

and Waterton Lakes parks, Alberta, and into much of Kootenay and Yoho parks, British Columbia, from 1943 to 1945, permitted fairly extensive observation of the breeding range of *taverneri*.

This race is now known to be an abundant breeding bird in the timberline habitat on both slopes of the Rocky Mountains from the northernmost areas visited on the northern boundary of Jasper National Park south at least to the southern boundary of Banff National Park.

Specimens of breeding birds have been taken at Tonquin Valley, Cairn Pass, and Sunwapta Pass in Jasper Park, at Peyto Lake, Watchman Lake and Baker Lake in Banff Park, and on Thompson Pass, British Columbia. Timberline sparrows have been seen or heard virtually everywhere our travels took us to timberline in both these parks as well as in interprovincial boundary regions of Yoho and Kootenay parks.

On Sunwapta Pass on July 5, 1945, adults were feeding nestlings recently out of the nests, as they were also at Watchman Lake on July 28, 1945. On July 13, 1944, on the eastern slopes of Mount Southesk a nest containing three fresh eggs was found in a stunted balsam. The nest was placed two feet from the ground and was composed of fine weed stems and grasses with a lining of moose hair. The three eggs were in ground color the same clear blue seen in the eggs of the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). They were finely speckled around the larger end with pale lavender-brown and showed a prominent ring of pale brownish blotches just above the largest circumference.

In the course of field work in Waterton Lakes Park in extreme southeastern Alberta in July, 1945, two spizellas were heard singing, and one was seen at about 100 feet through 8-power glasses. It was not possible to identify them certainly, but they were not Chipping Sparrows or Clay-colored Sparrows, although of the same size. Their song differed from that of *taverneri* in being much shorter, with an average duration of about 2 seconds instead of 10 seconds, and of less complicated phraseology. Both birds were noted on the west slope of the high ridge between Summit Lake and Carthew Lakes. At this point they were within about 2 miles airline of the International Boundary Line and Glacier Park, Montana. Mrs. Bailey (*Birds in Wild Animals of Glacier National Park*, Washington, D.C., 1918) does not list any similar form of *Spizella* from the high altitudes of Glacier Park, but *taverneri* should be looked for there and any ornithologist visiting Waterton Lakes Park in the future should endeavor to establish the identity of the high-altitude *Spizella* population of that park.

A western extension in the south of the known breeding range of *S. b. taverneri* is provided by an adult female taken on August 27, 1945, at Paradise mine, 19 miles west of Invermere in the Selkirk Range, British Columbia. This individual was feeding a fully plumaged juvenile when collected. Other members of presumably the same brood were in the vicinity. The habitat was the same as that occupied by the species in its Rocky Mountains range. Extensive studies in the northern Selkirks adjacent to Mount Revelstoke failed to disclose the species in that region.

The extension of breeding range recorded in this note still leaves *Spizella b. taverneri* separated from *Spizella b. breweri* during the breeding period. At no point are the known breeding ranges contiguous.—I. McT. COWAN, *University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, February 5, 1946.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Red-tailed Hawk Nest in the Same Tree.—It has sometimes been thought that the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*), since it is so often seen in pursuit of large hawks, is a real enemy of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and this may well be the case. According to J. D. Bankston of Mason, Texas, many farmers in that section are pleased to have the scissor-tail nest near the house to keep the hawks away. On an experimental section in the Divide country west of Kerrville, Texas, however, we found a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a Red-tailed Hawk nesting in the same tree, a large live oak. The hawk's nest was on the west side, while the scissor-tail's nest was on the east side. The two seemed to ignore each other, and so got along nicely. The scissor-tail was incubating on May 17, 1945. On that date two young hawks were nearly ready to leave the red-tail's nest. It is of interest that these had been fed, at least in part, on young armadillos, which were fairly abundant that year and should have been easy prey for an alert Red-tailed Hawk.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, College Station, Texas, September 22, 1945.*

Late Nesting of Caspian Tern in Utah.—Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 113, 1921:211) lists July 1 as the latest nesting record of the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) on Lake Michigan, and May 25 as the latest in California. Writing of this bird as a nester in Oregon, Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon*, 1940:305) state: "Egg dates vary from May 12 to June 16 in the various colonies in different seasons."

