made of grass and leaves at "mountain dry place." He also remarked that "these birds were hardly seen so few around."

This is one of the very few breeding records for this species, and I understand it to be the only perfectly prepared set of eggs in any collection. The photograph (fig. 36), and a few notes on the eggs will help to visualize them.

Upon first viewing the eggs I was impressed with a possible resemblance to those of the Baird Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdii*) or possibly those of the Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*), although they seemed to be smaller than the former and larger than the latter. A comparison was made with my series of each of these, and my estimate as to size was confirmed, but the eggs did not fit well as to coloration in either series.

The eggs are uniform in size, shape, and markings. They are ovate pyriform in shape with a smooth shell which has a slight luster. The markings are fairly heavy, with most of them on the large ends, and with little if any tendency to spirals. The ground color is Tilleul-buff and most of the markings, from pin point size to fairly large blotches, are bay and brownish drab. There are a few small flecks of black or slate black, chiefly on two eggs, superimposed on the large end of each egg. The average size is 29.7 by 22.6 mm. (30.1 x 22.6; 29.7 x 22.8; 29.7 x 22.6; 29.3 x 22.6). These specimens are no. 6475 in my collection.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, December 25, 1939.*

Some Birds from the Bulkley River, British Columbia.—During the summer of 1938 Mr. Claude W. Ritz made a hunting trip to the Bulkley River, a tributary of the Skeena River in north-central British Columbia. Ritz made use of this opportunity to secure specimens of birds for the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. He collected at Topley, near the head of the Bulkley River, on July 18, and at Hazelton, at the junction of the Bulkley and Skeena rivers, from July 20 to September 18.

Two parties from the Canadian Geological Survey worked at Hazelton in 1917. J. M. Macoun and Wm. Spreadborough collected there from June 20 to July 21, and P. A. Taverner spent the period from August 23 to 29 in the same area. The results of these two trips were published by Taverner (Condor, vol. 21, 1919, pp. 80-86), who listed 69 species.

From May 25 to September 26, 1921, Harry S. Swarth and W. D. Strong made a collecting trip to the upper Skeena in the interests of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California. Their headquarters were at Hazelton, but they also worked in the Kispiox Valley and on Nine-mile Mountain. Swarth's paper (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 24, 1924, pp. 315-394) records 127 forms of birds from the upper Skeena. The University of California party found all the species reported by Taverner except *Charitonetta albeola, Buteo swainsoni, Otus asio, Corvus corax,* and *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. According to Brooks and Swarth (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 17, 1925, p. 83), the last was a misidentification of *Euphagus carolinus,* which was also secured by Swarth and Strong. The hawk and owl were included on admittedly doubtful visual and auditory evidence and may now be excluded from further consideration.

While the number of species taken by Ritz is not large, since he did not pay much attention to the smaller land birds, several species previously unknown from the region are contained in the collection, and others which were reported by Swarth and Taverner on the basis of sight records are now represented by specimens. The most interesting of his specimens are recorded here. Ritz's work brings the total of birds of the upper Skeena to 137.

Ardea herodias fannini. Northwestern Coast Heron. Hazelton, 1 ♀ juv., August 7. With only two sight records, Swarth assumed *fannini* to be the form of the upper Skeena, and this assumption now proves to be correct. Hazelton seems to be the most northern point at which *fannini* has been recorded from the interior.

Botaurus lentiginosus lentiginosus. American Bittern. Topley, 1 ♀, July 18. Swarth secured no specimens, but he reported seeing bitterns once or twice in the Kispiox Valley, which is the most northwesterly station for the bittern.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. Hazelton, 1 ♀, September 13. Previously unknown from the upper Skeena area.

Accipiter striatus velox. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Hazelton, 1 ♀ juv., July 28; 1 ♀ juv., August 12.

Accipiter striatus perobscurus. Northwest Coast Sharp-shinned Hawk. Hazelton, 1 ♂ juv., August 3; 1 ♀ juv., August 4. On comparing these two birds with more than 250 skins of *velox* in the University of Michigan collection, I find that they are much darker than any individuals of that race, thus agreeing with three juvenile *perobscurus* from Vancouver Island. Although forming a considerable range extension inland for this recently described race, the record is not unexpected, since several northwest coast forms occur in the upper Skeena region, at least on migration. We also have two Oregon specimens which must be referred to *perobscurus,* one from Portland taken November

12, 1909, the other from Tillamook collected November 26, 1925. Typical *velox* also occurs at both these places.

