

Starlings are now seen throughout the urban areas of the valley, and they commonly associate with Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) over irrigated lawns and fields. It will be interesting to see if they extend their nesting sites to locations other than cottonwoods, as they have in the eastern cities, and to determine what effect, if any, their nesting habits will have on the breeding population of the Gila Woodpecker (*Centurus uropygialis*).

Sturnella magna liliana. Eastern Meadowlark. This bird was first recorded in the Salt River Valley on December 26, 1955. At this time Phillips saw a flock of approximately 15 with about five Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*) at a marsh one and one-half miles south and six miles west of Peoria. On December 29 one was taken here along with one *neglecta*. Efforts were then made to determine the western extension of this bird and on February 4, 1956, one was taken from a flock of seven in a field near Arlington. Repeated visits to suitable areas farther west gave no indication of the bird's presence, and it was not again recorded in the area after February 4. Additional specimens were secured at Palo Verde. In the following winter (1956-57), no Eastern Meadowlarks were found in the valley.

Cassidix mexicanus nelsoni. Boat-tailed Grackle. On June 15, 1955, a first-year male was taken from a eucalyptus tree at a pond one mile south and two and one-half miles west of Peoria. Then on June 3, 1956, a female was taken from a group of five males and five females at a willow-cottonwood stand on a ranch four miles southwest of Phoenix. The latter specimen is in the Phillips collection. This group was watched and by June 17 was seen at nests in a single pecan tree where it fledged at least 15 juveniles which were seen on July 30. The following year the birds were back in the same area by April 14, where they again nested in the same tree. On May 19, 1957, a set of two fresh eggs was collected and four other occupied nests were examined. The closest previous occurrence of this species is of a straggling male of the race *C. m. monsoni* taken at Apache Lake (Dickerman, Condor, 57, 1955:120-121).

Hesperiphona vespertina. Evening Grosbeak. A male was taken from a flock of 17 on December 26, 1955, four and one-half miles north of Litchfield Park by Phillips. The following day two females were taken at the same location. These three birds represent the Rocky Mountain race, currently listed as *H. v. brooksi* by the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list. The specimens are in the Phillips collection.

Carpodacus purpureus. Purple Finch. A female was taken by Phillips four and one-half miles north of Litchfield Park on December 26, 1955, and is in his collection. At least one other was heard.—JAMES M. SIMPSON, *Phoenix, Arizona*, and JAMES R. WERNER, *Goodyear, Arizona, June 17, 1957*.

A New Bird Record for Arizona.—On April 23, 1957, my brother Jim and I located a flock of about twenty-five Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*) and six Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*) at Mormon Lake, Pima County, Arizona. Among this flock were two "peeps" with heavier, shorter and darker bills and dark legs. We were fortunate in getting a shot at one of them. As we had already guessed, it was a Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*).

Mormon Lake is located about three miles north of Sasabe, Arizona, near the Sonoran border. As far as I can determine no specimen or sight identification of this species has ever been recorded for Arizona or Sonora.—SEYMOUR H. LEVY, *Tucson, Arizona, July 12, 1957*.

Notes on the Nesting of Egrets Near San Rafael, California.—On June 16, 1957, a trip was made by boat to Little Marin Island, off San Rafael, California, for the purpose of banding in the heronry that covers this small privately-owned island. We also wished to investigate the possibility of Snowy Egrets nesting there. The heron colony was conservatively estimated at 2000 birds, of which approximately 50 per cent were Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), 20 per cent Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*), and 30 per cent Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).

This island is now the most northern known nesting station of the Snowy Egret on the coast of California (see Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:59*). According to a local resident, Raymond Rue of Bayside Acres, who has watched the colony grow for many years, this species has been in the colony for at least five years.

Several differences in the very similar nestlings of the Common and Snowy egrets were observed. The top of the toes and the tarsus of the Snowies usually contrasted in color whereas no similar contrast was seen in the Common Egrets; the beak of all the Snowies had some black while no Common Egrets observed had any. The location of nests was a great aid in separating the species because the Snowies almost invariably placed their nests at heights from ground level to eight or ten feet, whereas the Common Egrets' nests were usually from eight to twenty-five feet up in the trees.

In spite of the very heavy growth of poison oak on the island, nineteen Snowy Egrets, five Common Egrets, and nine Black-crowned Night Herons were banded.—C. JOHN RALPH and CLEMENT L. RALPH, *Berkeley, California, July 25, 1957.*

Nesting of a Jacamar in a Termite Nest.—Apart from the fine life history of the jacamar *Galbula ruficauda melanogenia* (Skutch, *Auk*, 54, 1937:135-146) there is little published information available on the nesting of the jacamars (Galbulidae). Most handbooks contain the general statement that these birds nest in holes in banks.

In Surinam I often met jacamars (*Galbula dea*, *Galbula galbula* and *Galbula leucogastra*) in flat forest land and I sometimes wondered where they would be able to dig their nest holes.



Fig. 1. Inside of termite nest showing an almost fully fledged nestling of the jacamar *Galbula leucogastra*; July 21, 1957.

On July 21, 1957, I noticed a termite nest at the height of about 6 meters in a tree at the edge of the forest near Zanderij, Surinam. There was a hole in it that looked like a woodpecker hole and the unmistakable notes of a jacamar were heard nearby. In order to examine the hole I cut the tree with my machete and opened the termite nest. In the middle of it was a circular chamber in which an almost fully fledged nestling of the jacamar *Galbula leucogastra* was sitting (fig. 1). The nest chamber measured 8×8 cms. and the entryway had a length of 6 cms. The termite nest was inhabited by termites but they were not in the nest chamber of the jacamar. The nest chamber and the entryway had a black color that contrasted with the brown color of the termitarium. It would have been interesting to watch the reactions of the termites when the birds were digging their nest chamber.

The nestling *Galbula leucogastra* is now in the Leiden Museum under my field number 2954.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Paramaribo, Surinam, August 25, 1957.*