

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 Pahrump 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.

I find it difficult to interpret the actions of the Mockingbird and the Red-shafted Flicker. It has been suggested that these birds demonstrated a type of group anxiety or mobbing behavior which was aroused by the actions of a predator, in this case, the Scrub Jay.—LORING DALES, *Los Angeles, California, July 8, 1956.*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Arizona.—On May 13, 1956, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) was seen at a feed tray in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona. Mrs. Alexander, who maintains the tray, said it had been coming for three days previously. There were many Black-headed Grosbeaks feeding also. On the following day, May 14, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen near Patagonia, Arizona. It hardly seems likely that it was the same bird since Madera Canyon is some miles away on the other side of the mountain. An early previous record of this species which is a vagrant in Arizona is that of a male taken on June 29, 1894, in the Huachuca Mountains (Swarth, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 10, 1914:60*).—FLORENCE THORNBURG, *Tucson, Arizona, July 6, 1956.*

Additional Records for the Imperial Valley and Salton Sea Area of California.—In the period from 1945 to 1956, Edward O'Neil of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, William Anderson of Los Baños, California, Bruce E. Cardiff of Rialto, California, and I have gathered the following records for the area around the southeast end of the Salton Sea and adjacent area of the Imperial Valley, California. All specimens referred to by number are in the Cardiff collection at the present time.

Falco columbarius suckleyi. Pigeon Hawk. A female, number 2428, was taken in a cultivated area northwest of Westmorland on October 31, 1954. The bird was perched in the top of a dead tamerisk tree near a cotton field. The specimen is typical of *suckleyi* with no bars on the tail, faint bars on the primaries, very dark brown coloration on the upperparts, and heavy streakings on the lower parts. This is the first record of this race for the Imperial Valley, and I could find no records for California east of the desert divides.

Squatarola squatarola. Black-bellied Plover. Many fall, winter, and spring observations have been made and several specimens have been taken between 1945 and 1955 in the vicinity of the southern end of the Salton Sea. Specimens collected are as follows: A male, number 59, taken on a mud flat along the southeastern edge of the Salton Sea on November 30, 1946; two females, numbers 1069 and 1070, were taken from a flock in the same area April 15 and one male, number 1163, was taken on October 9, 1949. Black-bellied Plovers have been observed in every month from October 1 through May 14. A search through the literature failed to uncover any previous records for Salton Sea or Imperial Valley.

Totanus flavipes. Lesser Yellow-legs. Two winter records: A male, number 889, taken on January 29, 1949, on a mud flat along the southeast edge of the Salton Sea north of Westmorland; and a male, number 2105, collected in a marshy area along the edge of the Salton Sea west of Niland on February 28, 1953. There are two other records for east of the Sierra Nevada in California.

Micropalama himantopus. Stilt Sandpiper. A flock of six was observed and two specimens were taken at a small pond around a carbon dioxide well west of Niland on April 3, 1954. They were with dowitchers and Least and Western sandpipers. Others have been observed in the vicinity of the southern end of the Salton Sea on different occasions over the past several years by Edward O'Neil and William Anderson. There is only one other record for the Stilt Sandpiper in California, an immature female taken at Eureka on September 10, 1933 (*Condor, 36, 1934:168*). The specimens are both females and are numbers 2282 and 2283.

Himantopus mexicanus. Black-necked Stilt. Breeds commonly in the area around the southern end of the Salton Sea. Many nests have been found by Edward O'Neil and others on the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge north of Westmorland. Many of the nests were located on borders of fields flooded for leaching. The stilts were also found breeding along the shore and on small islets along the edge of the Salton Sea near Kane Springs on May 16, 1952. One set of four eggs, number 1586, was taken. Stilts have not been reported heretofore as breeding in the Colorado Desert area.

Phalaropus fulicarius. Red Phalarope. A female was found almost dead in a duck-banding trap on the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge north of Westmorland on September 6, 1953, by William