

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Unusual Black Phoebe Nest.—In La Habra Heights, Los Angeles County, California, on March 26, 1941, a search for a nest of the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) under an old wooden bridge proved successful. Several old nests were found plastered onto vertical sides of the bridge. The occupied mud nest, however, was circular and was fastened onto a length of bailing wire dangling from an overhead support, as shown in the accompanying figure.—RAY QUIGLEY, JR., *Whittier, California, February 28, 1953.*

Additional Bird Records for the Cariboo Parklands, British Columbia.—During the field season of 1953, my intensive investigation of the avifauna of the Cariboo Parklands biotic area in British Columbia was continued. Some interesting new distributional records were obtained.

Dendroica magnolia. Magnolia Warbler. This is a characteristic nesting species in the subalpine forest area near Quesnel and Indianpoint Lake, British Columbia, but there have been no records of the species either in the summer or in migration through the Cariboo Parklands. On August 17, 1953, a male was taken 25 miles east of Williams Lake; on August 29, two others were observed in Williams Lake, B. C.; on September 9, 1953, another male was taken at 144-Mile House. These occurrences suggest that in 1953 there was an unusual southward movement that brought the species through the Cariboo.

Dendroica striata. Black-poll Warbler. A male was taken from a flock of three at Williams Lake on September 9, 1953. Three others were seen at Alkali Lake on September 7, 1953. These are the first records out of the subalpine forest area.

Riparia riparia. Bank Swallow. This species is widely distributed in the province but has not previously been taken in the Cariboo Parklands. An immature individual was collected from a mixed flock of swallows at Springhouse on August 29, 1953.

Empidonax difficilis. Western Flycatcher. The usual range of this species is in the humid coastal forest but there are scattered records for the Okanagan Valley and one from the subalpine forest area near Bowron Lake (Dickinson, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 1953:166). A juvenal male, taken at Alkali Lake, British Columbia, on September 9, 1953, is the second record of occurrence in the Cariboo Parklands.—LEO JOBIN, *Williams Lake, British Columbia, February 4, 1954.*

Golden Eagles Attacking Coyote.—About 3:00 p.m., November 21, 1953, while driving through the Colorado Antelope Refuge northeast of Fort Collins, Colorado, I noticed two dark objects on the brow of a hill. Through 7×35 binoculars the objects were seen to be two Golden Eagles perched approximately 30 feet apart on the ground. Just then a coyote stalked out of a stubble field toward one of the eagles. When the coyote was about 20 feet away, both eagles detected him. They launched from the slope and circled in pursuit of the coyote.

While the eagles made short successive stoops, the coyote ran rapidly down the ridge and to the top of the next hill. Confused, he turned downhill into the valley, where he finally eluded the two eagles by diving into a sinkhole which was quite long and narrow, about 4×5×20 feet. The eagles made two or three more stoops over the sinkhole, but couldn't reach the coyote. Thwarted, the eagles returned to their perches on the same knoll and the coyote remained hidden.—NORTON R. MINER, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Collins, Colorado, January 28, 1954.*

Bird Records for Nevada.—On a trip to southern Nevada in October, 1953, I encountered several kinds of birds and some of the observations on them supplement reports on Nevada birds by Linsdale (*Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936; Condor, 53, 1951:228-249*).

Aegolius acadicus. Saw-whet Owl. Specimens have been obtained from five localities in the state. On October 10, 1953, I found but did not preserve the remains of one in a tank at Deadman Spring, 6400 feet, on Sheep Mountain, about 50 miles north of Las Vegas.

