

than thirty-one were visible at any one time. The huge birds soared over the rim of the ridge and out of sight, singly or in small groups, but shortly either the same birds or others kept reappearing at other points from the opposite side of the same ridge. We estimated that there could easily have been fifty of them along that one valley and the ridge they crossed and recrossed in their wheeling flight. Their activity during mid-day may well have been influenced by the dense, continuous layer of clouds that had blanketed the whole páramo and its adjacent peaks during the earlier hours. On subsequent days when the early morning hours were clear the condors were active for only two or three hours immediately following sunrise and again for a short time just before sunset. Rarely were they seen during the middle of the day.

We were in the Piñan region for some days and saw condors every day, but never again so many at any one time. A half dozen within sight at once was a common occurrence, and not infrequently we counted ten to fifteen within sight of the unaided eye. A lone condor was a rarity, at least within the scope of our limited observations.

Just after sunrise one morning several of our cargadores were attracted by the actions of three condors which had been under observation for several minutes as they wheeled in great circles two or three thousand feet above us. They suddenly plunged downward toward a small draw about a half mile away and disappeared behind an intervening ridge. One of the Indians declared that the condors were attacking a calf or a deer. The mayordomo of our group of native helpers grabbed a shotgun and hustled across the páramo in an attempt to drive off the marauding condors, or to obtain the fresh meat for our own use in case the raptors killed the animal before he reached it. By the time he reached the rise overlooking the point where the condors had disappeared, the calf, for so it proved to be, was dead.

The mayordomo, Manuel Giler, brought the animal back to camp so I had an opportunity to examine the wounds inflicted by the condors and to judge of their manner of attacking the flesh of their kill. A gash on the left side of the chest cut clear through into the chest cavity, between the ribs, and the lung was deeply torn. The heart, however, had not been injured, but a considerable quantity of blood was in the chest cavity. Another gash exposed the flesh of the "saddle" just above the left kidney and perhaps a pound of the tenderloin had been stripped out. Other wounds were present on the nose and about the head of the calf, whether made by claws or by the beaks of the attacking birds I am unable to say. One eye had been pierced but not entirely plucked from its socket. The abdominal wall had been penetrated and about a third of the animal's viscera had been dragged out through a hole less than two inches in diameter. Aside from the areas mentioned, the skin was not torn and the condors appeared to have begun feeding by working through the comparatively small holes instead of by stripping away the covering skin.—IRA L. WIGGINS, *Natural History Museum, Stanford University, California, March 23, 1945.*

Feeding Habits of the Clark Nutcracker.—Like the Canada and Steller jays, the Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) is often attracted to mountain camps and cabins by food scraps. Apparently the nutcracker, like other corvids, will feed on meat or carrion, but usually such feeding is done upon the carcasses of mammals or birds. On a trip to Yellowstone National Park in January-February, 1944, however, Dr. E. R. Quortrup of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge observed a Clark Nutcracker feeding upon the flesh surrounding the lacrimal ducts of an injured cow elk.

Feeding upon sores or freshly made brands of livestock or upon the sores of big game, is not a particularly uncommon practice of the Magpie (*Pica pica*). Adolph Murie, in his "Ecology of the Coyote in Yellowstone" (Fauna Series 14, Conservation Bulletin 4, National Park Service, 1940), mentioned finding magpies that apparently were picking at mites and ticks on live mountain sheep, elk, and bison; he also found ticks in the stomach of a dead magpie. M. P. Skinner, in 1920, reported Clark Nutcrackers in Yellowstone National Park congregating on grounds where elk had bedded; here the birds were finding and consuming large numbers of ticks. O. J. Murie writes (letter, March 1, 1944) that he found a Clark Nutcracker with engorged ticks in its throat. Perhaps this habit of seeking parasites on big game or livestock may lead these birds occasionally to probe deeper and obtain live flesh.

Ten stomachs, critically analyzed in the laboratory of the Fish and Wildlife Service, revealed that these Clark Nutcrackers had taken the following foods in approximately this order of abundance: pine seeds, cicadas, grasshoppers, oats and other grains, spiders, blister beetles, Hymenoptera (including ants, bees, and wasps), weevils, ticks, ground beetles, rove beetles, meadow mice, scarab beetles, and miscellaneous insects.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, May 4, 1945.*

Miscellaneous Records of Birds Uncommon in Utah.—At various times in recent years the writers have, in their general collecting, obtained birds of relatively rare occurrence in Utah, at