

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.