

a distance of about 600 yards along the knife-like summit of Medicine Mountain (elevation about 9300 feet), 30 miles east of Lovell, Big Horn County. Two of these were full grown juvenal-plumaged birds of dull, grayish buffy coloration; they followed an adult, periodically begging for food. All were quite shy and flew about restlessly, giving a sharp, rattling call suggestive of that of the Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). Later on the same day an adult female was found dead among the boulders of a nearby rockslide. This bird was carefully sketched in color, and prepared as a skeleton. It is now in the skeleton collection of Harrison B. Tordoff at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. The long western face of Medicine Mountain forms a precipice some hundreds of feet in height and the eastern slope is littered with boulders and talus; hence the area would seem to be suited to the breeding requirements of this species. In fact, it appears to resemble closely the site of the first discovered nest of the Black Rosy Finch (Absaroka Mountains, Wyoming), as described by F. W. Miller (Condor, 27, 1925:3-7, see especially figure 1), but is somewhat lower in elevation. Medicine Mountain, and nearby Bald Mountain (elevation 10,500 feet), are among the highest points in the northwestern part of the Big Horns. Their rocky crests are virtually treeless. The peak of Medicine Mountain lies at the approximate level of the regional "true" timberline which here varies roughly from 9500 to 10,000 feet above sea level (Cary, *op. cit.*: 50). It is essentially alpine in nature. Very small patches of snow were present in sheltered spots during our visit; conies (*Ochotona princeps*) were numerous among the rocks. The Black Rosy Finch has apparently not previously been found in Wyoming in summer east of the Teton, Wind River, and Absaroka mountains, all of which lie in the western or northwestern part of the state (McCreary, *op. cit.*: 99). The Big Horns are therefore probably the eastern limit of the summer range of the species, being the easternmost mass of the Rocky Mountains attaining extensive alpine elevations.—ROBERT M. MENGEL, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*, and JANE S. MENGEL, *Whitmore Lake, Michigan, May 5, 1951*.

**Vaux Swift on Santa Rosa Island, California.**—In midafternoon on October 7, 1951, while sitting on a rock at the head of a canyon on Santa Rosa Island, Santa Barbara County, California, I noticed a flock of perhaps one hundred Vaux Swifts (*Chaetura vauxi*) pass directly in front of me on the same level. The flock was loose in that the birds were so separated as to require at least a full minute to pass before me. They were all traveling toward the southeast. This species has heretofore not been recorded from this island and apparently the date is quite late for the fall migration.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Los Angeles, California, October 11, 1951*.

**The Hudsonian Curlew in Nevada.**—On July 31, 1951, while driving across the Joshua tree-creosote bush desert of northern Clark County, Nevada, I flushed a crippled Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) from the shoulder of the highway about one-half mile east of Cactus Springs. The bird, dangling one leg as it flew, moved about 20 yards off the road and settled among the cactus where it remained nearly motionless for several minutes while I carefully examined it with binoculars. The head striping and short bill were so prominent that there can be no doubt about the species. The bird was still standing among the cactus when I left.

This apparently is the first record for this species in the state of Nevada since Linsdale (Condor, 53, 1951:228-249) makes no mention of it in his recent paper on Nevada birds.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Nevada Fish and Game Commission, Boulder City, Nevada, October 1, 1951*.

**Land Birds at Sea.**—On two occasions, while some 15 to 20 miles off the coast near San Diego, California, a variety of land birds was observed about the motor vessel M. V. Paolina T. of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. At 2:00 p.m., Pacific standard time on May 10, 1951, about 20 miles west of San Diego, a pair of Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica aestiva*) was observed flying about the ship and alighting occasionally. The weather was very mild, with an overcast sky and light breeze from the northwest. At first the birds were quite nervous and allowed no approach but rapidly lost their fear and would alight quite near to personnel. One was reported as flying through an open galley window and perching briefly on the head of a member of the party. At 4:00 p.m. three more Yellow Warblers and a Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) appeared. The Yellow Warblers seemed considerably more at ease in their strange environment than did the Pileolated. They climbed about the rigging and lines as if hunting food and seemed undisturbed by a noisy winch. After dark the birds could be seen flitting about the lighted areas but were not seen to land on board. Twittering calls were heard throughout the night and resembled those made by the warblers during the day.

At 4:30 a.m. on May 11, I came on watch and found a Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) still in winter plumage busily picking at small crustacea that had spilled on the deck from a trawling operation. This bird was cautious but allowed itself to be approached much more closely than it would have on land. An hour later the trawl was brought aboard again and the activity caused the plover to leave. It did not return. By this time the warblers had again appeared, though fewer in number. A male and female Yellow, and a male Pileolated Warbler were seen.

At 9:30 a.m. a kingbird alighted in the rigging and allowed approach to within about 10 feet. Identification as the Cassin Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) is rather reliable as the back was dark and no white was observed along the sides of the tail. This bird did not linger long and was not seen again. At this time the vessel was about 15 miles from San Diego. Approximately one hour later, and the same distance offshore, two Lazuli Buntings (*Passerina amoena*), a male and a female, made a brief visit aboard. They perched on the rail only and allowed no one to approach them. When the vessel attained full speed a few minutes later the birds left and made no attempt to follow.

Throughout the two days and night of May 10-11, the weather was extremely mild. At no time was there sufficient wind to have forced the birds to sea. The slight breeze remained from the northwest. All the birds appeared to be in good condition; none of them showed any marked signs of exhaustion. The state of the weather and condition of the birds indicates they were at sea of their own volition and were quite untroubled by their surroundings.

The second occasion was a similar cruise made on May 21 and 22, 1951. Fewer birds were seen but the general conditions were very similar. The weather was again extremely mild and the distance from shore was from 15 to 20 miles. The first bird on board, a Townsend Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) alighted on a rope stay, flitted about for a few minutes and disappeared over the water. This was the only land bird seen on May 21.

At 4:00 a.m. on May 22, the sky was heavily overcast and the sea was glassy smooth with a long, low swell from the northwest. A number of birds were noticed in the dim light. They were flying about the vessel at too great a distance for identification but were too large and of different flight habits for warblers. Ten minutes later a Pileolated Warbler was seen to hop up on the moving, vibrating towing cable and ride it toward the winch for at least ten feet. This bird seemed quite nervous and would tolerate no movement on my part, flitting away but staying near the vessel.

One of the larger birds that had been flying about the vessel landed within 15 feet of me and proved to be a kingbird. The kingbird characters were unmistakable and white sides on the tail made identification of it as a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) rather certain. If the others, still flying nearby, were also of this species it was a fairly large group, some 12 in number, to be seen on land or sea. The distant birds had the same general appearance and flight habits as the one on board.

Shortly after 7:00 a.m. a male Pileolated Warbler, possibly the same one observed earlier, came aboard and showed no fear of man. It lit on the arm of Captain Larry E. Davis and remained for nearly a minute. It then flitted to the deck near his feet, closed its eyes and seemed to sleep, awakening nervously at intervals. Again there was no indication that the birds were at sea by other than their own volition; also there were few indications that the birds were somewhat exhausted from such a sustained flight.—ROBERT L. WISNER, *Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, July 9, 1951.*

**A Second Record of the Indigo Bunting in Nevada.**—On June 14, 1951, in a mesquite and atriplex thicket one mile southeast of Fairbanks Spring at the north end of Ash Meadows (14 miles north-northeast of Death Valley Junction, California), Nye County, Nevada, an adult male Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) was collected. The bird was shot by Ned K. Johnson after I had followed it for almost an hour. It sang repeatedly, never going more than 100 yards from where it was first observed. The condition of the specimen was excellent, its weight was 13.5 grams, and the length of the testis was 7 mm. It was first seen in company with another bird of similar size, but no female bunting was found despite search on succeeding days.

The Indigo Bunting was first reported from Nevada by A. H. Miller (*Ecology*, 27, 1946:59-60) who collected a specimen, on June 2, 1940, with testis 6 mm. long, in the Grapevine Mountains in Nye County about 55 miles northwest of the Ash Meadows locality.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, August 10, 1951.*