

**Notes on a Colony of Forster Terns at Timnath Reservoir, Colorado.**—A recent nesting of Forster Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) at Timnath Reservoir in northern Colorado is worthy of note, since there appears to be a detailed account of only one other nesting of the species in the state (Rockwell, Condor, 13, 1911:57). The rather grebe-like nesting described by Rockwell, at a site only 50 miles from Timnath Reservoir, is quite different from the one that I found.

On June 8, 1957, I saw large numbers of Forster Terns flying over Timnath Reservoir, a shallow, fluctuating irrigation reservoir in the rolling plains five miles east southeast of Fort Collins, about 4900 feet in elevation. After searching two small islands and the few little marshy patches around the lake's shore without finding any of their nests, I investigated the large, barren earth-bar, about 100 to 200 feet wide and several hundred yards long, which extends south into the reservoir from the northwest shore. There I found a sizable colony. There were 52 occupied nests and in a few nests the eggs had somehow been broken. The nests were placed on both the east and west edges of the south end of the bar, but there was none on the extreme tip.

The nests, unlike the bulky marsh nests described by Rockwell, were simply small, neatly-hollowed platforms of weed stems, scattered a few feet apart on the bare mud of the shores of the long peninsula, or on the small windrows of rubbish only a foot or two out in the water. With the exception of a single nest in the middle of the bar, almost all of the nests were within ten feet of the water and were only a few inches above it. The reservoir had been at capacity for some time. The nests also resembled those of avocets. In 23 of the nests there were three eggs, in 15 there were two, and in 12 only one. One nest held four eggs and another five; both of these nests possibly contained the eggs of two females. While I was examining the nests, the parent birds, accompanied by numbers of Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) and gulls from the nearby fields, were flying low overhead, screaming their harsh, low, rasping calls. A few boldly attacked me, swooping from a height of about 20 feet in very rapid diagonal dives, missing my head by a foot or two. When I left the colony the parents quickly began to settle back on the bar.

On June 11 I found most of the nests destroyed, apparently by predators. Of the 120 eggs originally in the colony, all but 25 were missing, broken or punctured. Of the 52 nests only 19 still contained any intact eggs, and some of these may have been deserted, as there were but few Forster Terns flying about.

On June 25 I found the colony to be entirely deserted, apparently without a single young tern having hatched. Only two Forster Terns were flying over the lake, and the large flocks of gulls and Black Terns had disappeared. In the three years since then I have not seen any attempt to re-establish nesting on Timnath Reservoir, although terns are still frequently noticed there.—DONALD G. DAVIS, *Timnath, Colorado, December 15, 1960.*

**Indigo Bunting at Carmel, California.**—On February 1, 1959, at my banding station at Carmel Highlands, 4 miles south of Carmel, Monterey County, California, a bird was sighted which appeared to be of the genus *Passerina*. On February 2 the bird was trapped. From preliminary examination of the bird in hand it was believed to be either an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) or a Lazuli Bunting (*P. amoena*). Because of the difficulty of distinguishing these species in winter plumage, especially first-year birds, and because it was deemed unwise to band and release an inadequately identified bird, the bunting was kept in an aviary in order to be certain of its identity after the prenuptial molt, or if an immature, until the second prenuptial molt when full adult plumage would be expected.

By April, 1959, the bunting had acquired blue contour feathers, without the pectoral band of the male *amoena*, but with brown primary coverts, which indicated a first-year male *cyanea*.

Feeding and general aviary care were not difficult and the bird seemed in good health through its first postnuptial molt. On December 27, 1959, however, the bunting was found dead. It was deposited as a specimen (male, no. 141719) in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where it was identified as *Passerina cyanea*. Wing and tail measurements (66.7 and 50.0 mm., respectively) fell within the range for *cyanea* and were below the minima for *amoena* (wing 70.61, tail 52.58) as given by Ridgway (*The Birds of North and Middle America*, Pt. 1, 1901:585).

Because of the occurrence of hybridization between *cyanea* and *amoena* (see Sibley, Auk, 76, 1959:443-463), and because of the instance recorded by Bleitz (Condor, 60, 1958:408) in Los Angeles

County, California, in 1956, in which a male Indigo Bunting was mated to a female Lazuli Bunting, special attention was given to the possibility that the present individual might be a hybrid from a similar cross breeding. It was the conclusion of John Davis and Ned K. Johnson, that there was no indication of such hybridization. There have been two other Indigo Buntings taken in California (see Bleitz, *op. cit.*), and there are three sight records made in the state, all from the San Francisco Bay area and all in 1939 (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:574*).

I am indebted to both Davis and Johnson for comparing specimens in the collections at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and for confirming the identification.—LIDLAW WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California, December 15, 1960*.

**Dragonfly "Attacks" Hawaiian Hawk.**—On the island of Hawaii on October 26, 1960, I was watching two Hawaiian Hawks or Ios (*Buteo solitarius*) circling about 300 feet overhead when I noticed a dragonfly make contact with one of them, rapidly back off about 20 feet, then dart in again to make contact. During the 5 minutes that the hawks were in sight, the dragonfly would dart in about every 15 seconds, make contact with the forepart of the wing or body of the hawk, dart quickly back, and keep a discreet distance until the next "attack." The dragonfly confined its attention to one hawk although at times the two were so close together that it appeared the dragonfly might easily have turned its attention to the other. The hawk appeared to ignore the whole episode.—EDWIN I. STEARNS, *Westfield, New Jersey, November 20, 1960*.

**Pomarine Jaeger in Mount Rainier National Park.**—On the morning of September 1, 1960, visibility was 40 to 50 miles in the Cascade Range of northwestern Washington with a heavy stratus cloud overcast at 14,000 to 15,000 feet. There had been rain and fog but no marked storms along the Washington coast in the preceding week and the winds were light and variable. About two inches of snow fell later in the day at 6500 feet on the east slope of the mountain.

At 9:30 a.m. at Panorama Point 6800 feet above sea level on the south slope of Mount Rainier, I watched a seabird skimming along the mountainside toward me several hundred yards to the north-east. As the bird approached, it was seen to be a large jaeger pursuing a steady course southwestward at about 6860 feet above sea level. It seemed to evince a sort of friendly curiosity by circling me once at a distance of about 50 feet. As it soared at right angles to my line of vision it was immediately recognizable by its elongated, round-tipped central tail feathers as a Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) in dark phase.

Park Naturalist V. R. Bender states that this is the first record of the Pomarine Jaeger in Mount Rainier National Park. This species has been considered accidental on inland waters of the Pacific states.—JAMES A. BRUCE, *Wooster, Ohio, December 3, 1960*.

**Sparrow Hawk Feeding on Dragonflies.**—In July and August, 1954, while employed on the Locke Ranch, Lockeford, California, I had several opportunities to observe an adult female Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) feeding on dragonflies.

From a perch on a short dead branch of a felled tree the Sparrow Hawk would watch for passing insects. When a dragonfly passed the perch, the hawk would dart out, flycatcher-fashion, and attempt to overtake it. Upon overtaking the dragonfly, the hawk would tilt her body and attempt to strike the insect to the ground with her wing. She would then drop to the ground, seize the dragonfly, return to the log, and eat the dragonfly, discarding the head and the wings. Occasionally, this hawk made several passes at a dragonfly without capturing it.

On one occasion, I flushed the Sparrow Hawk off her perch and inspected the flat log surface she used as her feeding area. I found the head and wings of one libellulid and seven aeschnid dragonflies. I also found a single uneaten male acraea moth (*Estigmene acraea*).—LOUIS N. LOCKE, *Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, December 8, 1960*.