

*capensis*. Usually there was no reaction by the resident pair of Horneros unless the visitor was a House Sparrow. These were recorded more frequently than any other species (32 times) and when one landed in the same tree, the resident pair of Horneros usually flew to the nest and vocalized (93%), often chasing the House Sparrows (53% of the time). Thus, Horneros are selectively defending their nests against House Sparrows. In all but one case the Horneros were successful in driving away the intruders.

One Hornero nest was built in a tree on the marshes of the San Jose estancia. The nest and a pair of Horneros were present on 13 October. The Horneros carried bits of grass into the nest on 13, 14, and 15 October, and were near the nest nearly all day. On 16 October at 11:00 a pair of House Sparrows landed near the nest. The resident Hornero flew to the nest, vocalized, and chased the sparrows. During the next 2 hours the sequence was repeated 11 times. From 17:00 to 19:00 that same day, the sequence was repeated 6 times. On 17 October from 21:00 to 22:00 House Sparrows landed near the nest 6 times but were chased away only 5 times. On 18 October during an hour observation period, the House Sparrows landed at the nest 7 times and were chased away 4 times. The sparrows were unmolested for longer periods of time before the Horneros came to chase them away. The Horneros no longer vocalized and only chased the intruders. On 19 October the Horneros were seen in the vicinity of the nest, but did not chase away the sparrows. The Horneros were not seen after 19 October. The House Sparrows subsequently added nest material and laid eggs.

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**A westward extension in the breeding range of the Mountain Plover.**—The Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) is typically a breeding species of the Great Plains of North America, with the westward limits of its breeding range in Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957). In New Mexico, the species extends as a breeder to the vicinity of or slightly beyond the Continental Divide in the central-west and southwest, but it has not previously been found breeding in the northwest (Hubbard, Check-list of the birds of New Mexico, New Mexico Ornithol. Soc. Publ. 3, 1970). On 1-3 June 1974, Alan P. Nelson and I found up to 3 adult Plovers and a nest with eggs in the latter region, specifically in San Juan Co., about 5 km NNW of Burnham Trading Post, on the Navajo Indian Reservation. This is an area where animals typical of the grassland and basin sagebrush biocinations (as defined by Kendeigh, Animal Ecology, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1961) intermix. The record is particularly interesting (1) because it appears to be the first documented breeding record of this species in an area influenced by animals associated with the basin sagebrush biocination, and (2) because this species is included on the "status undetermined" list of the U. S. Department of the Interior (Threatened wildlife of the United States, Fish and Wildl. Serv. Resour. Publ. 114, 1973).

The nest was a slight depression in mixed sand-and-gravel soil, with a lining of a few small twigs. It contained 3 extremely light-buffy-brown eggs that were flecked with dark brown (one measured 37 x 28 mm). These egg colorations contrast with the typical colors of an olive background with black spots (Bent, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.

146, 1929). The adult that was flushed from the nest ran away while performing a "broken wing" display. The nest and the birds were in flat to slightly rolling terrain, with sparse, overgrazed, shrubby vegetation interspersed with bare areas. The nearest water was over 4.5 km away. Since each of the 3 sightings of adult plovers were over 1 km apart, it is possible that 3 different nesting birds were observed. This is especially likely, since only one adult attends each nest (Graul, *Living Bird* 12:69-94, 1973). Photographs of the nest and associated bird are in the National Photoduplicate File, Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, MD 20810 (numbers 281-1Ta and 281-1Tb, respectively).

The only record that I can find that might suggest breeding by the Mountain Plover in a similar biocation is a bird seen in northwestern Utah in Box Elder Co., on 27-28 June 1929 (Bent, op. cit.). In addition, Bent reports breeding records for Fort Bridger, Wyoming, and the Pahsimeroi Valley, Idaho. Authoritative sources that I have read or contacted show no recent summer records in these areas, or in adjacent parts of Colorado. In Arizona, the only summer record is of several flocks seen in August near Springerville (Phillips et al., *The birds of Arizona*, Univ. Arizona Press, 1964), but these may well have been migrants, since Walter D. Graul (pers. comm.) found that fall flocks sometimes form in mid-July on his Colorado study area.

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**The nesting site of the Northern Oriole in Amherst, Massachusetts.**—During the winter of 1965-66, we collected quantitative and qualitative data on the nest sites selected by the Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) in Amherst, Massachusetts (Graf, Senior Honors thesis, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1966). Data on nest tree species, ground cover beneath the nest, and the nest height are reported in this note.

An intensive effort was made to locate all oriole nests visible from roads within the town boundaries. After leaf-fall (during October and November 1965) an open convertible automobile was used to survey roadsides for oriole nests. Species of tree used for nesting and the nature of the ground beneath the nest were recorded at each nest. Height of the nest tree, and nest height were recorded at a random sample of 70 nest locations taken from 143 nests initially located (6 more nests were found later). A Haga altimeter and 12 × 50 binoculars were used to gather most of the data.

Most of the 149 nests found were in elm (*Ulmus americanus*, 66%) or sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*, 23%). There was a significant difference in frequency of species of trees selected for nesting ( $\chi^2$ ,  $p \leq .05$ , 1 df). Nests were also found in red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), apple (*Malus* spp.), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), weeping willow (*Salix* spp.), black willow (*Salix nigra*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) and lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* var. *italica*). One elm included 3 nests and 8 elms had 2 nests. In an extension of this study in 1966 and 1967 Pank (M.S. thesis, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1974) found similar distribution of species of nest trees and a statistically significant difference between the frequency of species selected for nesting and the frequency of occurrence of roadside tree species. American elm was selected more frequently, and sugar maple and other species, less frequently than expected.