

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**A Nesting Census from the Subalpine Belt of Colorado.**—From July 5 to August 10, 1947, a count of nesting birds was made on a 22-acre area located at 9700 feet altitude about one mile north of Gothic and ten miles north of Crested Butte, Colorado. The census area was an approximately rectangular strip 1800 feet long, bordered on the west side by the East River and cut by a road between Schofield Pass and Gothic. A total of 31 hours was devoted to this census. Major habitat types and percentages of the census area represented by them were as follows: open water (streams or ponds), 1.0 per cent; dirt roads or rocky areas, 1.5 per cent; Engelmann spruce-alpine fir climax, 10.0 per cent; aspen subclimax, 10.5 per cent; shrubs (predominantly willows), 28.0 per cent; open meadows, 49.0 per cent. The whole area was mapped and locations of singing males or nests recorded. Following is a list of species and numbers of pairs whose nesting territories were located on the census area or whose nests were actually found there.

Red-shafted Flicker ( <i>Colaptes cafer</i> )	1 pair
Red-naped Sapsucker ( <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> )	2
Western Wood Pewee ( <i>Contopus richardsonii</i> )	1
Mountain Chickadee ( <i>Parus gambeli</i> )	3
House Wren ( <i>Troglodytes aedon</i> )	1
Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )	1 (or more)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet ( <i>Regulus calendula</i> )	3
Warbling Vireo ( <i>Vireo gilvus</i> )	1
Yellow Warbler ( <i>Dendroica aestiva</i> )	2 (possibly 3)
Tolmie Warbler ( <i>Oporornis tolmiei</i> )	2
Pileolated Warbler ( <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i> )	2
Red-wing ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )	1
Gray-headed Junco ( <i>Junco caniceps</i> )	3 (possibly 4)
White-crowned Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> )	6
Lincoln Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza lincolni</i> )	14

In addition to these species, there were others which definitely nested in the census area, but whose territories were not identified nor nests located. They are as follows: Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), 1 pair; Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*), probably 3 males, and 4 or 5 females; and Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*), 1 pair. Five species present locally, some of which might have nested in the area, are as follows: Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*), Rocky Mountain Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*), Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*), and Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*).

The total number of species found on the census area was 23; of these 18 nested there. The number of pairs totalled at least 43 per 22 acres (1.96 pairs per acre), and there may have been as many as 52 pairs.

Two nests of the Red-naped Sapsucker were located on July 13 and 26, respectively, both in aspens, about 25 feet from the ground. The young left both nests about August 1. One nest of the Red-shafted Flicker was found about 50 feet above the ground in a dead aspen. The Western Wood Pewee was regularly seen and heard from top perches in an area of spruce and fir. Three territories of the Mountain Chickadee were located in spruce-fir areas. One territory of the House Wren was located in an aspen grove, and it is probable that the nest was placed in a cavity of one of these trees. Only one nest of the Robin was found, and that nest, although it was empty when found July 23, was a fresh nest of the season. All the territories of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet were in spruce-fir areas. One territory of the Warbling Vireo was located in an aspen grove. Yellow Warblers consistently preferred willow thickets. Both nests of the two pairs of Tolmie Warblers established in the census area were found: On July 23, the three, possibly four fledglings from the first nest were present nearby; the nest was situated about three feet above the ground in a four-foot spruce. The second nest was located about three feet above the ground in a willow; its four young left on July 27. Two territories of the Pileolated Warbler were restricted to willow thickets. One pair of Red-wings was present in a swampy area formerly used by beavers. The habitat occupied by the Gray-headed Junco was hard to define; generally it contained some spruce, fir, or aspen growth bordered by an open area. Nests of

the White-crowned Sparrow, second most numerous species in the area, were located in most cases under a grassy tuft in an open area, close to a willow used as a song post. A nest found on July 14 contained one young which left a few days later; the three young of a nest found on July 6 left on July 9; the four young of a nest found on July 16 left on July 22 and 23. The last nest was situated 1½ feet above the ground in a three-foot spruce. A total of fourteen territories of the Lincoln Sparrow were located, and there may have been one or two more; each was placed in a moist or swampy willow thicket. One pair of Spotted Sandpipers was regularly seen on East River, and later two young were found. The Broad-tailed Hummingbird definitely nested on the census area, but the number of adults present was difficult to determine. The Rufous Hummingbird started to appear on the census area in numbers in late July, and it was common at the time the study was stopped on August 10. Rufous Hummingbirds were observed chasing Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, but this usual territorial antagonism among hummingbirds cannot be regarded as evidence of nesting.

This study was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Francis Trembley of Bethlehem University as a research project at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory.—TOM C. MCHUGH, 17004 Lakewood Heights Boulevard, Lakewood, Ohio, June 1, 1948.

**Boat-billed Heron in East-central Tamaulipas, Mexico.**—A party of three hunters from the United States, accompanied by two Mexican guides, observed several Boat-billed Herons, *Cochlearius cochlearius*, early in 1948 on the Rio Soto la Marina in east-central Tamaulipas, Mexico. This river is about 125 miles south of Brownsville, Texas, and the party observed the birds about 25 miles inland from the coast. Twelve birds were found on January 31, and 20 at the same locality on the following day. A dead bird, brought to camp on February 3, was examined closely by all members of the party, and colored motion pictures were taken of it. It was not preserved as a specimen.

The birds permitted the men to approach by boat almost to the bases of the trees in which they perched before flying. From the fact that there was some variation in plumage, it was judged that there were both immature and adult birds in the flocks.

This observation has come to light through one of the party, Louis A. Klewer, a professional outdoor writer of Toledo, Ohio. Klewer has been an observer of birds for more than 25 years and has participated in the banding of many Black-crowned Night Herons and other herons in the eastern United States. He immediately recognized that the Mexican bird was something new to his experience, and further study after his return convinced him that he had seen the Boat-bill. This identification was confirmed later by examination of a specimen of *Cochlearius cochlearius* loaned by the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

These observations extend the known range of this species approximately 75 miles to the north. Earlier records from southern Tamaulipas have been summarized by Sutton and Pettingill (Auk, 59, 1942:8).—HAROLD MAYFIELD, 2557 Portsmouth Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, June 1, 1948.

**Whistling Swan in Ventura County.**—On December 1, 1947, an adult male Whistling Swan, *Cygnus columbianus*, was captured alive by Mrs. Mary Searcy in a pool in the Sespe Creek, about two miles north of Fillmore. It was exhausted when taken, and was placed in a small wire enclosure and given food and water. There were blood stains on the feathers at the left base of the neck, and a large bruise was visible on the tip of the left wing. Five days later the bird died and was given to W. J. Sheffler of Los Angeles who stated that its death was caused by an infestation of maggots that ate through the esophagus and most of the flesh on the neck at the point of entry. It is now no. 2701 in Mr. Sheffler's collection.—SIDNEY B. PEXTON, Fillmore, California, April 2, 1948.

**Another Black Pigeon Hawk from California.**—While driving south on U. S. Highway No. 99 on October 27, 1947, I found an adult female *Falco columbarius suckleyi* lying dead beside the pavement about four miles south of Willows, Glenn County, California. As the waterfowl season was open at the time and hunters were plentiful within the area, I assume the bird was killed by one of these. When found, it had been dead two or three days but was in good condition to be prepared as a specimen.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, Portland, Oregon, December 30, 1947.