

Richardson (Condor, 1947, 49:212) has recorded water-surface feeding of Red-winged Blackbirds.—JAMES HODGES, *Davenport, Iowa, March 25, 1948.*

Starlings in Washington State.—During the months of February and March, 1948, a number of flocks of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were found in the Walla Walla Valley of southeastern Washington. Flocks of from 50 to 500 birds could be seen on almost any day during those two months, and many birds were found among Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). The Starlings were found to be extremely wary, and only one specimen was obtained after numerous attempts. The total numbers present must have run well into the thousands.—ERNEST S. BOOTH, *Walla Walla College, College Place, Washington, April 6, 1948.*

Misalliance of California Quail with Mallard.—During the month of March, 1948, a female California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*) again entertained astonished visitors to the Lake Merritt Waterfowl Refuge, Lakeside Park, Oakland, by her persistent pursuit of certain males of the local group of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). This affair was first observed in June, 1947, when this erratic quail deserted her own mate and began following certain Mallard drakes, attacking and driving away their legitimate mates. On that first occasion the male quail remained in the vicinity, in a distracted condition, and was subsequently run over and killed by an auto passing the duck-feeding area. On all occasions the attentions of this perverted quail have been largely ignored by the drakes, which continued to follow their normal habits as far as possible. In some instances the ardor of the female quail led her to enter the lake or the feeding and bathing pool to maximum wading depth when the object of her affections took to the water. During these recent performances by this frustrated bird a male quail again attempted to divert her from her fruitless pursuit. At the date of this writing she has not been observed in the vicinity of the Mallards for approximately two weeks.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Oakland, California, April 20, 1948.*

Crane Migration in the Willamette Valley, Oregon.—In the period between April 6 and 17 of 1947 at least seven large flocks of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) moved through the Willamette Valley of western Oregon on their northward migration. Six of the seven flocks consisted of 40 to 55 birds, the seventh of only eight. In all, about 300 birds were seen.

Most of the flocks followed the same general pattern of movement, coming into the broad valley near Eugene at a low elevation through the valley of the Coast Fork River. As they moved out through the valley they sought and found areas of thermal updrafts. Following these updrafts in the soaring manner of vultures, the cranes ascended many hundreds of feet, often disappearing into clouds. During the soaring the birds did not maintain their formation, but circled and climbed independently. Upon attaining the desired height, the characteristic "V" formation was assumed, and the flocks continued the northward journey with the typical half glide, half stroke flight motion.

Every year a few cranes move through this area, but the spring flight of 1947 seems to have been the largest recorded in recent years.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, October 27, 1947.*

Ground Dove in Ventura County.—On August 20, 1947, a Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) was seen as it fed on weed seeds in a citrus nursery near the Santa Clara River bottom in Ventura County, California. The next day at the same location, two birds were observed. They were quite tame and fed within fifteen feet of me, so there is no doubt as to the identification. The location was about three miles east of Santa Paula and close to a large grove of mixed willow and cottonwood trees. This species is a rare vagrant to coastal southern California.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, April 2, 1948.*