

extreme variability of the purple finches, and recalls specifically a flock of 125 seen in the Medina area last spring, six of which approached the Cassin Finch in coloration (letter of September 17, 1946). Although certain of the above records may be authentic, further evidence is necessary to establish the Cassin Finch in the list of western Washington birds save as a Cascade-Rainier form.—J. W. SLIPP, *Tacoma Regional Museum, Point Defiance Park, Tacoma, Washington, September 30, 1946.*

Present Status of the Green Heron in Washington.—In 1940, the writer summarized the status of the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens anthonyi*) in the state of Washington (Larrison, Murrelet, 21:1-3). Since then, a number of additional records of the bird have been obtained which, combined with several recently published notes, afford a more complete picture of the present distribution of the Green Heron in the state.

All records for Green Herons north of the Columbia River since 1940 pertain to the Puget Sound region. Of the eighty such observations and collections in that region, four were listed by Slipp (Condor, 44, 1942:35-36; 46, 1944:35-36) in the Tacoma-Steilacoom-Nisqually area, while the remainder were made in the Seattle district, mostly by H. W. Higman and/or Larrison. Some sixty records were made in the University of Washington marsh at Seattle.

A study of these data reveals several interesting facts. The Green Heron has been observed in western Washington during every month of the year except June. Most individuals were found from early July to late November, with scattered records from March, April, and May, and a small number of occurrences for January and February. Since 1940, Green Herons have been present regularly every year in the University of Washington marsh during the fall and early winter months. Several birds have often been encountered in that place at one time and one observer once reported twelve individuals in different parts of the marsh. A number of those birds seen in the fall were young of the year. Green Herons have also been noted at Green Lake in northern Seattle, at Beaux Arts on the eastern shore of Lake Washington, and on the Snoqualmie River, about twenty-two miles east of Seattle, all these localities being in King County.

An interpretation of the information now available would seem to indicate a northward spring migration through western Washington, a more lingering southward migration in the fall, and a tendency of some individuals to winter wholly or in part in the Puget Sound Basin. This would assume that Green Herons nest to the north of Seattle or, for that matter, some place in the Puget Sound area itself. Considering the large number of suitable nesting areas in western Washington and southwestern British Columbia and the paucity of bird observers, this situation could well exist undetected. Since the species was almost unknown in the state before 1938, it has apparently rapidly penetrated north of the Columbia River in recent years to become fairly well established west of the Cascades as a migrant and winter visitant and possibly as a summer resident.

This sudden northward extension of range becomes all the more remarkable when one recollects that in 1931 it was considered that the Green Heron "breeds or summers from Portland, Oregon, to northern Lower California, southern Arizona, and northern Sonora, Mexico. Winters from southern California to southern Mexico and central Costa Rica" (A. O. U. Check-list, 4th ed., 1931:30).—EARL J. LARRISON, *Laboratory of Vertebrate Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, December 18, 1946.*

Effects of a Hailstorm in the Black Forest, Colorado.—While conducting field work on breeding-bird populations in the Black Forest, Colorado, in June, 1945, I had an opportunity to make a survey of the effects of a violent hailstorm. The region under study was an open forest of western yellow pine, about fifteen miles northeast of Colorado Springs, with an elevation of between 7200 and 7300 feet. This area included a willow- and aspen-bordered creek.

On the afternoon of June 24, a rain and hailstorm of short duration, with a few stones one-half inch in diameter, occurred at 4:30 p.m. One hour later, a severe wind and electrical storm began and continued for thirty minutes. Hailstones ranging in diameter from one-half inch to one inch were common. The pines swayed violently in the wind, and small branches were broken off by the stones. The creek rose rapidly, and muddy water covered the wide, sandy bed for several hours. The adjacent willow bushes were bent and crushed by the force of the wind and hail.

The bird life on about eighty acres, which had been under regular observation, was surveyed immediately after the storm and on an early morning field trip the following day. A female Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) was found dead in her nest among the willows. She had been incubating four eggs. Her mate remained nearby for several days and continued to sing. A Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) nest, built against the trunk of a medium-sized pine, was deserted. The female had been seen incubating the eggs previously, but did not return. A Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) nest, with one egg, was abandoned after the storm, although the pair remained in the vicinity for about a week. The nest had been constructed at the top of a clump of willows and was still intact. Another Warbling Vireo