

**Pioneer Starling Nesting in Eastern Oregon.**—The first verified nesting of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) near La Grande, Oregon, took place in late May, 1950. The locality is the Arthur McCall ranch, four miles east of La Grande. The nest site was in an eastward facing flicker hole twelve feet up in a willow tree. Two and sometimes three Starlings were noted in the vicinity of the ranch in the winter and spring. Nesting activity began in early May. A nesting was first attempted in a tree cavity a few feet from the house, but this was abandoned for the other site. When the nest hole was discovered on May 24, the parents were already feeding young birds. Both parents actively fed the young, usually alternating in appearance at the nest, in both the morning and evening when observations were made. Each parent had its own direction of coming and going to feed the young. The "plee" notes of the adult are varied to announce arrival at the nest, or to express displeasure or alarm, as, for example, when the writer climbed the tree to examine the nest.

There were five young in the nest, at the bottom of the cavity, 15 inches from the bottom of the entrance hole.

On June 3 a young associate reached down the slanting cavity and lifted one out. This nestling fluttered away into the tall cheat grass surrounding the nest tree and was followed in quick succession by the other four. Later, a parent returned to the tree, examined the empty nest, and then flew to hover over some rye grass where apparently a young was hidden.

McCall had been advised to destroy the nesting Starlings in view of their reputation as a pest. However, he takes a naturalist's interest in being able to watch this historic nesting, especially since the settlement of this region by Starlings appears inevitable. In previous years the writer has collected winter visitant Starlings in the valley.

Of interest are some of the bird associates of the Starling in its Oregon locale. A few yards from its nest site and at the base of a cross-arm on an electric light pole, a pair of Western Kingbirds built a nest. Yellow-throats sing and preen in nearby willows. Marsh Hawks hover over the greasewood, pursued by Brewer Blackbirds. Red-winged Blackbirds, too, are present in low, wet places on the farm. Several species of swallows nest about the ranch buildings and Tree, Barn, and Cliff swallows have all been observed at the Starling nest tree. The one member of the avifauna that seems to be missing may have been the unwilling victim of the Starlings. In past years Red-Shafted Flickers nested on this place, but none was observed here this year.

The habitat in the area of the Starling nesting is a wind-swept sandy loam, with a water table usually less than two feet from the surface. Alkali tends to rise to the ground level, making a situation suitable for hummocks of greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatis*) and for areas of rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus* sp.) and pasture grasses.—CHARLES W. QUAINANCE, *Eastern Oregon College, La Grande, Oregon, June 3, 1950.*

**A Caracara in Colorado.**—The available literature reveals no previous report of the Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway*) in Colorado. Thus, it is a matter of uncommon interest that a live Caracara was found in the spring of 1948 in this state, in Garfield County.

The bird was discovered by a young boy in a small alfalfa field owned by John Duplis of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, some time in either the month of April or May. Although it could run and flap its wings, take-off was not possible. It was placed in a chicken coop, remaining therein until removed by the writer in early January, 1950. At that time it was shipped to Robert J. Niedrach, of the Denver Museum, who had it placed in the Denver Park Zoo where it now resides.

The Duplis farm is quite small and is located on a little meander bench about 2½ miles above the town of Glenwood Springs on the Roaring Fork River which, in turn, is located at the confluence of the Roaring Fork River with the Colorado River. Both canyons at this point are somewhat narrow and precipitous.—CLYDE P. MATTESON, *Colorado Game and Fish Department, Grand Junction, Colorado, June 11, 1950.*

**Some Observations of Birds in Southern Colorado.**—It is not improbable that some of the water birds which Ryder (Condor, 52, 1950:133-134) reported breeding in the San Luis Valley and Wright's Ranch areas of southern Colorado in 1949 have actually bred for some years in that neglected region. The writer saw at least twenty Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) at Russell Lakes in this valley in the late afternoon of May 8, 1937; a flock of four White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis*