

The first heavy rain of this sort occurred on the night of March 20. Next morning a Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) was found on the campus. Following a violent thunderstorm on the night of April 3 a report was brought to the Fish and Game Department of several dead birds about one mile north of the campus. Investigation revealed sixteen dead geese on the ground near electric power lines. Fifteen were Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*), the other a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). All these birds were apparently in one flock as they were close together on less than two acres of land.

On the night of April 29 another heavy rain fell. Dead birds recorded on this date included four Tennessee Warblers (*Vermivora peregrina*), one Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosa*), three Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*), one Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*), one Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas trichas*), one Louisiana Water-thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), two Chats (*Icteria virens*), and one English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

The next night, April 30, thunder showers caused the death of one Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), one Louisiana Water-thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), and one English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Three nights later, May 3, another heavy rain fell. Birds found on the campus the following day included one Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), two English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), one Sycamore Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), one Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), one American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), and one Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*).

In addition to the above records made in 1941, a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), was found below power lines on the campus following a thunderstorm on the night of October 20, 1939.

It is interesting to note that mortality was high when the weather was severe at night. Although the mean annual rainfall in this area averages close to 40 inches, normal rains, or even violent diurnal disturbances, have not produced alarming mortalities such as the ones just described. If violent nocturnal rains are consistently as deadly as these statistics indicate, it is indeed fortunate that they are of local occurrence and short duration.

The street lights of the campus might possibly be a factor in attracting night-flying birds; however, during such severe thunderstorms the visibility of the lights would be very low. Birds flying near a zone of thunderstorm activity may be attracted to the lights while seeking shelter from an approaching disturbance and be engulfed in violent winds and rain in so doing. This might account for the high concentrations of mortalities in a local area.

Eleven of the birds recorded are strictly migrants in this region, while three are summer visitors that were just arriving during the time these observations were made. Of the remainder, one is a winter visitant, one a vagrant, and one a resident. The White Pelican, a vagrant, frequently wanders over wide areas. The English Sparrow is the only strictly resident species affected. It will be further noticed that the birds killed were of species that migrate chiefly at night. This may be correlated with the fact that thunderstorms causing mortality at this season were nocturnal, although diurnal disturbances of equal violence occurred in the same period. Thus it would seem that violent night thunderstorms during the migrating season affect chiefly those birds in active migration and that resident species that will have sought adequate protection are less liable to harm.—RANDOLPH L. PETERSON and BRYAN P. GLASS, *Department of Fish and Game, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station, Texas, December 6, 1946.*

Shrikes in the Humboldt Bay Area, California.—From time to time people have reported shrikes in the Humboldt Bay area in California. However, actual specimen data seem to have been lacking; therefore the writer submits the following records.

An adult male Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*) was taken from a fence post amid the dunes just north of Samoa, California, by John Davis, on March 30, 1932. Another adult male, of the same race, was observed and collected by Mr. Davis and the writer a few miles south of Eureka, California, on November 7, 1939.

A first-year Boreal Shrike (*Lanius excubitor invictus*) was taken on October 9, 1939, near Arcata, California, by the writer, who also took an adult female a few miles south of Eureka on January 15, 1946. Both of the Boreal Shrikes were perched in the topmost branches of small shrubs.

There are three winter sight records by Mr. Davis and the writer, in which no identification as to species was made. These three winter dates all fall within the months in which actual specimens have been taken. All these birds have been taken or observed on open terrain within a few hundred yards of Humboldt Bay, California.—ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Eureka, California, February 1, 1946.*

Unusual Visitors at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Nevada.—The Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko and White Pine counties, Nevada, was visited by two unusual

migrants, the Cackling Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*) and the White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) in November, 1943. The birds were first seen on November 11 when the writer counted 50 Cackling Geese and 14 White-fronted Geese on refuge areas; the latter species continued to increase until 214 were present on November 15, after which neither species was again seen.

So far as can be determined, the Cackling Goose has not been previously reported from the Ruby Lake marshes. According to information supplied the refuge manager by residents of Elko, Nevada, who hunted on nearby Franklin Lake in the early thirties, the White-fronted Goose was a fairly common fall migrant in those years.—HERBERT H. DILL, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Ruby Valley, Nevada, January 7, 1946.*

Pigeon Hawk Breeding in Utah.—Reference is made to Behle's "Check-list of the Birds of Utah" (Condor, 46, 1944:71) wherein the Western Pigeon Hawk is listed as a "rare transient and winter visitant." In Davie's "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" (4th ed., 1889:188) the following appears under Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*): "Mr. Norris' cabinet contains two sets of four eggs each; one collected in the Wasatch Mountains, Utah, May 29, 1868. They have a cinnamon ground color, heavily spotted and blotched with burnt umber; sizes, 1.56×1.25 ; 1.59×1.25 ; 1.56×1.21 ; 1.59×1.23 . Another set from Bingham county, Idaho, taken May 13, 1885." Norris in writing of his egg collection (The Oologist's Record, 6, 1926:57) refers to the first set under the name of *Falco columbarius bendirei*: "c/4, Wasatch Mountains, Utah, May 29, 1868. Very deeply marked with dark brown so much so as to hide the ground color of two of the eggs."

I have recently obtained this set of eggs from the collection of the late J. Parker Norris. It has been carefully examined and there is no question that the eggs have been properly identified as *Falco columbarius*. The original data record states: "Collected on the U.P.R.R. line in the Wasatch Mts., Utah, Camp No. 32, by L. E. Ricksecker, May 29, 1868. Quite fresh. Nest was an old one and had been placed on top of an old magpie nest, which was arched over. The upper nest, in which the hawk was breeding was probably built by some other bird during last season. It was 10 inches in diameter (inside) and was plastered with mud like a robins. Parent birds well seen and identified.—very noisy." In the course of my own field work in Utah from 1925 to 1930, Pigeon Hawks were observed several times in May and June in the upper ravines of City Creek Canyon, near Brighton in Salt Lake County and in the Wasatch Mountains in Summit County. While I was never able to establish a definite nesting record, there is no doubt that the Pigeon Hawk is a rare summer resident in that area.—COL. L. R. WOLFE, *Washington, D.C., December 28, 1945.*

The Second Specimen of the Oriental Hobby from the Solomon Islands.—The first specimen of the Oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*) taken in the Solomon Islands was obtained on Gizo in the New Georgia Group, central Solomon Islands (Mayr, *Birds of the Southwest Pacific*, 1945:218). More recently this specimen has been re-examined by Mayr (Amer. Mus. Novitates No. 1294, July 20, 1945) and again identified as the widely ranging subspecies *F. s. papuanus* Meyer and Wigglesworth. In this latter paper Mayr also records the sight observation of a small falcon at Soraken, northern Bougainville, which he believes "might have been a hobby." It is a pleasure to be able to substantiate this latter observation with a specimen. On October 18, 1944, while collecting in the jungle at Cape Torokina (Empress Augusta Bay) on Bougainville I took an adult male of the species. This bird was perched on the topmost bare branch of a tall, dead tree in the jungle about two miles inland. The testes were not enlarged, measuring 4 mm. in greatest diameter. The cere, feet, and circumocular skin were yellow. The wing measures 213 mm. and the tail 95 mm. These measurements accord with those Mayr gives in his definition of *papuanus*. This specimen is now no. 90027 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, March 1, 1946.*