In view of these records it may be interesting to note that on September 18, 1945, two broods of late-nesting Caspian Terns were seen on a bare artificial island on Unit 3 of Bear River Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, at the north end of Great Salt Lake, Utah. In the first brood, probably about

2½ weeks old, two young that had much loose down were flapping their wings as though about ready to practice flying; but their wings still contained pin-feathers, and the primaries were less than half grown. Another brood of three downy young were seen flapping their way into the water; these little balls of fluff had no pin-feathers whatever. The birds in this second brood were probably not more than 10 days old; they might have been hatched between September 6 and September 10.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, January 2, 1946.*

Red-naped Sapsucker in Santa Clara County, California.—On Sunday, November 18, 1945, while observing birds with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society at Alum Rock Park, near San Jose, California, it was our good fortune to locate a Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*). The bird was feeding in a live oak. Ten of the party watched it with binoculars at a distance of 25 feet as it opened holes in the bark. At such close range it was easy to distinguish the black markings on the head. The belly was yellowish-gray.—JAMES G. PETERSON, *San Jose, California, December 31, 1945.*

Swainson Hawks Working on Grasshoppers Again.—About 30 miles southeast of Sonora, Sutton County, Texas, on May 3 and 4, 1945, considerable numbers of Swainson Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) were observed feeding on the numerous grasshoppers on the overgrazed ranges. The hawks were usually observed flying low or perched on the ground. Twenty-five or more were observed at different times along a five-mile stretch of ranch road.

The grasshoppers, and likewise the hawks, seem to be more numerous on the overgrazed ranges infested with bitterweed. We saw none of the hawks and few grasshoppers on the better grassed pastures.

The observed relationship between the Swainson Hawk and the grasshopper outbreak was undoubtedly significant; also, although no actual grasshopper counts were made, it was obvious that a relation existed between the grasshopper plague and an extreme overgrazed condition of the range, as pointed out years ago by Treherne and Buckell (*Grasshoppers of British Columbia, Dominion Canada Dept. Agr., Bull. 39, n.s., 1924*).—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, College Station, Texas, September 22, 1945.*

The Starling Arrives in Oregon.—On January 22, 1946, a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was obtained in the Grande Ronde Valley one and one-half miles west of Cove, Union County, Oregon, just at the edge of the western foothills of the Willowa Mountains, at an elevation of approximately 3000 feet. The bird was taken by George L. Golay on his ranch when he shot into a flock of magpies congregated on pasture land. No other Starlings were noted by him at that time. Since the bird was strange to him, it was eviscerated and three days later was brought to me by his daughter, Bessie Golay. Although the bird was somewhat mutilated, it was possible to save it as a museum specimen.

Since the report by Wing (*Condor, 45, 1943:159*) of Starlings observed in southeastern Washington, it has been anticipated that the birds might soon be recorded in Oregon. The lapse of three winters until the first recorded arrival here in Oregon may be attributed partly to circumscribed field trips during gasoline rationing.

The Starling reported here appears to be the closest yet to the Pacific Coast, in point of longitude, except for the specimen collected by Howard Cantrell on January 10, 1942, near Tulalake, California (Jewett, *Condor, 44, 1945:79*). It, and the Pullman records of Wing (*loc. cit.*) may well presage an influx of Starlings which, once established, would have a clear sweep across the agricultural lands of the interior to the Cascade Mountains of Washington and Oregon. From here the Columbia River gateway offers Starlings the fertile Willamette Valley and the ultimate attainment of the shores of the Pacific.—CHARLES W. QUAINANCE, *Eastern Oregon College of Education, La Grande, Oregon, January 27, 1946.*

Notes on Bird Mortality During Nocturnal Thunderstorms near College Station, Texas.—In the months of March, April, and May, 1941, several nocturnal thunderstorms occurred in the vicinity of College Station, Texas. Observations by personnel of the Department of Fish and Game and the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit on the campus of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas after some of the more severe rains revealed an alarming number of dead birds, evidently victims of the storms. The number of birds obtained from such a small area indicates that the mortality over a considerable area must have been tremendous. In many instances the rains were accompanied by winds of very high velocity, which resulted in the birds striking objects such as trees, buildings, and power lines.