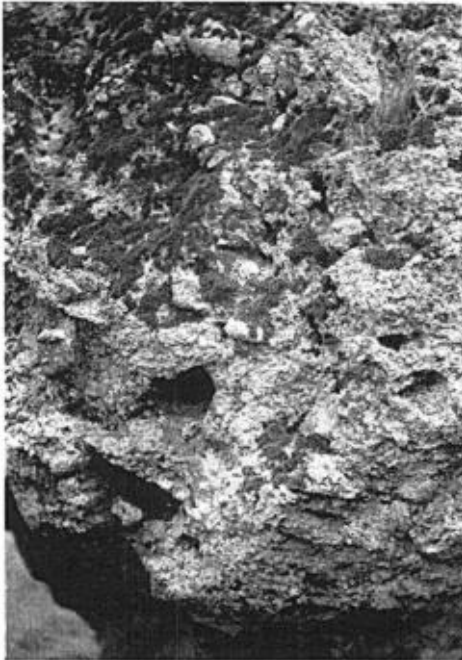


FROM FIELD AND STUDY

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.



Fig. 53. A small table mountain near Madera, California, photographed at a distance of about 300 yards in June, 1945; Lark Sparrows were present on all sides of this mountain.

These nests have been found built at heights of five to ten feet above the ground. Each fits the bottom of the crevice snugly. The material in all nests studied has consisted of grasses in the outer part and horsehair in the center; all have been round in shape (figs. 51 and 52). In all but one nest the eggs numbered four; in the excepted nest, the fifth egg was outside the nest.

This nesting site of the Lark Sparrow was first found in 1941. That year I found five nests, and all were on a small table mountain at the edge of the foothills east of Madera (fig. 53). The next year I found four at the same location and two on the side of another small table mountain about a quarter mile away. In 1943 I found three nests at the first location and one at the second. In 1944 three nests were found. In 1945 four nests were located, and this year four were found at the first small table mountain. At the time I found the first nests, I did not notice that Dawson and Hoffmann were unaware of this nesting site of the Lark Sparrow. I am interested in knowing if others have seen nests in cliffs, and if so, where?—JESS M. MARKLE, *Madera, California, May 27, 1946.*

Late Nesting of the Pyrrhuloxia at Tucson, Arizona.—For several years Pyrrhuloxias (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*) have visited our feeding table at our home on Kleindale Road in the Rillito Valley, six miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. On September 9, 1945, a female appeared with a partly grown young bird that followed her about, begging vociferously until it was fed. This begging note was heard frequently around our house during the following days and, usually when we looked outside, we found the female feeding the young bird. This dependence continued into the period of molt of the female. She appeared ragged on October 1. On October 12 she was last seen feeding her offspring which, at that time, was acquiring the male plumage. If we assume that the incubation period is approximately two weeks, and that the nestlings remain in the nest about ten days, then the eggs were probably laid around the middle of August.

Other dates when adults were seen feeding young birds out of the nest are June 14, 1939, August 16, 1944, and July 3, 1945. Apparently, nesting does not begin very early. A nest with three eggs was found on April 30, 1944, although courtship feeding was observed as early as February 28. Courtship feeding was again observed on April 11. On April 7, 1946, a female began building a nest in a clump of dead mistletoe in a catclaw bush near the bank of the dry Rillito Creek, about 200 yards north of our house. For some reason work was discontinued the same day. On April 20, we found the female incubating three eggs in a new nest a short distance from the first location.—ANDERS H. ANDERSON and ANNE ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, May 2, 1946.*

A Mountain Plover from Utah.—On March 25, 1946, a female Mountain Plover (*Eupoda montana*) was picked up along a roadside fifteen miles southwest of Brigham City, Boxelder County, Utah. Although still living, one wing was broken, probably from collision with nearby wires. The bird was taken to headquarters of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge where it subsequently died and was prepared as a study skin. This species is not listed in Behle's Check-list (Condor, 46, 1944: 67-87) as occurring in the state and thus appears to be a new state record.—JOHN B. VAN DEN AKKER, *Bear River Refuge, Brigham City, Utah, April 25, 1946.*

Another Record of the Skua from the State of Washington.—In my study of the Skuas of the state of Washington (Condor, 44, 1942:218-221), reference was made in the summary to the