

be directed to this point." On June 18, 1949, I collected an adult male Crested Flycatcher about five miles north of Brasher Falls, St. Lawrence County, New York. It had exhibited the typical agitated behavior of a bird with nest or young near at hand. Its plumage was fairly worn, and its testes measured about 7×4 mm. When the specimen was being prepared, it was found to have a typical well developed incubation patch as far as could be determined by macroscopic examination. The abdominal apterium was free of down feathers, and the skin appeared typically thickened and vascularized. Reexamination of the study skin (no. 23788 in the Cornell University Collection) shows that the abdominal skin at the sewed incision is noticeably thickened.

I might add parenthetically that I have examined breeding males of 41 species (representing 12 families) of the suborder Passeres other than those listed by Bailey, and have found incubation patches in none.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, January 5, 1953.*

Franklin Gull on Pacific Coast of British Columbia.—The Franklin Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) is sufficiently rare on the Pacific Coast to warrant recording of additional occurrences. On August 23, 1952, I noticed a different gull in company with Bonaparte and Short-billed gulls at Point Holmes near Comox, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, but could not make sure of identification. However, the bird was still there on August 29 when I was able to look it over and to see the diagnostic markings. I was quite satisfied it was a young Franklin Gull. Munro and Cowan (*A Review of the Bird Fauna of British Columbia, 1947:119*) give only three records for British Columbia, all in the interior of the Province.—THEED PEARSE, *Comox, British Columbia, January 12, 1953.*

Record of Starling in Humboldt County, California.—The heads and capes of a male and female Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were found on April 18, 1952, on the Timmons Ranch about four miles northwest of Arcata, Humboldt County, California. The Starlings apparently were the victims of house cat depredation. In spite of close observation of many migrating flocks of Brewer Blackbirds that were common throughout the region at this time of year, no other Starlings were observed.

The next report of a Starling in Humboldt County was on December 1, 1952, when Larry Werter and Tom Barry found one dead on the Arcata Bottoms, two miles west of Arcata. Mr. William Wooten confirmed the identification of the bird and reported the item to the writer on December 8. Unfortunately the bird had been destroyed before its significance was known. It is believed that, to this date, the records of these three Starlings constitute the most western stations for the Starling in the United States.—FRED A. GLOVER, *Wildlife Management Department, Humboldt State College, Arcata, California, January 5, 1953.*

Eastern Race of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Colorado.—On December 21, 1952, Miss Sadie Morrison observed a sapsucker at Morrison, Jefferson County, Colorado, in a small orchard, where it was feeding on frozen apples adhering to the trees. Due to the rarity of wintering sapsuckers in eastern Colorado, Dr. John L. Chapin and the undersigned visited the orchard the following day and tentatively identified the bird as an immature female of the eastern race. The bird was taken on December 23, and the identification verified, the plumage being in partial postjuvencal molt. This specimen (D.M.N.H. no. 26666) is the second substantiated record of the eastern race for Colorado. Niedrach and Rockwell (*The Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks, 1939:104*) list an adult male (D.M.N.H. no. 20497) collected on October 7, 1939, near Sullivan, Arapahoe County, 18 miles due east of Morrison.—A. LANG BAILY, *Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, January 10, 1953.*

Third Record of the Tropical Kingbird in California.—On the morning of October 7, 1952, I saw two kingbirds at Point Lobos Reserve State Park, Monterey County, California, which had a dull brown, forked tail. Both birds were observed alternately dashing into the air, then perching, in an open area which is dotted with *Baccharis* shrubs. At least one hour was spent in observation of the two kingbirds.

Later the two birds were shown to Laidlaw Williams who agreed that the back was olive green and that the tail was dull brown, without any white bordering or white tip, and distinctly forked.

The throat was white, not definitely outlined, but gradually shading to brilliant yellow underparts. The two birds were identical. Williams and I observed the birds for at least a half hour under ideal light conditions, close at hand. We concluded that both birds were the Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*).

