

upper parts, dark tail with white outer feathers, gray lores, black line over the eye, and gray-edged wing feathers showed plainly. It sang its full song once, and continually called with its characteristic notes. On the 15th many members of the Harvard Ornithological Club and the Nuttall Club saw the bird, which appears to be staying.—FRED M. PACKARD, *Kirkland House, Cambridge, Mass.*

A New Bird for Idaho.—On October 7, 1932, I took an immature female Western Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea amoenissima*) at 6000 feet elevation near the mouth of Sheep Creek, about eight miles southwest of Raymond, Bear Lake County, Idaho. The specimen is now in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. This is a new bird for the Idaho list and seems to be quite an extension northward in the range of the subspecies.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Notes on Breeding Success of Starlings.—During May and June of 1933 and 1934 a number of Starling (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) nests located in an old barn on an abandoned farm near Oneonta, N. Y., were observed with the idea of recording the result of their attempt to produce a crop of young. Records were made of the number of eggs produced, the number of young hatched, and the number of young fledged in those nests accessible during the time allotted to the study.

There were two nesting periods each year: the first during the month of May, and the second during June. The second nests appeared all within ten days of the same date which was from one to two weeks after the first broods had left the nests. Since none of the adult birds were banded there is no proof that these late nests were the work of the same adults as those which produced the early nests, but, since they were in most cases created by relining the earlier nest, I believe that the same adults were nesting a second time. Plenty of new nest sites were available for any late nesting adults.

Notes were recorded on the success of seventeen nests. Six of these were early or May nests of 1933 and 1934. Eleven were second or June nests of 1933. All of these second nests came at the time of the beginning of the drought of 1933.

The seventeen nests produced seventy-nine eggs, hatched fifty young, forty of which were reared. It is very interesting however to compare the success of the early or May nests with the late or June nests. The six early nests produced twenty-nine eggs, hatched twenty-six young and fledged twenty-six young. The eleven late or June nests produced fifty eggs, hatched twenty-four young, of which only fourteen were fledged. During the incubation period for the June nests the severe drought of that summer set in, which was, in my opinion, the main factor in causing the low percentage of success for the second nests.

With fifteen pairs of adult nesting birds known to be located in this building, and two others in tree cavities nearby, a total of thirty-four adults were competing for food in the same area. Old meadows of timothy, reedtop, and hawkweed with a few roadside and orchard trees form the vegetative cover. When the June drought became noticeable in the drying up of the meadows the result on the nesting birds appeared in the loss of eggs as well as of young after hatching.

Careful examination was made of the nests and young for blood sucking parasites. None was found.

It may possibly appear that for central New York the May nesting date is well adapted to the peak of food supply. This meagre report however does help show the need for extensive data from many workers in different parts of the country if we are to record something regarding the manner in which this new species is becoming adapted.—R. A. JOHNSON, *State Normal School, Oneonta, N. Y.*