

**The Starling in Arizona.**—The first authenticated record of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) for Arizona was obtained on November 16, 1946, when I collected an adult at Parker, Yuma County. Subsequently, another was collected, and as many as 34 were seen at Parker and on the Colorado River Indian Reservation on January 1, 1947. I also saw them on the California side of the Colorado River, about five miles southeast of Needles, San Bernardino County, on December 18, 1946, and on February 23, 1947, when 45 were counted. None was seen after March 1.

I saw a flock of about forty Starlings on February 9, 1947, not far east of Joseph City, Navajo County, Arizona, from a passenger train on the Santa Fe Railway.—GALE MONSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Parker, Arizona, July 18, 1947.*

**Does the Poor-will "Hibernate"?**—While going up through a very narrow, high-walled, almost slot-like cañon in the Chuckawalla Mountains of the Colorado Desert two of my students and I saw on December 29, 1946, a most unusual sight. On the side-wall about two and a half feet above the sand of the cañon bottom was a Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) resting head-upward in a vertical rock-hollow, its gray and black, mottled plumage blending so perfectly with the coarse gray granite that we had to look twice to convince ourselves it was really a Poor-will. The shallow crypt, with deepest part above, was just a little more than large enough to hold the bird, hence its back was almost flush with the rock surface. When we had observed the bird quietly for more than ten minutes without noticing any motion, I reached forward and touched the bird without evoking any response. I even stroked the back feathers without noticing the slightest movement. Was our bird dead, sick or just deep in winter sleep? We left the place for awhile, then about two hours later returned. The Poor-will was still in the same position. I now reached forward and picked it up, freely turning it about in my hands. It seemed to be of unusually light weight and the feet and eye-lids when touched felt cold. We made no further attempt to be quiet; we even shouted to see if we could arouse our avian "sleeper." I finally returned it to its place in the crypt; but while I was doing this I noticed that it lazily opened and shut an eye, the only sign I had that it was a living bird. Unfortunately we soon afterward had to leave the place and return home without making further observations.

Ten days later at about ten o'clock in the morning I returned with Mr. Lloyd Mason Smith. To our great surprise and satisfaction the Poor-will was still there in its rock niche, with every indication that it had not moved "even so much as a feather" in the intervening time. I reached forward and as before carefully picked it up. But this time instead of remaining perfectly quiet, it gave several "puffy" sounds as if expelling air from the lungs, opened an eye, and began to make a variety of queer high-pitched whining or squeaky mouse-like sounds. After some moments it opened its mouth widely as if yawning and then resumed its quiet. As Mr. Smith further handled it, it again made the whining notes; then suddenly it raised both wings and held them in rigid, fully outstretched upright position. The eyes remained closed. After the bird had held the wings stiffly upward for several minutes we worked together to put them back in normal position; several times we attempted this but always the wings came quickly back high above the head until the tips almost touched. Some five minutes later while one of us still held the bird, we tried again, this time more successfully, for we got the wings at least partially in position. We now put the Poor-will back in its crypt as best we could and left. The morning was cool (42° F.), the sky overcast.

That afternoon while the sky was still gray with clouds we returned for further observations. We had put the bird into its crypt not quite in normal position and with feathers somewhat ruffled and wings askew, and so it was now when we found it after an absence of three hours. Mr. Smith picked up the Poor-will hoping to photograph it while I held it in my hand. But to our great surprise it whipped open its wings and flew out of hand in perfectly normal flight as if it had only been playing 'possum all the time but now had suddenly become alert to danger. It flew about forty feet up-cañon into an iron wood tree (*Oliveya tesota*). We walked toward it and again it flew, alighting this time among some rocks high above us and where we were unable to reach it.

On this day there were fresh coyote tracks directly below the Poor-will's roosting site. The position of the foot prints indicated that the coyote had stopped and turned toward the bird. There were fresh feces and claw marks in the sand, all indications that he had remained there a number of minutes. Perhaps he even saw or smelled the bird, for it probably was perching there on the side of the rock at about the level of his eye.

