

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*

mexicana) also was seen, but the only grebe identified was the Pied-billed (*Podilymbus podiceps*), of which two were seen by the road. Among other birds seen were Cinnamon, Blue-winged and Green-winged teal, Red-head, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Mallard, Gadwall, Shoveler ducks, and the Bank Swallow, the last two species being common. At least one Tree Swallow and at least four Water-pipits were still present.

The following day, on the Rio Grande west of Creede, all the ducks seen in the valley below on May 7 and 8 were again seen except the Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Red-head, and Canvas-back. In addition, a male Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) was seen, and a female was doubtfully identified; also about four Baldpates were seen. More surprising to me, however, was the altitude to which some small passerine birds ranged on these prairies. In the boreal zones two to three miles west of Wright's Ranch were seen two Say Phoebes (*Sayornis saya*), a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*), a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), and some four or five Brewer Sparrows (*Spizella breweri*). Another shrike was seen 20 miles west of Wright's Ranch.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, Tucson, Arizona, June 17, 1950.

Black-and-white Warbler in Santa Clara County, California.—On June 10, 1950, a singing adult male Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) was collected on Stevens Creek, 12 miles westsouthwest of San Jose, Santa Clara County, California. The bird was under observation for one hour and 15 minutes before being taken. During this period it sang at regular intervals and foraged mainly in coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). The bird remained within an area of approximately three acres and made a complete circle in the time it was observed. The specimen had enlarged testes, measuring 5 mm. in length, and showed heavy fat deposits in the abdominal area and along all feather tracts.

Acknowledgements are due Milton L. Seibert and Raymond E. Williams for their cooperation in securing the specimen, which is now deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, San Jose State College, San Jose, California, June 25, 1950.

Notes on the Birds of Mount Locke, Texas.—Mount Locke in the Davis Mountains of Jeff Davis County, Texas, is the site of the McDonald Astronomical Observatory of the University of Texas. It is a minor summit at 6800 feet elevation, 10 miles airline northwest of the town of Fort Davis and 10 miles east of Mount Livermore, which at 8400 feet is the dominating peak of the mountains. As described by L. C. Hinckley ("Vegetation of the Mount Livermore Area in Texas," *American Midland Naturalist*, 32, 1944:236-250), the Davis Mountains are geologically a part of the easternmost extension of the Front Range of the Western Cordilleras. The characteristic botanical formation of most of the area is woodland represented by various combinations of pine-oak-juniper groupings. On Mount Locke itself the dominant growth is scrub oak. Considerable piñon pine is also found, principally on north-facing slopes. The ground is exceedingly rocky but supports a fair cover of grass. The annual rainfall on Mount Locke is 20 inches, coming mostly in the summer months. The annual mean temperature is 57°F., varying from 42° in January to 71° in June.

The only ornithological record from the Davis Mountains of which I am aware is a brief note in Vernon Bailey's "Biological Survey of Texas" (N. Amer. Fauna No. 25, 1905:37). Van Tyne and Sutton's "The Birds of Brewster County, Texas" (Mus. of Zool., Univ. Mich., Misc. Pub. No. 37, 1937) covers definitively the lower and less rugged terrain 25 miles and more southeast of Mount Locke as well as the mountainous region 120 miles to the southeast.

The writer of the present notes lived on Mount Locke intermittently in the years 1939 to 1942 and 1946 to 1947 and made observations on birds chiefly in the spring season. The observations are restricted to the summit region and to the upper slopes of the mountain. Fall records are lacking altogether. Most of the birds resident on the mountain do not spend the winter on the summit proper where the observatory and accompanying residences are located.

Cathartes aura. Turkey Vulture. Vultures are continuously in evidence after they arrive in the middle of March. They roost in large numbers on the sides of Mount Locke.

Buteo jamaicensis. Red-tailed Hawk. A pair nested on the southern slope.

Alectoris graeca. Chukar Partridge. An individual appeared once. The species has been introduced on a ranch about 20 miles away.

Cyrtonyx montezumae. Mearns Quail. This species is probably resident on the mountain, although it is seen relatively infrequently. Two quail on being flushed killed themselves by flying head-on into