

The chick displayed complete confidence in its camouflage, because it did not move until I picked it up. However, as soon as the chick was touched it began to call. The mother immediately flew out of the alfalfa cover 15 feet away and began to feign a broken wing and approached to within 10 feet of me as I held the chick.

I released the chick and later in the day the mother with five chicks was observed. The chicks were small, probably a week old. The brood was not observed again during the season. The mother was unquestionably a Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*). Later the same day she was observed in the same field by Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell University, who verified my identification.

The field in which this brood was found was situated in the center of a dry-farming area, on Sagamore Farm, about 1½ miles north of Paradise, Utah. The field was more than a mile from the nearest mountain or timberland. The mountains, which begin 1½ miles distant, constitute the regular breeding range for Dusky Grouse. I know of no instance in which this species has been known to nest so far from timber or mountains, and no instance in which it has been observed to nest in a cultivated field.—ORVILLE S. LEE, *Game Management Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, March 2, 1936.*

Further Note on the Status of Skylarks on Vancouver Island.—Not long after reading Mr. Theo. H. Scheffer's delightful account in the Condor (37, 1935, p. 256) of the history and manners of the English Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, it was my very good fortune to see some of the birds there myself. On the morning of October 8, 1935, Mrs. Grinnell and I, in company with Mr. Francis Kermodé and Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, and guided by Mr. G. D. Sprot, found ourselves in the vicinity of an old flying field in the northern environs of Victoria.

Here, partly on ground sprouting to fall-sown wheat, and partly on stubble and pasture, we found fully 40 Skylarks, scattered over an area of perhaps 15 acres. The day was mild, the sun coming out warmly at intervals, and then up would go the birds in pairs or three's, pursuing one another aloft and uttering notes to me reminding of those of the Tree Swallow with, perhaps, a suggestion of Purple Martin. A few of these performers would climb very far up, circle twittering, and then dive downward on set wings. As a bird rose in flight it would show white on the outer tail feathers; but on the ground, keeping back to the observer, its sandy color-tones were unrelieved by markings and rendered its outlines difficult for the eye to pick up. Mr. Kermodé and Mr. Sprot told us that these autumnal song-flights were incomplete or meager compared with the efforts to be witnessed in spring.

Subsequently, Mr. Sprot wrote me that he believed Mr. Scheffer in error in stating that the number of Skylarks released on Vancouver Island in 1903 was "100 pairs." The correct number, Mr. Sprot states, is 99 individuals. Mr. Scheffer's statement of numbers released in 1913 is believed by Mr. Sprot to be correct.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, January 5, 1936.*

Notes on the Birds of Nevada.—The timely report of Jean M. Linsdale (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936) fills a much needed gap in western ornithology. The following additional notes of some of the rarer birds or others not reported by him from southeastern Nevada may be of interest. While these are all sight records, the birds were observed at close range with field glasses under the most favorable circumstances. The writer taught school in Pahranaagat Valley, Nevada, from September to May for three years, 1922 to 1925.

Three Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) and two common Loons (*Gavia immer*) were seen on several occasions at Hiko Lake in December, 1923, and January, 1924.

Six White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons albifrons*) in a marsh feeding in company with about a dozen Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*) were observed some 8 miles south of Alamo on January 1, 1925. Both species probably occur in limited numbers in this valley each winter. The White-fronted Goose is not listed in Linsdale's bulletin.

A few Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis [tabida ?]*) seem to migrate down Pahranaagat Valley each fall. A flock of 15 individuals was noted 10 miles south of Alamo early in November, 1924.

Linsdale writes (*op. cit.*, p. 68) that the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was recorded only in the fall, but states that doubtless it is also present in the spring. It was noted by me at Alamo, each spring migration, late in April or early in May.

The Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is reported to be an infrequent summer resident in the northern part of the State. A specimen was observed on a number of occasions near Alamo early in May, 1925. The Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) also was seen almost daily on a vacant lot in that town in May of 1924 and 1925. It may also be reported that at least a pair of Vermilion

Flycatchers (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*) remained throughout the winter of 1924-25 in the valley south of Alamo.

