

The earliest reference that I have found to the actual discovery of a nest is in the Stevens Point 'Journal' for April 15, 1876: "W. G. Hinman showed us a fresh bird's egg the other day, which he found in a nest on Spirit River, where the snow was yet four feet deep. The nest was built in a tree and belonged to the species commonly known as 'meat birds'". Spirit River rises in the southeastern corner of Price County, flows eastward, and enters the Wisconsin River below Tomahawk in Lincoln County.

There is a brief reference by A. J. Schoenebeck ('Birds of Oconto County,' p. 32, [1902]; privately printed) to the species' nesting in Oconto County: "This is a regular breeder in the northwestern part of this county, but not common. On March 28, 1898, I found a nest of this species in a cedar tree about fifteen feet high near Maiden Lake." In June, 1918, H. H. T. Jackson (Auk, 40: 484, 1923) found adults accompanied by young at Mamie Lake, Vilas County, on the state line.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Albert Van S. Pulling of the U. S. Biological Survey, it is possible to add appreciably to our information. In late February, 1935, Mr. John Cole, while attached to the CCC camp at Loretta, Sawyer County, discovered a nest in process of construction. It was built about seven feet from the ground in a balsam fir in a cedar swamp near the village. Mr. Pulling and Mr. Cole took pictures of one of the parents sitting on the nest, with its four eggs, on March 20. Three birds hatched in late March, apparently only two of which reached maturity. They left the nest late in April and by May had disappeared from the locality. In zero weather the parents would not remain away from the nest more than a minute or two. The young birds grew rapidly and apparently were well fed. The male must have either fed the female or taken a turn on the nest. It is possible that there was sufficient food cached in the vicinity to last through the brooding period. Mr. Pulling states that there is little to substantiate this hypothesis but since the species is omnivorous and exceedingly industrious in carrying away and hiding food, it is well within the realm of possibility.—A. W. SCHORGER, 168 North Prospect Ave., Madison, Wisconsin.

American Magpie in Missouri and Illinois.—On November 3, 1936, a farmer reported seeing an American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) at Lima, Illinois. However, I took no cognizance of the record until I received a letter from Robert H. Painter, publisher of the 'La Grange Indicator,' La Grange, Missouri, on January 9, 1937, telling me that an American Magpie in good condition was recently brought to his office for identification. The bird was caught in a steel trap set for mink and baited with a muskrat carcass. A second magpie was shot by Mr. J. B. Dyer, and a skin made from the bird, at La Belle, Missouri, which is a few miles from the locality in which the La Grange magpie was killed. Both birds were captured within two days of each other. Thus we have two new dead records of the magpie for Missouri, and the sight record of questionable value from Adams County, Illinois, about twenty miles east of La Grange.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, Quincy, Illinois.

Eastern Crows nesting on or near the ground.—During the summer of 1935, while the writer and Lawrence J. Merovka, U. S. Game Management Agent, were investigating conditions of the migratory-waterfowl breeding grounds in Manitoba, Canada, for the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, we observed four nests of Eastern Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) located either on the ground or in reeds directly over water.

On June 13, 1935, along the south shore of Lake Manitoba, we discovered two Crows' nests that had been built on the ground. The first was in the vicinity of

Sioux Pass. Mr. Merovka, while scouting for ducks' nests, flushed a Crow from its nest in a heavy growth of reeds. The nest, which contained but one egg, was on the damp turf among the tall reeds, adjacent to a small inlet to Lake Manitoba. There were no trees in the immediate vicinity; the nearest ones were at least a mile from this point. The second nest was found by Mr. Merovka on Flea Island, only a short distance west of Sioux Pass. As in the first case, the Crow flushed from the nest although there were no eggs in it. There were no trees in the immediate vicinity. Continuing westward from Flea Island, we visited the James Ford Bell Duck Hatchery at Delta. E. Ward, the foreman, told us that a short time prior to our arrival he had found near the hatchery a Crow's nest in tules over the water in a marshy area of Lake Manitoba. The nest contained three eggs when observed by Mr. Ward. In that vicinity there is an abundance of trees and willow growth fringing the lake, in which many Crows had built their nests.

On June 18, 1935, while searching for ducks' nests on Long Island, a low-lying piece of marshland in Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba, the writer discovered a fourth Crow's nest on the ground. This one contained five eggs. As the accompanying photograph shows (Plate 24), the nest was located on marshy ground among the reeds. Trees and brush fringed the entire island, yet the Crow chose to nest on the ground. Many nests of Crows were noted in the trees, placed anywhere from six to twenty feet above the ground.—C. M. ALDOUS, *U. S. Biological Survey, Orono, Maine.*

Elevation of nests of the Western Crow.—On April 26, 1936, Mr. J. D. Graham, teacher in the Benicia High School, and I had the opportunity of examining a number of nests of the Western Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis*) on a ten-acre tract near Dixon, Solano County, California. The house on this property was occupied by a very old couple who had seldom disturbed the crows, though they reported having at one time fired a shotgun at them when they were seen stealing eggs from the henhouse. Other than this, the actions of the birds seemed to indicate that they had not been disturbed for a long time.

Having obtained permission from the old folks, we climbed to the ten nests, which were in Osage orange, almond, and black and English walnut trees. A very evident fact was disclosed by the elevations of these nests, namely, that the height of the nests from the ground was contingent upon their distance from the highway and their proximity to the ranch house; the hypothesis was that crows prefer to construct their nests at lower elevations but ordinarily build high up because forced to do so in order to escape persecution. Of these ten nests, four of which were in trees bordering the state highway to Sacramento, on which the tract fronts, all were between fifty and sixty feet up. Two of these were very difficult to reach because of spines on the Osage orange, one was high in an almond, and the fourth was in the very top of a tall black walnut. Farther back from the highway, some one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet from the house, where the birds were not in much danger of being disturbed, the nests were only from twenty to twenty-five feet from the ground. Still closer to the house, two nests, one in an English walnut and the other in a black walnut, were only fifteen feet up. These latter were so easily reached that it seemed odd indeed for a bird ordinarily so wary to be found building so low.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California.*

Varied Thrush at Richmond, New York.—In the 'Bulletin' of the Staten Island Institute for January, 1937, it is stated that Mrs. John H. Boesch and Miss Euphemia Mackie observed a bird, unknown to them, feeding on persimmons in