

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.

Nat. Hist., 55, 1926, p. 188) where Murphy found it "common along the coast and up the Guayas from January to March, 1925." To the north on the Pacific coast, Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool, 32, 1928, p. 61) lists one "taken by Frazar at San Jose del Cabo, September 6, 1887," and ". . . another seen at the same place November 9 following." Recently the species has been found breeding on Salton Sea, California (Miller and van Rossem, Condor, 31, 1929, pp. 141-142).

It accordingly seems desirable to record a specimen (no. A518811) banded as a chick at Muskeget Island, Massachusetts, on July 13, 1930, by Miss Grace C. Meleney, which was found dead at Acajutla, El Salvador, on January 26, 1931.

This record has been included in the mimeographed monthly bulletin "Items of Interest" of the former Massachusetts Division of Ornithology, Department of Agriculture, but the record seems of sufficient importance to warrant formal publication.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., October 15, 1933.*

**An Occurrence of the Northern Black Swift off the Guatemalan Coast.**—On the evening of September 20, 1933, a black swift came on board the SS. Antigua, latitude 12° 52' N., longitude 91° 50' W., approximately eighty-four miles off the Guatemalan coast. The bird, which was uninjured, was secured by the vessel's master, Capt. W. A. Card, and by him presented to the California Academy of Sciences. It is now C. A. S. no. 38402. Upon examination the bird proved to be an example of the Northern Black Swift (*Nephoocetes niger borealis*). It was a female, and yielded the following measurements: wing, 160.0 mm.; tail, 50.5; culmen, 6.5; tarsus, 13.5; middle toe, 10.5. Since there is no authentic record of the occurrence of this bird south of southern Mexico (see Griscom, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 64, 1932, p. 195) this take is of decided interest.

From the same donor the California Academy of Sciences has also received specimens of the Socorro Petrel (*Oceanodroma socorroensis*), taken on May 12, 1933, latitude 9° 10' N., longitude 86° 04' W., and an example of the Galapagos Petrel (*Oceanodroma tethys*), on September 22, 1933, latitude 16° 45' N., longitude 100° 28' W. Although these occurrences do not extend the known range of either species, yet specimens from these positions are sufficiently rare to warrant note being made of their existence.—M. E. McLELLAN DAVIDSON, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, September 30, 1933.*

**Yellow-billed Magpies in Captivity.**—My first acquaintance with a magpie was in August, 1930, in one of Mrs. Florence Eichwaldt's aviaries. Immediately I inquired where I could get one, but no one knew where. With this, I gave up thought of getting one, but "Maggie" as she is called, was always a source of interest to me. On every visit I made, I tried to get her to talk to me, and she sometimes would reward me with, "Hello Maggie."

On March 28, 1932, I had the very good fortune to find a colony of nesting Yellow-billed Magpies (*Pica nuttallii*), and my first thought was to raise some young birds. In the middle of May I took two of them, giving one to Mrs. Eichwaldt. After a great deal of work and worry we could boast of two fine birds. Since her other bird was named "Maggie," Mrs. Eichwaldt named her new one "Jiggs," while mine was called "Blackie."

My bird was later dubbed the "Ornery Black-bird" when her mischievous disposition began to show itself. We did not have a really safe aviary outdoors for her, so we kept her indoors for some time. This made her tame and she became a fine pet. Her career in the house was unequalled for mischief. She would hide anything she could lift, such as needles, nails, pins, buttons, money, trinkets and food of all kinds.

When the groceries came home she seemed to know the package of meat and promptly pecked a hole in it. She would eat till satisfied, and grab as big a mouthful as possible, hide it, and then come back for more. Cookies and biscuit dough topped the list of her favorite foods. When baking was started she had to be put out on the back porch, for if she was left in the kitchen there would be dough all over the house. Every time someone happened to go near one of her hiding places she was there to retrieve the article if it was uncovered and try to hide it in another place.