Recent casual occurrences of this species north of its summer range have been summarized by Cogswell (Condor, 54, 1952:117). All recent Californian records have been made in October.—KEN LEGG, *Point Lobos Reserve, Carmel, California, January 6, 1953.*

Northern Record of Nesting of Red-necked Grebe.—A pair of Red-necked Grebes (*Colymbus griseogen holböllii*) was found by David Walsh on July 18, 1949, nesting on an oxbow of the Itkillik River near its junction with the Colville River, Arctic Alaska. The nest contained three eggs. Floating vegetation was piled to a 5-inch high crown and the nest was located at the edge of the shoreline vegetation about thirty feet from shore. The birds were extremely wary and only after three cautious visits to the nest were both adults observed and identified at close range. The nesting bird would slink from the nest, cover the eggs and submerge in the water with the least provocation. This was our only sight record of this species in the course of six weeks spent on the Colville River. The author has been unable to find previous records of this grebe nesting this far north in Alaska.—URBAN C. NELSON, *Juneau, Alaska, January 29, 1953.*

Duetting in the Crimson-breasted Barbet.—On March 20, 1945, I was fortunate enough to observe two Crimson-breasted Barbets (*Megalaema haemacephala*) singing a duet at Cox's Bazar, Bengal, India (now Pakistan). Early in the morning on this date I was watching birds in a mango grove when my attention was attracted to one of these barbets sitting motionless on a twig about 15 feet from me and about 8 feet from the ground. As I watched, a second barbet flew to the same twig, sidled up to the first bird and presented it with a peepal fig. This was solemnly accepted and as solemnly swallowed. Since the sexes of this species are similar in appearance, I could not be sure of the sex but I am inclined to believe that the donor of the fig was the male. Then the "male," sitting an inch or so from the "female" and facing in the same direction, began to sing. Much to my surprise the "female" began to sing also. Her voice was somewhat higher pitched than the "male's" and alternated perfectly with his song. The combined effect of their voices was somewhat like this: *tonk tenk tonk tenk tonk tenk*, etc. The duet song, however, was little or no faster than the normal solo song. Both birds uttered each note with the bill slightly parted and at the same time a pronounced swelling would pulse in their throats. The song lasted for about one minute whereupon the "male" flew directly away. He returned in a few minutes with another fig and the entire performance was repeated. This occurred four times and then both birds flew in the direction that the male had previously taken on his sorties after figs. The entire performance, the presentation of the figs and the duetting, was conducted in a very restrained manner.

Ostmaston (Ibis, 1941:310) remarks that the only true duet he has heard of among Indian birds is that of the Great Himalayan Barbet (*Megalaema virens*). I would be surprised if the Blue-throated Barbet (*M. asiatica*) did not also display this phenomenon. Its song is strongly reminiscent of *M. haemacephala* but has a rolling quality to each syllable.

Duetting has been observed in African targets also. Chapin, for instance, mentions duetting in *Trachylaemus purpuratus* (Birds of the Belgian Congo, 2, 1939:489) and in *Lybius vielloti* (p. 526). As an indication of duetting in the New World Capitonidae, Dr. Stephen W. Eaton told me that he had heard the Toucan Barbet (*Semnornis ramphastinus*) engage in this behavior at the Bronx Zoo in New York. Probably duetting is a fairly widespread practice among the Capitonidae.

This type of behavior is found widely scattered throughout the entire class Aves. Penguins engage in mutual ceremonies involving posturing and duetting, according to Gillespie (A Book of King Penguins, London, 1932). There are many references in the literature to similar behavior among birds in almost every group including the passerines. Arthur A. Allen and Peter Paul Kellogg have sound recordings of duetting in the Black-billed Wren, *Pheugopedius fasciato-ventris* (Cornell Library of Natural Sound; disk 44-21B, cuts 3, 4 and 5), and the Musician Wren, *Leucolepis phaeocephalus* (C.L.N.S.; disk 45-40A, cuts 5, 6, 8 and 9). Duetting is apparently quite widespread among the Central and South American Troglodytidae. Fuertes mentions "counter singing" among various species, including *Heleodytes* (= *Campylorhynchus*) *bicolor* (Bird-Lore, 15, 1913:342). Laskey (Wilson Bull., 56, 1944:27) records duetting in the Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*).