

twenty feet above the ground and is made most conspicuous by having what is apparently a paper napkin inserted near the bottom in such a way that perhaps two-thirds of the napkin projects and moves with the wind."

On the same day, he discovered another pair of robins only a few hundred yards from the first pair and observed one of the birds carrying nesting material. The nest was discovered on May 13 and on May 10 Mrs. Lawrence Kiplinger of Busch Place, Pasadena, showed Mr. Taber two more occupied nests of robins not far from her property, in the Arroyo. Mrs. Kiplinger states that the robins nested in this locality in the years 1939 and 1940.

A satisfactory theory as to the underlying cause which has prompted robins to nest at the low altitude of Pasadena (700 to 1200 feet) may be found in the heavy rains of the past two years. The normal annual rainfall for the Pasadena area is 19.87 inches, but for the season of 1941 to date it amounts to 46.29 inches! Frequent rains continued throughout the latter part of March and April, keeping the ground damp and worms close to the ground surface. In fact, they were observed frequently crawling on the driveway of a near-by house. The dryness of the soil in normal years makes the obtaining of worms a problem and probably is an important factor in restricting nesting to high altitudes, where rains are more frequent.

However, it should be noted that several species of birds, normally restricted to the higher mountains, such as the White-headed Woodpecker (see p. 196) and the Blue-fronted Jays have been observed in the Pasadena area this spring. Various reports have come to me of Blue-fronted Jays staying late in April at low levels, and a pair remained on our property in Flintridge at least until April 20. For a long time there were two pairs, but only one remained through April. These individuals went through all the secretive peering actions common to birds hunting for nesting sites. As I was not well during this period, I could not definitely determine whether a nest was built. They have not been observed since May 4.—ROBERT T. MOORE, *Pasadena, California, May 19, 1941.*

Yellow-headed Blackbird Nests near Minden, Nevada.—Near Minden, Douglas County, Nevada, where a branch of the Carson River spreads into a marsh, there is a colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) nesting. The area that I have been particularly interested in is a farm where cattle, sheep and pigs are kept. There are ditches bordering cultivated fields and meadow land where in the spring open water stands. From this farm the east wall of the Sierra, with snow on the upper portion, seems very close. A slight rise of ground toward the hills puts one immediately into sagebrush country.

In an attempt to find out how many Yellow-heads were nesting in what seemed to be a large and rather spread out colony, I chose for study a small patch of tules that was accessible (with the aid of high rubber boots) and where in several seasons I had seen full-plumaged males perched and singing. On May 31, 1941, I examined this patch of tules, which was approximately 20 feet long and perhaps 10 feet wide through its thickest part. I counted thirty-one nests. Ten nests had four young that had been recently hatched; one nest had one egg and three young; two nests contained three eggs only; eleven nests had four eggs each. The rest of the nests were empty. Some seemed to be new and waiting for occupancy; the others were old and disheveled. In one instance, two nests containing four eggs each were less than eighteen inches apart.

There were other nests in tules bordering the deeper open water of the marsh and some of them I saw from a boat, but did not count. Across the highway where the marsh is completely overgrown, full-plumaged males sat in the tules or other vegetation and sang and females were seen in and about the area. This was also true along some of the ditches.

I have no idea of the size of the colony but it seems to me it must number in the hundreds.—HOPE M. GLADDING, *Berkeley, California, June 16, 1941.*