Porzana carolina. Sora. Hazelton, 1 ♂ juv., August 8. Not found by any of the earlier parties. This seems to be the most northwesterly point at which the species has been taken.

Totanus flavipes. Lesser Yellow-legs. Hazelton, 1 ♂, August 6. An addition to the upper Skeena list.

Larus argentatus smithsonianus. Herring Gull. Hazelton, 1 ♀ ad., August 14; 1 ♀ ad., August 15. Although unrecorded by either Taverner or Swarth, the Herring Gull is stated to breed at Babine Lake, only a few miles from Topley (W. W. Cooke, Bull. U. S. Dept. Agr., No. 292, 1915, p. 37).

Bubo virginianus saturatus. Dusky Horned Owl. Hazelton, 1 ♂, August 23. This specimen is even darker than any of our other skins of *saturatus*. Swarth took a series of 21 horned owls in this region, all of which he referred to *lagophonus*.

Colaptes auratus borealis. Boreal Flicker. Hazelton, 1 ♂, July 24; 1 ♀, August 26. Both show some traces of red-shafted blood.

Perisoreus canadensis canadensis. Canada Jay. Hazelton, 1 ♀ im., August 1; 1 ♂, August 16; 2 ♂, September 1. One of these birds shows an approach to *albescens* of southern Alberta.

Cinclus mexicanus unicolor. Water Ouzel. Hazelton, 1 ♀ ad., 1 ♂ juv., September 14. Not recorded by either of the previous expeditions.

Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi. British Columbia Evening Grosbeak. Hazelton, 1 ♂ juv., August 7.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 9, 1939.*

Wilson Phalaropes and Avocets at Abert Lake, Oregon.—On July 6, 1939, W. F. Kubichek, of the U. S. Biological Survey, and the writer while driving south along the east shore of Abert Lake, Lake County, Oregon, were attracted by the sight of unusually large numbers of Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*). Along a three-mile shore line we counted about 1200 of the birds. Others were seen a few miles farther south, and although we did not count those accurately, we estimated that we saw no fewer than 1800 Avocets along about five miles of shore line. Although these birds have nested in considerable numbers at Abert Lake for at least twenty-five years, the population during the summer of 1939 greatly outnumbered that of any previous year during the writer's experience.

While checking on the Avocets, we were astounded at the numbers of Wilson Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*), both on the open water and feeding along the shore line. These birds covered acres of open water, and when detachments made short flights, they whirled and twisted in almost solid formation, much like massed flocks of sandpipers along the ocean beaches. We estimated there were no fewer than 25,000 of these birds in sight at one time. A few days later the area was visited by William L. Finley, the well-known ornithologist; David Aylard, President of the National Wildlife Federation; and Tom B. Murray, of the U. S. Biological Survey, who considered our estimate of the numbers too low. Later, Frank B. Wire, State Game Supervisor, visited the area and estimated that there were 100,000 phalaropes present. The writer does not vouch for the accuracy of any of these estimates, but is positive that he has never before seen such large numbers of Wilson Phalaropes at any one time during his thirty years of field work in the Pacific coast states.

The fact that millions of a species of small brown insect had evidently died over or on the waters of the lake and had washed up along the shore line, forming a solid mass for miles, on which both avocets and phalaropes were feeding, may account in part for such a great concentration of these birds.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 29, 1939.*

Polygamy in the English Sparrow.—What was unquestionably a case of polygamy in the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) came to my notice in the spring of 1939. A pair of English Sparrows was taking one of two nesting boxes, put up for the Violet-green Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina*) which nested in one of the boxes for some years; the boxes are close together in the same eave of the house. I destroyed the first nest of the English Sparrows, but, as usual, the birds promptly started nesting again, and I took a second nest with six eggs. Shortly afterwards, I saw the male sparrow with two females, both of which came out of the same box. Fortunately, the eggs taken had not been destroyed, and an examination of these showed four considerably incubated, but the other two showed only traces of blood. I judged that about five days had elapsed between the layings.

I shot four females in a week from this particular box; the first one I did not examine, but it actually came off the eggs; the second had a brood patch whereas the last two showed no sign of brooding. This seemed to exhaust the supply of unpaired females, for although the male remained around some time and was calling all the time, no further nesting took place.