

orchard. From the arrangement of the fecal droppings at the roosts I judge that the birds of a covey may roost either singly or as small groups of 4 or 5 individuals along a slight depression in the ground.—ARNOLD O. HAUGEN, *Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing, Michigan.*

Blue Goose in Tioga County, New York.—Mr. Lee J. Loomis of Endicott, New York recently brought to my office for identification a fine specimen of Blue Goose, *Chen caerulescens*, mounted about a year ago by himself. The bird, an immature female in gray plumage, was found dead by the caretaker at Spencer Lake, near the town of Spencer, northwestern Tioga County, New York, on October 21, 1940. Its measurements are: wing, 388 mm., tail, 118; culmen, 53, tarsus, 86. The specimen is now in Mr. Loomis' private collection in Endicott.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Records of the Nevada Nuthatch in Utah.—A specimen of the Nevada Pigmy Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea canescens* (No. 1512 Hardy Collection), was taken from the aspen-cottonwood grove in the east part of the Pine Valley Forest Campground, Washington County, Utah, by the writer on June 1, 1939. The specimen was so damaged that accurate sex determination was impossible, but it is thought to be a female. At that time young birds were heard in the nest which was located about twenty feet from the ground in a dead cottonwood tree. A Red-shafted Flicker, *Colaptes cafer canescens*, and a Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*, were nesting in other cavities of the same tree.

May 11, 1940, a nuthatch nest with seven eggs was taken from a cavity in this same tree. The nest was about twelve feet above the ground.

August 23, 1941, a female (No. 2225 Hardy Collection) was taken from a foxtail pine near the summit of Lookout Peak (10,200 feet), Pine Valley Mountains, about eight miles southwest of the campground site.

These seem to be the first records of this race for Utah. This provides an 180 mile northeastward extension of the range from the Charleston and nearby mountains of Nevada, the only previous known habitat of this subspecies.

I wish to thank Dr. H. C. Oberholser and Dr. Clarence Cottam of the Fish and Wildlife Service at Washington, D.C. for their determination of specimen No. 1512.—ROSS HARDY, *Dixie Junior College, Saint George, Utah.*

Another Case of String-eating.—In the *Wilson Bulletin* for September, 1941, Kenyon and Uttal report the death of a young Bronzed Grackle resulting from obstruction of the digestive tract by a long piece of string. This reminded me at once of a similar case that came to my attention two years ago.

On May 21, 1939, Dr. Harold B. Wood, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, picked up a young Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) which he found "standing normally in the grass." Although it showed no symptoms of disease, it died in his hand within a minute. He promptly forwarded it to me for post mortem study.

The bird was a fledgling, apparently only a few days out of the nest. There were no signs of external injury. Nutrition was moderately impaired.

Internal examination revealed that a piece of heavy wrapping twine, seven inches long and a quarter of an inch in diameter, filled the crop, proventriculus and gizzard. The twine was just the size, shape and general color of a large earthworm, though it may have become somewhat swollen within the bird. The proventriculus was greatly distended and thinned out, while the constriction between proventriculus and gizzard was fully obliterated. No part of the twine had passed farther than the gizzard. A complete impaction and obstruction was apparent. The liver, pancreas and spleen were normal. The gall bladder was fully distended.

Intestines and kidneys were normal and the gonads were in the expected undeveloped state.

Gross diagnosis was obstruction of the digestive tract by a foreign body with consequent gradual starvation. Kenyon and Uttal say that it is "purely conjectural" how their Grackle came to have eaten string. In the case of my Robin, I could scarcely conclude otherwise than that it mistook the piece of string for a worm. Students of bird behavior might enlarge upon these two instances by experiments in order to learn the order of appearance of the various factors involved in the recognition of food by growing birds and the parts played by instinct and experience.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.*

Wilson's Thrush in Oklahoma.—Apparently there are but three Oklahoma specimens of *Hylocichla fuscescens* in existence. All these (male, Arnett, Ellis Co., May 27; male and female, Kenton, Cimarron Co., June 2) were taken in 1936 by the writer and identified by him as *H. f. salicicola* (*Auk*, 53, 1936: 434). Further careful comparison has shown the Kenton female to be more reddish brown throughout the upper parts, brighter buff on the sides of neck and breast, and less sharply streaked on the breast than the other two birds, however, revealing the fact that it is actually a Wilson's Thrush, *H. f. fuscescens*. The Willow Thrush, *H. f. salicicola*, is known to breed as far east as Michigan (see Van Tyne, *Occ. Papers Mus. Zool. Univ. of Mich.*, No. 379, 1938: 29) so the occurrence of *H. f. fuscescens* in far western Oklahoma is indeed extraordinary. The author is grateful to Allan R. Phillips for his assistance in identifying the specimens in question and in thus adding another form to Oklahoma's avifauna.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

A Successful Method of Preventing Starling Roosts.—Louisville has been plagued with a large winter Starling roost since about 1932. During the first few years the Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) roosted in trees especially on the University of Louisville Campus. Later, attracted by the warmth and bright lights of the business area, they began roosting in increasing numbers on the unused postoffice and adjacent buildings, especially on Fourth, Chestnut, Guthrie, and Walnut Streets. On the postoffice alone about 15,000 birds regularly perch, and several thousands more roost in a group of trees in the tiny park north of the building. The trouble and annoyance caused by this roost, variously estimated from one to two hundred thousand birds, has been extreme. The buildings are rendered unsightly by their guano and shoppers find walking beneath the incoming flocks hazardous to their attire. One large store raised its awnings each afternoon and posted the sign "These awnings raised because Starlings unfair to pedestrians."

Of the numerous methods advocated for eliminating the birds, two merit comment. One store purchased a dozen Screech and Barn Owls and chained them to perches along the upper window ledges after being told that Starlings are extremely afraid of owls. Unfortunately most of the owls were either injured by the chains or died from other causes and the experiment was discontinued before their value could be determined.

One method, however, has been invented here at Louisville which has proven extremely successful, and as no mention is made of it in E. R. Kalmbach's recent leaflet on methods of combating Starling roosts (*Wildlife Leaflet*, 172, Dec., 1940) it seems desirable to bring it to the attention of ornithologists.

In the fall of 1939, Mr. J. C. Pfeiffer, the engineer for a large department store in the heart of the Starling roost, installed a noise system based on compressed air. The air is circulated through a large pipe in the upper story of the building by an air-compressor. Horizontal pipes of smaller diameter are extended from each of the upper windows. On the ends of each, pieces of soft rubber hose about 18 inches long are attached. The weight of the hose causes it to hang down