

on the water, bills open and wings held high, and fought with the gulls over chunks and strips of porpoise. In many cases they would flap and paddle right over one or more of the gulls to get at the meat and often took from the gulls large pieces which the gulls could not carry away or swallow quickly.

Prior to this time I had never known pelicans to act as scavengers, but their procedure in this case precluded any possibility that they mistook the refuse for live fish.—J. W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, December 1, 1949.*

Records of the Knot in the San Joaquin Valley, California.—A detailed survey of the available literature indicates that the Knot (*Calidris canutus*) has not been recorded for interior Oregon, Nevada, or California. Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:150) give the geographic range in California as: "From one end of State to other, but strictly coastwise." Therefore, the following observations made about 65 miles inland from the Pacific coast should be of especial interest.

On August 2, 1949, Daniel W. Slater and I observed a rather compact flock of 60 to 65 Knots, still in breeding plumage, at the edge of a shallow pool in a grassy pasture about 2½ miles northeast of the town of Los Baños, Merced County, California. Some of the Knots were feeding with Avocets and Black-necked Stilts, but most of them were on a slightly elevated grassy area at the edge of the water in one inactive group. Later on this same date, in irrigated countryside, we also observed a similar flock of 15 Knots at the edge of a pool of seepage water in a grassy pasture. This site was near Mendota Pool, just northeast of Mendota in Fresno County. This smaller flock was observed an airline distance of about 33 miles from the larger flock seen four and one-half hours earlier.

Worthy of special note is the fact that both flocks were in breeding plumage and were observed in similar habitat, although these habitats are different than, and inland from, those previously recorded in the literature.

Perhaps shorebird observers have overlooked a major fall migration route of this species in California, since the large numbers noted in this instance indicate more than just accidental use of the San Joaquin Valley.—FRED G. EVENDEN, JR., *Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California, December 10, 1949.*

Nesting Record of the Vermilion Flycatcher in the Northern Mohave Desert.—On May 14, 1949, a male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) was seen in Indian Wells Valley, northeastern Kern County, California. The observation was made on the old Stayer Ranch about five miles northeast of Inyokern at an elevation of 2300 feet. The ranch is now part of the United States Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake. A thorough survey of the ranch area on May 21 revealed that the male flycatcher was mated and that the female was incubating a clutch of three eggs. The nest, which was set in a horizontal fork near the lower periphery of the crown of a locust tree, was constructed mainly of course twigs. The lining consisted of plant fibres, string, soft paper and small leaves, all of which were also interspersed throughout the bowl.

Upon examination of the nest on May 31, only two eggs were found. Resting on the fork in which the nest was set was a stone weighing 22.9 grams, which I am quite certain was not there on the 21st. It was suggested to me that this might be the work of a pack rat. During the evening of June 2 and throughout the next day, a wind storm swept the desert area. According to the Aerology Office of the Naval Air Facility, N.O.T.S., gusts of whole gale velocity (58 m.p.h.) were recorded. It is possible that the nest of the flycatchers could not withstand winds of such intensity, for it was gone on June 5. However, inasmuch as the nest was located in a tree adjacent to a picnic area, its disappearance might well be attributed to vandalism. A male flycatcher was observed in the ranch area on July 25 but on five other visits between June 10 and August 6, when attempts were made to locate a second nest, neither the male nor female was seen.

According to the summary by Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:264) of the distribution of the Vermilion Flycatcher, the breeding metropolis is in the Colorado Desert below 500 feet elevation. More recently, Jaeger (Condor, 49, 1947:213) reported that this species was known to breed near Camp Cady, San Bernardino County, California. The present record extends the breed-

ing range of the Vermilion Flycatcher still another one hundred miles to the northern limit of the Mohave Desert.—WILLIAM R. FISH, *China Lake, California, October 3, 1949.*

Virginia Warbler Parasitized by Cowbird.—The restricted range and elusiveness of the Virginia Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*), together with its well-hidden nest, probably account in a large measure for the fact that it has so long escaped inclusion in Herbert Friedmann's extensive lists (*The Cowbirds*, 1929; *Auk*, 60, 1943:350-356; *Auk*, 66, 1949:154-163) of birds known to be parasitized by the North American Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*. I am able to add it to the list through the cooperation of Robert J. Niedrach, who took me to the nest of a Virginia Warbler in Daniels Park, near Denver, on July 13, 1949. When Niedrach found the nest in a bunch of grass at the edge of a clump of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus parvifolius*) about two weeks earlier, it had contained several eggs of the warbler and one cowbird's egg. At the time of our visit, however, it was occupied by only one weak little warbler almost smothered beneath a lusty young cowbird.

The cowbird involved was *Molothrus ater artemisiae* which, with the addition of the Virginia Warbler to Friedmann's lists, is now known to parasitize 110 species and subspecies.—FRANK C. CROSS, *Silver Spring, Maryland, September 26, 1949.*

A Vireo Specimen with Supernumerary Rectrices.—There are few records in the literature of passerine birds with supernumerary rectrices, although Arthur A. Allen informs me that they are not uncommon in the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) and perhaps in other gallinaceous birds. It may be of interest, therefore, to record such an occurrence recently discovered in a specimen in the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Collection at Cornell University. The bird (C. U. 15791) is a male Carmiol Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) of undetermined age, collected by Austin Paul Smith at 9000 feet elevation on Volcan Turrialba, Costa Rica, on November 24, 1922. The specimen seems perfectly normal in all respects, save that it possesses no less than fifteen rectrices. All are fully grown, with no trace of sheathing at the bases of the feathers. The three extra feathers are, morphologically, of the type of the normal central pair, with the rachis centrally located. As far as can be determined without damaging the specimen, the follicles have been duplicated laterally rather than dorsoventrally, thus making it difficult to ascertain precisely which three of the five "central" rectrices are the supernumeraries. The exact stage of development at which this duplication arose is, of course, purely conjectural.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, October 17, 1949.*

Summer Range of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.—In connection with other field work in Mexico in the summer of 1949, an effort was made to determine the southern limits of the summer range of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*). On July 18, careful check was made of the occurrence of this bird along the highway between Matamoros and Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. Several Scissor-tails were observed in the vicinity of Santa Teresa; one at Las Norias (104 miles by road SSW Matamoros); and two near Tres Palos (about 25 miles NNE Jimenez). Beyond this point no Scissor-tails were encountered. Since mid-July is within the breeding season as reported by Bent (*Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, no. 179, 1942:92), it is likely that the birds here reported were within their breeding range. This point needs confirmation, however.—W. B. DAVIS, *Department of Wildlife Management, College Station, Texas, October 3, 1949.*

Mallards "Mobbing" Cooper Hawks.—Late in the afternoon of September 30, 1949, while studying Coots (*Fulica americana*) on Lake Temescal, on the eastern edge of Oakland, Alameda County, California, I observed behavior of about 20 Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and six Coots which seemed to be comparable to the "mobbing" behavior so well known among passerine birds. Two Cooper Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) were the objects of this demonstration.

About 5:15 p.m. a Cooper Hawk sailed across the lake, causing some uneasiness among the widely scattered waterfowl. The hawk showed no interest in any of them but flew into a large oak and a moment later emerged closely pursuing another larger and paler Cooper Hawk. In close pursuit they flew into another group of oaks which partly overhang the west shore of the lake. Here the first bird was seen to engage in some sort of a tail-spreading display, apparently for the benefit of the other