

The Current Status of the Starling in Nevada.—True to the pattern of spread and establishment described by Kessel (Condor, 55, 1953:49–67) the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) has become a breeding bird in Nevada after having been an increasingly abundant migrant and winter visitant for several years. Cottam (Condor, 43, 1941:293–294) first reported this species in the state at Las Vegas, Clark County, on August 12, 1938. By 1949 Starlings had been reported from the Reno and Fallon areas in western Nevada and the Overton, Boulder City, and Beatty areas in southern Nevada (Linsdale, Condor, 53, 1951:242; Marshall and Alcorn, Condor, 54, 1952:321).

In southern Nevada the species has increased from the rare individuals reported prior to 1951 to flocks of several hundred birds which now occur commonly around Las Vegas, in the Overton-Logandale area, and in the Virgin Valley west of Mesquite.

Except for Cottam's first record, a bird reported from the Pahump Valley, Nye County, on June 27, 1947 (Johnson and Richardson, Condor, 54, 1952:358) and a record from Elko, Elko County, on June 17, 1955, all of the records to date have been for migrant or wintering birds in the lower and warmer western and southern parts of the state. These records have extended from October to early April.

Within the past five years Starlings have been noted wintering, or at least occurring during the winter months, in nearly all parts of Nevada. In addition to the numerous records from the warmer sections, wintering records for the higher and colder regions have been obtained as follows: Goldfield, 5600 feet elevation, Esmeralda County, November 21, 1951; Lovelock, 3900 feet elevation, Pershing County, November 15, 1954; Battle Mountain, 4500 feet elevation, Lander County, January 18, 1955; Duck Valley Indian Reservation, 5400 feet elevation, Elko County, March 19, 1955; O'Neil Basin, 6000 feet elevation, Elko County, April 5 and November 5, 1955; Contact, 5800 feet elevation, Elko County, November 18, 1955; Emigrant Pass, 6100 feet elevation, Eureka County, November 30, 1955; Eureka, 6400 feet elevation, Eureka County, and Duckwater, 5400 feet elevation, Nye County, both on December 1, 1955; Adaven, 6000 feet elevation, Nye County, December 2, 1955; Ely, 6300 feet elevation, White Pine County, December 3, 1955; Elko, 5100 feet elevation, December 5, 1955; the canyon of the East Fork of the Owyhee River near Mountain City, 5600 feet elevation, and the Duck Valley Indian Reservation (200 to 300 birds in one flock), both in Elko County, December 21, 1955; Elko, February 24, 1956; and McGill, 6200 feet elevation, White Pine County, February 27, 1956.

During the period from November 20 to 26, 1955, an especially heavy migration of Starlings through the Elko area was noted, with flocks of several dozen birds each flying low over the ground, moving westerly down the Humboldt River Valley, at a frequency which must have reflected totals of many hundreds of birds a day.

The final record which establishes the Starling as a breeding species in Nevada was obtained on May 17, 1956, when a bird was seen darting into a hole under the eaves of the abandoned schoolhouse in Jiggs, 5400 feet elevation, 28 miles south of Elko. Returning to this site on the 18th to verify the fleeting observation of the day before, I found at least one parent bird taking food into the nesting hole and carrying droppings from it. It was impossible to look into the nest, but from the calls within the cavity, it is believed that at least three nestlings were present.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Nevada Fish and Game Commission, Elko, Nevada, May 21, 1956.*

Mobbing of an Attacking Scrub Jay by a Mockingbird and a Red-shafted Flicker.—At Hancock Park, Los Angeles, on the morning of June 7, 1956, I observed an interesting interrelationship between bird species. A fledgling Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), well feathered but obviously unable to fly, was vainly attempting to ward off the attacks of a Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). The dove would raise its wings and strive to face the jay as the latter circled, seeking an opening. Suddenly a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) swooped down upon the jay, driving it from its prey. A second attack by the mocker forced the jay to retire temporarily under a nearby bench. As the jay returned to its original pursuit, it was again attacked, this time by a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*). Another assault by the mocker followed. At this point a movement on my part caused both the mocker and the flicker to disappear. I terminated the action by removing the dove from the scene. All of the participating birds were silent for the entire duration of the incident.