

tarsometatarsus, 2.6 mm. These measurements compare favorably with those of the specimen reported by Pitelka and Bryant.

We are also fortunate in having three mounted skins of the Passenger Pigeon, entered as U.N.D. nos. 734, 735, and 7204, all of which are males. —EDWARD O. DODSON, *Department of Biology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, May 4, 1949.*

Gnatcatchers in Oregon.—On the morning of April 26, 1949, in the McKenzie River bottoms near Thurston, Lane County, Oregon, while out checking warbler migrations, I was attracted by some unfamiliar notes coming from a group of small birds in the tree tops. On closer inspection these proved to be Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Polioptila caerulea*). These birds, four in number, were feeding on insects around the blossoms and freshly opened leaf-buds of a clump of low, spreading, big leaf maples (*Acer macrophylla*) in open woodlands of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees. They were in almost constant motion, for the most part keeping well up in the trees, although one individual came down to the lower branches to within about twelve feet of me. These gnatcatchers were under close observation for fully fifteen minutes until they finally disappeared toward the north. They were followed soon by two others which entered the trees from the south and left as had the previous four.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Ray Wiseman recently reported to the local natural history society that a gnatcatcher spent the period from May 26 to June 2, 1949, in the trees and shrubbery at their home in Eugene, Oregon.

So far as I know there are no previously published records of gnatcatchers for the state of Oregon.—BEN H. PRUITT, *Springfield, Oregon, June 13, 1949.*

Notes on Flights of the Nighthawk.—Some observers have thought that migrations of Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) occur in July. To me July seems rather early in the year for true migration, especially after I have observed large numbers of these birds feeding in flocks. If these flocks had been observed at just the right time of day, they most certainly would give the impression of migrating birds.

In the period from June to September, 1947, I was working at Hovenweep National Monument, Colorado, which is situated about forty miles west of Mesa Verde National Park. This section of country is made up of rolling mesa lands, transected by numerous dry canyons and covered with sagebrush (*Artemisia*) and a few scattered juniper trees (*Juniperus utahensis*). When we arrived there in June, not more than two pairs of nighthawks were present in the area and these were the only ones observed until near the end of July. On July 23 in the late afternoon a thunder storm rolled in across the desert and the darkening of the sky seemed to bring out the nighthawks. Throughout the storm we watched several of these birds going about their business of feeding, very much undisturbed by the lightning, noise, and downpour. Soon after the storm had passed over, we became aware of about twenty nighthawks flying westward about forty or fifty feet in the air, feeding and calling as they went. About an hour later we again saw these birds coming back, only now they were flying in and out among the low stunted junipers, feeding within ten feet of the ground. The whole group was now moving away from the failing light of the setting sun.

These evening flights to and from the west continued every evening. The number of birds increased until more than seventy-five could be seen feeding in an irregular line extending to the north and south. Then one morning after a heavy rain storm we woke to the sounds of the nighthawks and looked out to see a large flock flying to the west. With this early morning westward movement as number one, we counted five other definite mass movements at nearly equal intervals throughout the day. The birds always flew high on their way to the west and low to the ground coming back. Then on subsequent afternoons, especially after a rain storm, nighthawks would make as many as three west-east flights before it was too dark to see them. These flights were still taking place when we left the Monument on September 15.—CHARLES G. HANSEN, *Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, July 15, 1949.*

Great Blue Heron Killed by a Carp.—Evidence of an unusual death of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was found on October 3, 1947, at the north end of Reservoir No. 3, about 2 miles northeast of Waverly, Larimer County, Colorado. The dried head of the heron, with the remains