

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Starling in Oregon.—During a recent conversation with John C. Scharff, Superintendent of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon, he told me that there was a recently taken specimen of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at the refuge headquarters. Upon further inquiry I ascertained the following facts from George M. Benson, Refuge Protector, who collected the specimen. He wrote under date of May 30, 1945, "My first observation of this bird on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was on December 10, 1943, at about 5 p.m. It was a cold winter day with a strong northeast wind. The bird alighted on top of the house roof and without stopping, hopped down the eaves seemingly searching for a place to roost, but within a few minutes it was gone. The next day I saw it again; thereafter, I saw it almost every day." On December 24, 1943, "in the early morning," the bird was collected. The letter continued, "I only saw the one and have not seen any since."

On July 12, 1945, the specimen, a well mounted adult in full winter plumage, was examined by me. The sex was not determined. This is the first positive record of the occurrence of the Starling in Oregon. [Quaintance's record from Oregon, although published earlier (*Condor*, 48, 1946:95), is based on a specimen obtained in January, 1946.—Editors.]—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 12, 1945.*

A Nesting Site of the Lark Sparrow.—According to both Dawson and Hoffmann, the Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) nests on the ground or in low shrubs. Here in Madera County, however, the 28 nests of the Lark Sparrow that I have found have been built in crevices on cliffs. The crevice has been the result of the dropping off of a rock; in some cases it has been due to erosion. I have consulted Mr. J. G. Tyler of Fresno, California, the author of "The Birds of the Fresno District" (*Pac. Coast Avifauna* No. 9, 1913), and he tells me that he has never seen the nests of this species in crevices.



Figs. 51 and 52. At left, nest of the Lark Sparrow in rock niche to left of center; photograph taken in June, 1943. At right, close-up view of a nest site used in 1943, 1944, and 1945; photograph taken in June, 1945.