

American Knots on San Diego Bay, California.—During March, 1939, Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, eminent English ornithologist, was a visitor in San Diego where he collected a number of birds. He was making a particular study of mallophaga, in cooperation with Miss Theresa Clay of the British Museum. Among the birds taken were several American Knots (*Calidris canutus rufus*), two of which, both females, he donated to the San Diego Society of Natural History. One (no. 18053, S.D.S.N.H.), taken on March 3, shows the first suggestion of breeding plumage on breast and back; the other (no. 18056, S.D.S.N.H.), taken on March 5, is in typical winter plumage. The birds were shot near the south end of San Diego Bay, where Colonel Meinertzhagen declared that there were "hundreds" of them, adding that the Knot is a species with which he is very familiar in the Old World. This estimate was supported by J. Elton Green, of the San Diego Society of Natural History, who was acting as field assistant. The twenty-eight Knots recorded from San Diego Bay by Huey (Condor, vol. 40, 1938, p. 90) and the occurrences reported here lead one to question whether the Knot may not be more abundant than is generally supposed; it possibly is overlooked on account of its resemblance to certain other shore birds.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, July 21, 1939.*

Great-tailed Grackle Breeding in New Mexico.—On May 5, 1939, while motoring southward along the Rio Grande with my wife and Mr. Edward Chalif, I was surprised to see several Great-tailed Grackles (*Cassidix mexicanus mexicanus*) at a point about ten miles south of Albuquerque in the central part of the state of New Mexico; both males and females were present and apparently were breeding.

We saw grackles at several other points along the river farther down on our way to Las Cruces. Our casual observations seemed to indicate that they were fairly well distributed in suitable places along the river. We were surprised to see so many individuals at so many scattered points, but were even more surprised the following day, May 6, when we saw several more in the city of Lordsburg in the southwesternmost part of the state. On investigation, we found that they had actually been nesting; a dozen or more unoccupied nests were observed in the wind-swept cottonwood trees near the railroad yards. One young bird just out of the nest was seen.

Upon inquiring about the grackles, we learned from a machinist in the train yard that the birds had put in their appearance in considerable numbers four years before and had been there ever since. He said that most of the young had left the nests about a week before our arrival. Lordsburg is very near the Arizona line and a considerable distance from any large body of water.

In as much as Mrs. Bailey (Birds of New Mexico, 1928, pp. 658-659) gives comparatively few records of this species for the state of New Mexico, and only two nesting records (a colony in the southeastern part of the state on the Pecos River and one pair at La Mesa) it would seem that this bird must be extending its range. We looked for Great-tails in southeastern Arizona but did not see any. The fourth edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (1931, p. 308) does not include New Mexico in the range of this species.—ROGER T. PETERSON, *National Association of Audubon Societies, New York City, July 20, 1939.*

Further Notes on the Feeding Habits of the Treganza Blue Heron.—In a previous issue of the Condor (vol. 40, 1938, p. 258) I reported seeing Treganza Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias treganzai*) feeding on the numerous rodents trapped by the rising waters of Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada. That observation brought letters from interested readers requesting me to watch during the rise of the lake in subsequent seasons to see if similar incidents occurred.

In the spring and early summer of 1939 I again observed blue herons carrying on rodent catching activities along the lake. They were especially active in the Muddy River valley on the Virgin arm of Lake Mead. This year several American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) also were regularly seen in the same locality. Whether or not these white herons were actually catching rodents could not be determined, but their presence throughout the time the lake was rising leads me to suspect that such was the case.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Boulder Dam National Recreational Area, Nevada, August 2, 1939.*

Townsend Solitaires Declare Ownership.—On January 10, 1937, I saw a Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) rout a flock of about twenty-five Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*) from his haw thicket in City Creek Canyon, Salt Lake City, Utah. While on my way up the canyon, I had noted the solitaire. Just as I returned, the waxwings arrived. The solitaire dashed from one to another, moving them from place to place. They finally bunched on the top of an adjacent oak clump and raised their heads and trilled. But, this did not dismay him. He charged at the flock and put them to flight down the canyon.