

belonged to the subspecies *ludovicianus*, the habit was doubtless specific rather than subspecific.) Wilson ('American Ornithology', London, 1: 384, 1832) says of his captive bird that in eating the seeds of the cockle-bur "it always employed its left foot to hold the bur, as did several others that I kept for some time," and he goes on, "I began to think that this might be peculiar to the whole tribe, and that the whole were, if I may use the expression, left-footed; but by shooting a number afterwards while engaged in eating mulberries, I found sometimes the left, sometimes the right, foot stained with the fruit; the other always clean; from which, and the constant practice of those I kept, it appears, that, like the human species in the use of their hands, they do not prefer one or the other indiscriminately, but are either left or right footed." It would be interesting to note whether hawks or owls or any other birds that grasp their food use one foot more than the other.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Massachusetts*.

**Western Olive-backed Thrush in West Virginia and Tennessee.**—The western form of the Olive-backed Thrush, described by Oberholser as *Hylocichla ustulata almae* is not recognized in the last edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list,' but recent discussion by van Rossem (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., 23: 457, 1938) and by Oberholser (Louisiana Dept. Cons., Bull. 28: 472, 1938) indicates that it is distinct. Examination of specimens substantiates the claim that it is to be differentiated by grayer, less-brownish dorsal coloration, a character that separates it clearly from the eastern race.

As *Hylocichla ustulata almae* ranges eastward in migration, I have reexamined specimens secured recently in West Virginia and Tennessee for the U. S. National Museum, with the result that several prove to be of the western form. One of these is a male taken on Pine Creek, near Enon, West Virginia, May 8, 1936. The following come from Tennessee: male, nine miles north of Waynesboro, Wayne County, May 11, 1937; male and female, near Reelfoot Lake, Obion County, April 27 and 28, 1937; and two males, four miles west of Hornbeak, Obion County, May 1, 1937. Other specimens listed in the two reports on collections from the two States in question are *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni* as previously indicated.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Starlings nesting near Rogers, Arkansas.**—A pair of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) appeared at a bluebird box on May 2, 1938. After some chasing by Mockingbirds, Flickers, and Red-headed Woodpeckers the Starlings settled in a woodpecker's nest hole, working on the nest till May 8 when the first egg was deposited. May 13 the complement was complete, six eggs. On May 19, ten Starlings settled in the nest tree. On May 26, three young were in the nest; they left the nest June 14. On May 30 a flock of young Starlings was seen in an oat field, apparently an earlier hatching not far away. A second brood was begun in the same nest tree, June 20, but removal of four eggs apparently prevented rearing of this brood. A second nest observed in Rogers was in an old woodpecker's nest in a tree. Four young Starlings left the nest (June 27) when boys attempted to investigate. A third Starling nest was found in a telephone post, west of Rogers.—F. D. CROOKS, *Rogers, Arkansas*.

**Starlings in New Mexico.**—Suspecting the presence of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in eastern New Mexico because of their occurrence nearby in the Texas Panhandle, I had my suspicion confirmed on March 7, 1939. At Texico, Curry County, on that date I observed a flock of seven, and a few hours later at Clovis saw several more. On March 8, several hundred were observed in the vicinity of Clovis. Several residents in the vicinity of Clovis mentioned to me that the birds were new