On November 26, 1947, a Poor-will, probably the same bird, was in the same crypt, and again it was lethargic. On December 6 it was banded.

I am not venturing here to state any conclusions, but this experience leads me strongly to suspect that one reason that so little is known and written about the winter habits of Poor-wills is because the birds then for the most part hide away and perhaps spend a short period in a kind of somnolence at least somewhat akin to true hibernation. Culbertson (Condor, 48, 1946:158-159) found a Poor-will hidden in a rotten log and in sort of a torpid state of low metabolism. I take this as a partial corro-

boration of my belief that a period of winter inactivity among Poor-wills may be more common than we have supposed.—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside College, Riverside, California, December 15, 1947.*

**Eastern Kingbird in San Bernardino Valley, California.**—Bruce E. Cardiff and the junior author of this note observed a kingbird in their berry field in Bloomington, San Bernardino County, California, on August 25, 1947. The bird was collected and proved to be an immature female Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) and a new record for the San Bernardino Valley, California. The specimen is no. 312 in the Cardiff collection of mounted birds.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California*, and EUGENE E. CARDIFF, *Bloomington, California, October 5, 1947.*

**Second Record of the Golden-crowned Sparrow in Utah.**—On the evening of October 4, 1947, while collecting at Standrod, 5500 feet, Boxelder County, Utah, on the north side of the Raft River Mountains in the northwestern part of the state, I noticed two large sparrows frequenting tall grass and willows bordering a small stream. It was difficult to observe them because of their quick flights in and out of the willows, but they were recognized as being zonotrichias. One was finally taken and proved to be a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*). This is the second record of the species for Utah, and the first from the northern part of the state. The previous record was reported from Zion National Park by Long (Condor, 38, 1936:89).

The bird from the Raft River Mountains was associated with Song Sparrows when seen. The next day an attempt was made to take additional specimens, but all the sparrows of both species seemed to have continued on their southward migration.—CLIFTON M. GREENHALGH, *Department of Biology, University of Utah, October 27, 1947.*

**An Early Record of the Western Kingbird in Lane County, Oregon.**—The Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) is an uncommon summer resident in the southern Willamette Valley of western Oregon. As a common bird east of the Cascade Mountains, its season runs from early April to late August, according to Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon, 1940). It was thus with considerable surprise that I found one feeding along the edge of a walnut orchard on the north bank of the Willamette River at Eugene on February 28, 1947. This bird was very active and food seemed to be abundant. It was doing all its catching within four feet of the ground. Although it frequently dropped to the ground to pick up an insect, it remained only a few moments, returning quickly to perch on a low walnut branch or stalk of the woolly mullein.

This record is the earliest spring date for Oregon for this species by more than a month. Though the preceding winter was not unusually mild, numerous summer visitors returned early or remained through the cold season.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, October 4, 1947.*

**Horned Owl Feeding on Garter Snake.**—Late in the morning of September 9, 1947, just as the coastal fog was breaking up and permitting the sun to shine through, I witnessed an immature Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) feeding on a freshly killed garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis infernalis*). The event took place near the Skyline Boulevard, about 4½ miles south of the San Francisco County line in San Mateo County, California. I obtained the remains of the snake for verification by scaring the bird into flight at a moment when it had laid the snake on the ground. The size of the remains indicated that the snake had been about 2½ feet long. About half of it was missing and presumably had been eaten. The young owl flew very poorly about 50 yards across a pond beside which it had been feeding and landed on the ground on the other side. There were no trees in the vicinity.—WADE FOX, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, October 4, 1947.*

**An Albino Eared Grebe at Mono Lake.**—On August 24, 1947, my wife and I observed an albino Eared Grebe (*Colymbus nigricollis*) on Mono Lake, Mono County, California. It was swimming near the western shore in the company of a group of normally colored examples. Since the shoreline at this point borders the highway, we were able to view the grebes at close range.—KEN STOTT, JR., *Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, California, September 4, 1947.*