On the basis of a single specimen collected in Esmeralda County, Linsdale places the Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) on the Nevada list. An individual of this species was observed at Alamo in a currant thicket on May 1, 1924, for fully half an hour. The writer and his wife were attracted to the bird by its characteristic cat-like mew, which was later followed by its more normal song. At one time the observers were within three feet of the bird and could, of course, see every marking.

The status of the Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*) in Nevada likewise seems to be based on few records. On April 23, 1924, a flock of perhaps 20 of these birds was seen in a chinaberry tree in the town.

Linsdale writes that the northern limit of the Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens lepida*) in the State is not known. It may be reported that these birds frequented a small wild plum thicket in the town of Alamo each summer from May to September.

Definite records of the Western Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi*) seem to be lacking for the eastern and southern parts of the State. A flock of 30 or more individuals was observed on March 15, 1925, at a spring locally known as "Eight-mile", some 15 miles east of Alamo. Piñon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*), Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*), and Cassin Purple Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*) were also found at this same locality.

The Western Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea ochracea*) is known in the State from few specific records. While not abundant it is of annual occurrence in Pahrnagat Valley each winter.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., February 19, 1936.*

A New Record For Northwestern Oregon.—On January 8, 1936, a Mr. Fellows, of Gaston, Washington County, Oregon, reported about 300 Piñon Jays (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*) in his vicinity. He secured one of the birds, a female, and sent it to W. A. Eliot, President of the Oregon Audubon Society. Mr. Eliot very kindly gave the bird to me and it is now in my collection. So far as I have been able to determine, no specimen of the Piñon Jay taken west of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon has been recorded.—H. M. DU BOIS, *Clackamas, Oregon, February 25, 1936.*

Black-crowned Night Heron in Ukiah, California.—On a side street in Ukiah, California, shading an ancient dwelling, stand two Monterey cypress trees about fifteen feet apart. Their branches interlace so as to form one mass of thick foliage. For a number of years the shelter thus provided has served as winter sleeping-quarters for Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*). This winter they arrived, or at least moved in, about December 1, 1935, after an absence of about seven months. March 23, 1935, was the last spring date on which I had noted them.

During the daylight hours they are so quiet that few of the passers-by suspect their presence. Not a sound is made, and but few movements which might attract attention. It is worthy of note, too, that there is absolutely no litter of droppings or feathers on the ground to betray them.

At dusk, however, the birds come to life, and sudden activity ensues. There is a movement in the upper branches, and tentative stretching of avian limbs. Then a raucous "wawk" breaks the silence. "Time to go," it seems to say, and suiting the action to the word the first bird launches out, with several more calls. Almost immediately other birds follow, and "wawk, wawk" is heard on all sides as they take to the air. Some fly directly toward the river, about a mile distant; others circle about once or twice before making off for other feeding grounds.

Whether the river, or the orchards and low-lying fields, largely flooded at this time of year, constitutes the main base of feeding operations, I cannot say. But a nightly chorus of frogs from shallow ponds in the vicinity indicates an abundant supply of food. Recently I counted twenty birds as they left the cypress trees for their nightly foraging. In the morning, with the first streaks of daylight, they came flapping their way back again, by one's, two's or three's. At this time very few of the loud cries are given. But as they settle among the branches they utter a few quiet notes suggestive of ducks when feeding.

Hoffmann in his "Birds of the Pacific States" says of the Black-crowned Night Herons in California: "Common Summer Visitor. Winters less commonly as far north as Marin County." Ukiah is one hundred miles farther north; or somewhat north of the 39th parallel of latitude, yet nevertheless is evidently an established part of their winter range.

At least four of the birds have the streaky plumage of immature birds. Does this mean that they are last year's nestlings, and that they remain in and of the family the second year? Following the same thought further, is the entire group of herons a one-family group?—LOUIS A. ELMORE, *Ukiah, California, February 22, 1936.*