

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*).