

in the heart of the business district. On El Cajon Boulevard, which was a well-traveled thoroughfare even in those days, Burrowing Owls could often be seen perched on the side-walk curb. They lived in the culvert drains under the intersecting streets.

The paving of this boulevard has driven these birds away, and the Y. M. C. A. "Billy" has gone, yet in spite of San Diego's present 150,000 population Burrowing Owls still subsist wherever there is any extent of vacant land. In quiet streets they can sometimes be seen hawking about the arc-lights at night and settling on the pavement below—probably in pursuit of moths. On Reynard Way, which is a short-cut between down town and the Mission Hills residential district, these Owls are common, because many of the sloping lots on each side have not yet been built upon. Even in broad daylight a "Ground Owl" may often be seen standing upon some advertising sign, apparently unconcerned at the passing stream of automobiles. On the other hand, I have more than once seen the flattened body of one of these Owls on the cement roadway (perhaps the remains of an inexperienced youngster)—evidence of bewilderment and tragedy.

On May 20, 1930, I happened to be driving up Reynard Way and passed directly under a Burrowing Owl which was perched on a wire stretched across the street. It was the hour in the afternoon when business men were returning to their homes, and the little Owl seemed to be bending forward and surveying the stream of cars with the calm and judicial air which is supposed to be typical of the Owl family. I was somewhat surprised to see one of these birds on a wire, especially in that rather lofty situation. I also noticed that it was squatting on the wire with the feet covered, instead of in the erect attitude one usually associates with the Burrowing Owl.

Whereas such observations seem common-place and trivial, it may not be amiss to place them on record. At the speed with which some western cities are growing, present-day remnants of primitive conditions are bound to disappear completely before long.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California.*

**Great Horned Owl (*Bubo v. virginianus*) Breeding in the District of Columbia.**—It is with great pleasure that I record the taking of a fresh set of two eggs of the Great Horned Owl by my friend Edward J. Court at Washington, D. C., March 5, 1930. The nest was situated fifty feet from the ground in a dead chestnut tree, in a section of mixed oak and pine trees, west of Rock Creek, near the Military Road. The eggs were laid on rotten wood and a few feathers from the incubating bird. Both adults were present, one being flushed from the nest. This species has long been known as a permanent resident, but this is believed to be the first breeding record for the District of Columbia.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, 1861 *Ingleside Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C.*

**Breeding of Brewer's Blackbird East of its Normal Summer Range.**—Kumlien and Hollister say that the only known nesting of this species in Wisconsin was on June 14, 1862, at Lake Koshkonong.

A mature male was taken in July 1883 in Green Lake Co., Wis., by F. H. King (Nat. Hist. of Wis.).

Mr. A. J. Franzen furnishes records from Walworth Co., Wis., as follows: May 29, 1926, a male collected by E. G. Wright; June 3, 1928, a nest containing four eggs collected by himself; (he observed only one pair that year) May 19, 1929, two females collected by himself; May 30, 1929, three young about a week old. This year (1930) six pairs have been seen by Mr. Franzen in this locality.

Mr. W. I. Lyon of Waukegan, Ill., writes as follows: "On June 17, 1929 a nest was found by a nurseryman who pointed it out to C. E. Holcombe of Zion, Ill. Holcombe stated that there were two eggs and three hatched young. He watched the nest and on June 26 called me to assist in identification. On arriving at Winthrop Harbor about half way from the railroad to the station on the main road to the beach, and about three hundred feet south of the road, we found that there were four adult birds; so we waited until we found the females feeding and in this way located a second nest. The original nest contained three fully grown young and one dead bird. The second nest had four slightly smaller birds. All seven were banded. This, I believe, is the first record of Brewer's Blackbird nesting and being banded in Illinois."

A postscript to Mr. Lyon's letter which bears date, June 28, 1930, says: "I have just heard that C. E. Holcombe and Wm. Farrar of Zion have banded a nest of five and a nest of three young Brewer's Blackbirds today, on the "Flats" near Twenty-second St., Zion, Ill."

The writer's contribution to the record consists in the finding in Northfield township, Cook County, Ill., a small colony of about six pairs. On June 4, 1930 the birds showed strong attachment to an area of low ground which had been plowed and allowed to grow up into weeds, chiefly water dock and wild parsnip. Much of the ground was quite bare, the rank growth occurring in clumps or patches, and Killdeers and Spotted Sandpipers were nesting near. On June 7 the place was revisited and a search disclosed a nest sunk in the ground at the base of a weed. It contained five nearly fresh eggs. Meantime work with a disk harrow had begun and in a few days any other nests which might have been there were inevitably destroyed. On June 15 Mr. Jas. White collected a male and a female and found the remains of a nest. On this date (June 30) the birds appear to have established themselves in an old field not far off from the original site. Here they are less likely to be disturbed.—EDWARD R. FORD, 1224 *Isabella St., Wilmette, Ill.*

**The European Goldfinch at Buffalo, N. Y.**—On the campus of the University of Buffalo, at 3:30 on the sunny afternoon of October 17, 1929, my attention was attracted by an unusual bird song. The bird was immediately located in a small group of sunflowers in the Botanic Garden, and even at a distance of about 200 feet, a marked vertical light colored area was noticed on the side of the head. The general nature of the song,