

and arouse from torpor in the laboratory seems to indicate that torpor is not a regular occurrence in this species. This observation of natural torpor in the Violet-green Swallow, on the other hand, suggests that temporary hypothermia may be a more regular phenomenon in this species and that this may be a fruitful area for further study.—ROBERT C. LASIEWSKI, *Department of Zoology*, and HENRY J. THOMPSON, *Department of Botany, University of California, Los Angeles, California*, 16 June 1965.

**Nesting of Grasshopper Sparrow in Wyoming.**—On 29 June 1964 we frightened a female Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*, from its well-hidden nest in dry, grassy habitat on a large flat-topped mesa one-half mile south of Mountain View, 7000-foot elevation, Uinta County, Wyoming. This sparrow was identified on the basis of narrow, short tail, weak flight, unstreaked breast, secretive behavior, and the appearance of her nest. It was woven of grasses, sunk flush with the level of the ground, and hidden from above by small tumbleweeds and grasses. In the nest were three young, with eyes unopened, and a fourth (Univ. of Illinois 5058) lay dead about one foot away from the nest. On the following day we returned to the nest, which was empty. It is preserved in the Museum of Natural History.

Grave and Walker (Univ. Wyoming Bull., 12:91, 1913) list the Grasshopper Sparrow as rare in Wyoming, known from "hay meadows near Afton," which is about 105 miles north of Mountain View. To the best of our knowledge our record of reproduction is the only one that has been reported for this species in the state.—CHARLES A. LONG and DANIEL H. MATULIONIS, *Department of Zoology, University of Illinois, Urbana*, 6 August 1964.

**Adult Little Blue Heron on San Pablo Bay, California.**—On 25 September 1965 a Little Blue Heron, *Florida caerulea*, in adult plumage was observed for about 30 minutes on the mudflats of San Pablo Bay, near the mouth of Tolay Creek, Sonoma County, California. The bird was observed by several members of the Redwood Region Ornithological Society aided by binoculars and a 20-power telescope. The Little Blue Heron was in company with several Snowy Egrets, *Leucophoyx thula*, and, when the tide rose, left the mudflats and flew north into a marshy area in company with a Snowy Egret.—JOHN R. ARNOLD, ROBERT FAILING, JACK GUGGOLZ, and BENJAMIN D. PARMETER, *Redwood Region Ornithological Society, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park, California*, 9 November 1965.

**Little Blue Heron at Santa Barbara, California.**—On 20 May 1965 a Little Blue Heron, *Florida caerulea*, was found at Goleta Slough, Santa Barbara, California, by R. K. Burns. It had been under observation for two days by Dr. Burns, and was at times in company with several Snowy Egrets, *Leucophoyx thula*.

I was able to photograph the heron on colored motion picture film at a range of 250 feet, using a 385 mm telephoto lens. The heron seemed to be in very good adult plumage, with the long feathers of the rump extending well beyond the tail.—WALDO G. ABBOTT, *Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California*, 7 June 1965.

**Some Notes on Birds of Elko County, Nevada.**—During field work by personnel of the Owyhee District of the Nevada Fish and Game Department, information on two species was obtained for Elko County, Nevada.

*Acanthis flammea*. Common Redpoll. Linsdale. (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 23, 1936:120) and (Condor, 53, 1951:244) lists this species as a winter visitant to the northern part of the state,

based on a pair collected by R. Ellis from the west side of Ruby Lake, White Pine County. Two sightings were made in Elko County in the winter of 1964.

A flock of about 200 birds was observed by the author on 26 January 1964, feeding on the south-facing slope of Crittenden Reservoir dam, 17 miles north of Montello. A flock of approximately 10 birds was seen by L. W. Hoskins and the author feeding near the Nevada Fish and Game Department Owyhee District Headquarters in Elko.

*Cyanocitta stelleri*. Steller Jay. Linsdale (Pacific Coast Avifauna, 23, 1936:84) records *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis* as occurring on the higher mountain ranges along the western border of the state, from Reno south at least to the White Mountains.

Hoskins records two separate sightings of this species in his field notes. A flock of eight birds was observed on McDermitt Creek in the Cherry Creek Mountains on 18 February 1959. On 30 October 1960 a single bird was seen above the W. Payne Ranch, east of Pequop Summit, Pequop Mountains. These are the first records of this species in Elko County and the northernmost occurrence for eastern Nevada.—GEORGE K. TSUKAMOTO, *Nevada Fish and Game Department, Wells, Nevada, 2 June 1965*.

**Probable Nesting of the Starling on San Clemente Island, California.**—It has been approximately 20 years since the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was first recorded in California. In that short span it has become abundant in many areas and continues to extend its range. For example, I observed it nesting in downtown Ensenada, Baja California on 16 May 1963. That it should spread to the off-shore islands could be predicted, but the record of it on San Clemente Island, California on 5 June 1965 is a testimony to its extraordinary dispersal powers. On this occasion only one bird was observed, but from its nervous, food-getting behavior, the assumption of breeding was made and is reported here.—HENRY E. CHILDS, JR., *Cerritos College, Norwalk, California, 10 June 1965*.

**A Prey Capture by the Zone-tailed Hawk.**—In an earlier paper (Condor, 65, 1963:313) I suggested that the Zone-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albonotatus*, is an aggressive mimic of the Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, approaching prey closely when the latter has become accustomed to the vulture. The question still remains how the hawk can stay or nest in an area for several months and not alarm potential prey by repeated captures. A kill observed on the upper Quebrada Saisa (7° 44' N, 76° 29' W), Antioquia, Colombia, may illustrate one way the hawk solves this problem.

On 26 March 1965 at 670-meter elevation at the edge of the forest I observed a soaring Zone-tailed Hawk. Its wings were held flat for a moment, so that the bird looked like a hawk; but then it moved the wings up to a dihedral so that it resembled one of the Turkey Vultures that during the day and on the preceding evening had been soaring in the same vicinity.

Suddenly the hawk turned sharply and soared toward me. It half-folded the wings and went into a shallow dive as it approached an isolated tree below the edge of the forest. The hawk struck the terminal leaves and soared out past me. After the strike the legs were tucked up, and no prey was visible until the hawk was at least 150 meters away. Then it extended the legs and began to pluck a small bird as it soared onward.

None of the birds singing and moving about in the nearby pasture and at the edge of the forest above me gave the alarm as the hawk made its kill and soared off. If I had not been watching through binoculars during this time, I could have mistaken the maneuver for a bird circling close to the canopy and then away except for the brief shallow dive just before the kill.

If a Zone-tailed Hawk captures prey on cliffs or at the edge of the forest, it may often do so in this fashion without alarming potential prey to the fact that not all "vultures" are harmless. Of course, the species probably avoids detection by potential prey by other methods. It probably forages over a wide area, and it may be like some other hawks in not foraging near its nest (Dean Amadon, personal communication).