly probably Peru—certainly Ecuador (see Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus.