

The second specimen ascribed to this race (or this color phase; see Swarth, Condor, 37, 1935:201) is a female from Pasadena. This bird also was picked up about December 1, 1940, alive, but badly wounded, and brought to the home of Harold Michener. It was later prepared as a skin by myself. The ovaries showed evidence of having been active the previous spring, but the general plumage is that of an immature bird. One feather of the left scapular area, however, shows the dark blue with central black stripe of the mature plumage. As compared with another post-breeding winter female from San Fernando, Los Angeles County, the remainder of the dorsal plumage is markedly darker, with the same widening of the dark penciling on the crown. On the ventral surface, the lighter brown of the feather margins is crowded to a minimum by the heavy umber stripes down the centers. The two specimens make a very handsome pair of dark-plumed birds, the first recorded from the San Diegan district since the Grinnell specimen of more than forty years ago. The southern California birds are not from a breeding area, of course, and hence they shed no light upon Swarth's very proper suggestion of dichromatism instead of racial distinction based upon geographic range.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California, Los Angeles, March 3, 1941.*

Cackling Goose and Sheep.—At Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, sometime in October, 1940, a Cackling Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*), believed to be a male, alighted beside a flock of a dozen or so sheep and subsequently remained with them at all times for a period exceeding six months. The precise locality was the Qualicum golf course which slopes to the sea and is a warm and pleasant winter pasturage. The goose remained with the sheep all winter, grazing and

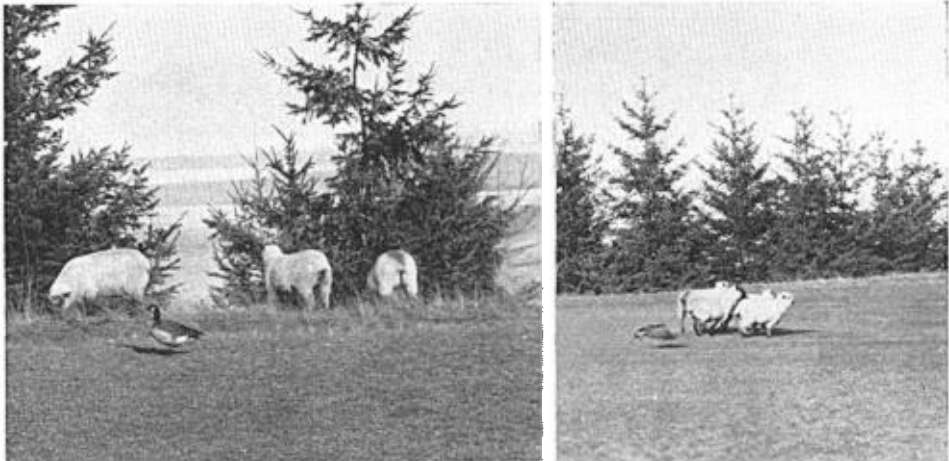


Fig. 59. Cackling Goose and part of the band of sheep with which it wintered.

resting with them by day and being folded with them at night. On the one occasion I visited the scene the goose was more fearless than the sheep. When I approached with a camera the goose continued to graze while the sheep ran. After a moment or so the goose would either run or fly after them, sometimes alighting in the midst of the flock. The goose left on the night of April 30, 1941; on the preceding day it was reported to have been restless and to have made short flights about the golf course.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, May 17, 1941.*

Male Marsh Hawks at the Nest.—On May 18, 1940, while observing the nest of a Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) in the Truckee Meadows, two miles southeast of Reno, Nevada, we were surprised to see the male fly in and alight on the nest when the female was out hunting. The bird appeared to be inspecting the four eggs, but flew up almost immediately at the sound of the camera shutter from within the adjacent blind.

Nearly a month later, on June 13, Christensen saw a male bird come to another nest with a large headless leopard lizard (*Crotaphytus wislizenii*) in his talons. He dropped the lizard and immediately flew off. This nest, located a mile east of the one first mentioned, contained three young birds thirteen days old. The female hawk was shading the young over in one corner of the low, water-surrounded

structure, but immediately came over and tore off the tail of the lizard, which she ate. Following this, she dismembered the rest of the lizard and fed it to the young, who had followed her over to the food.—GLEN CHRISTENSEN AND THOMAS TRELEASE, *Reno, Nevada, February 8, 1941.*

Range of the Texas Woodpecker in Colorado.—Literature relating to the distribution of the Texas Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris*) in Colorado has defined its range as being south of the Arkansas River, generally below the 5000-foot contour, and in particular confined to the extensive pinyon and cedar association below this limit. Since several standard texts (A. O. U. Check-list, 1931, and others) have accepted these limits, five records from north of the Arkansas, where the pinyon association is represented chiefly by scattered stands in arid localities, seem worthy of mention.

Sclater, in his "Birds of Colorado" (1912:227), states that "recently Aiken has received examples . . . taken in the Fountain Valley some twenty miles north of Pueblo." Pueblo is on the Arkansas, at 4600 feet elevation; the Fountain Valley is entirely a region of cottonwoods, with few pinyons anywhere. Aiken also saw one in lower Colorado Springs, September 1, 1915. During the winter of 1931-1932 a single Texas Woodpecker was present in Colorado Springs at the feeding tray of Miss Mary Avery, an observant bird lover, who made a careful identification. Colorado Springs is 45 miles north of Pueblo, at 6000 feet altitude, and literally at the upper margin of the Upper Sonoran Zone.

Three records for *scalaris* have been obtained by the writer in the past fifteen months. A female was present at the Johnson Reservoir, just east of Fountain Creek, eleven miles south of Colorado Springs, between February 10 and March 23, 1940. This was in a cottonwood association. Another winter occurrence was noted December 23, 1940, in the lower foothill (lower Transition) zone, during the Christmas census count. This bird, a male, was observed in a cottonwood grove beside Cheyenne Creek. Finally, a female was seen and carefully studied in a choke-cherry thicket near lower Colorado Springs, on May 3, 1941.

It seems possible, from these notes, that the range of the Texas Woodpecker is extending northward in Colorado beyond its formerly well-defined boundaries in the cedar and pinyon country. While so far the advance has been relatively small in distance (45 miles), students of Colorado's complex life-zone problem will recognize that these movements, reaching nearly 1400 feet greater altitude beyond the strongholds of the cedar and pinyon association, have breached one of the best-defined zones in the state.—SAMUEL W. GADD, *Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 8, 1941.*

Western Robin Nesting Near Pasadena, California.—Inasmuch as Mr. George Willett advises he has received no record of Western Robins (*Turdus migratorius propinquus*) nesting at a low elevation in the San Gabriel Valley, California, since the report by Wilson and Campbell (Condor, 33, 1931:250) of young at Monrovia, in June of 1931, it seems well to record the breeding of several pairs this spring (1941) in the Pasadena area. Prior to this year, there seem to have been no records of nests and only two records of young birds observed in the foothill region of southern California below an altitude of 5000 feet (Willett, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933:130.).

On April 1, a pair of these birds was flying about a new lawn owned by us in Flintridge. The birds carried nesting material to a square metal ornament, which flares out at the top of a water spout immediately under the eaves of the north side of the garage. This is almost directly over the parking area, into which cars have been passing daily for months. The birds are obviously much tamer than the migrating robins, which normally roost during migration in the tops of near-by poplars. By April 15 both birds had become so used to people that they would fly from the nest down to the lawn, gathering worms within a few feet of persons playing croquet. The building of the nest seemed to occupy the birds in a desultory fashion for a number of days.

It was not until about April 30 that the parents were observed feeding young. Although the male helped with the feeding, the female invariably brooded the young at night. By May 6 it became apparent the parent birds were going farther afield to obtain worms, disappearing into the arroyo on the west, where the ground is wet nightly by an automatic sprinkler and kept damp by the thick tree-growth. Lack of rain for about ten days had rendered the ground on the lawn hard and had driven the worms well below the surface. On May 13 the nest contained three young birds, approximately one-third grown.

Four other nests have been found in the vicinity of Pasadena this year. My friend, Wendell Taber, reported about the middle of April that he had observed robins near South Arroyo Drive, and later he prepared a memorandum dated April 29, from which I quote the following: "Saw a robin taking mud out of gutter in South Arroyo Drive, Pasadena, opposite end of South San Rafael Street bridge. I saw nest with bird molding it by squatting and moving around. The nest is about