Ixoreus naevius. Varied Thrush. Reports of this thrush have come to the Fish and Wildlife Service from Claude J. Smith who saw six at Lake Tahoe on March 3, 1939, and from E. C. D. Marriage who saw one at Carson City on January 12, 1948. I saw one on October 10, 1953, at Pine Spring (Hidden Forest), 45 miles north of Las Vegas.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend Warbler. In the Charleston Mountains on October 7, 1953, I saw two in Kyle Canyon and one at Willow Creek. On October 12 one was at the summit of Charleston Peak. I saw two at Pine Spring in Hidden Forest, Sheep Range, on October 10.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., December 21, 1953.*

The Ash-throated Flycatcher at Vancouver, British Columbia.—On October 7, 1953, while banding birds at Marpole, Vancouver, British Columbia, I captured an Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). It was an adult male in delayed molt and was taken by means of a net set up in a mixed deciduous growth of maple, alder, and other broad-leaved trees. The area is fairly moist. As far as I can ascertain, this is the first record of this species in Canada. It is now specimen no. 38710 in the Kenneth Racey Collection in Vancouver. On October 11, 1953, I captured at the same place another individual of this same species. This one was banded and released.—WM. M. HUGHES, *Vancouver, British Columbia, February 19, 1954.*

Report on the Two Native Passerines of Nihoa, Hawaii.—On December 21 and 22, 1953, and on March 18, 1954, I had the opportunity, thanks to the United States Coast Guard, to land on rarely visited Nihoa Island, an isolated mile-long islet in the Hawaiian Archipelago located about 300 miles west-northwest of Honolulu. Since the sole two land birds of Nihoa are endemic and have not, apparently, been observed since 1940 (Vanderbilt and deSchauensee, *Notulae Naturae*, Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 86, 1941:1-14), notes on the continued existence and feeding and breeding habits of these little known species may be of value. Nomenclature follows Amadon (*Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 95, 1950:155-270).

Psittirostra cantans ultima. Laysan Finch. Family Drepaniidae. This bird remains reasonably numerous on Nihoa for we saw 15 to 20 individuals during two to three hours of observation on a limited part of the island in December. We found both sexes in rather bright yellow plumage then, compared to the dull coloration of Vanderbilt's specimens taken in August, 1940, but apparently not yet breeding. Two old nests were found—one, I think the first such nest site known for any drepaniid, in a rocky recess near the base of a cliff. In March in this same cliff nest, distinctive because of a number of large seabird feathers built into it, I found a young Laysan Finch not quite fledged. I believe this is the first breeding information of this drepaniid, although eggs of its related form on Laysan are known from May. Adding to its previously known habit of eating sea bird eggs and other animal and plant foods, I repeatedly observed in December the Laysan Finch eating the small, green flower heads of *Chenopodium sandwicheum* (which forms much of the native plant cover of Nihoa). Also, I observed one bird picking out the still partly green seeds of *Portulaca caumii*, a plant endemic to the island. This "finch" still allows approach to within three or four feet—a testimony to its effective isolation. The related form, *P. c. cantans*, survives on Laysan Island over 600 miles away.

Acrocephalus familiaris kingi. Nihoa Miller Bird. Family Sylviidae. The only relative of this reed warbler in the Hawaiian Archipelago, *A. f. familiaris* from Laysan, has been extinct for over thirty years. Vanderbilt apparently found the Nihoa species fairly common in 1940, and collected nine specimens. We found the bird still present in December, 1953, but saw just two individuals during our limited observation.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, April 1, 1954.*

Observations on the Sandhill Crane in Northeastern California.—Recent literature dealing with the Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*) in California has in most cases been restricted to information on migration and wintering grounds. According to Leopold (1951, "Game birds and mammals of California—a laboratory syllabus," Berkeley, California), there have been no records of Sandhill Cranes nesting in California since 1931. However, it is the opinion of the writers that Sandhill Cranes have nested in scattered locations throughout northeastern California each year but observations have not been recorded and published. It is the objective of this paper to record spring and summer observations on Sandhill Cranes in northeastern California for the years 1948 through 1953.

Every spring since 1948, a waterfowl breeding ground survey has been carried on in California. The survey consists of making counts of breeding pairs of waterfowl on all major production areas within the state. The breeding ground survey in northeastern California in 1948 consisted only of ground counts but in 1949 the ground surveys were supplemented by aerial coverage. Since 1950, the