

was drowned by rising Colorado River levels, and has been dead for several years. In such brushy areas, during the spring and summer of 1947, not only Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) have nested, but American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) and Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) as well. The four species nested in scattered colonies in the low, dead brush. The egrets' nesting is of especial interest, since they have not previously been known to breed in Arizona. (All nests were in Arizona, or so close to the ill-defined state line that they could well be in either state. The Colorado River forms the boundary between Arizona and California.)

American Egret nests were first found April 24, when four were discovered, all containing eggs. The same colony was revisited June 7, at which time five nests, containing young about one-half grown, were found (four of these were those discovered April 24). Four nests contained two young (one nest and young photographed; see Plate 18), while the fifth held but one. In the same colony, three Snowy Egret nests were found June 7, one containing four eggs, one two eggs, and the third three downy young perhaps ten days old.

A second American Egret colony was found June 8, well over on the Arizona side of the refuge. This colony consisted of four nests, two of them holding two young about one-third grown, and the remaining two holding three downy young each.

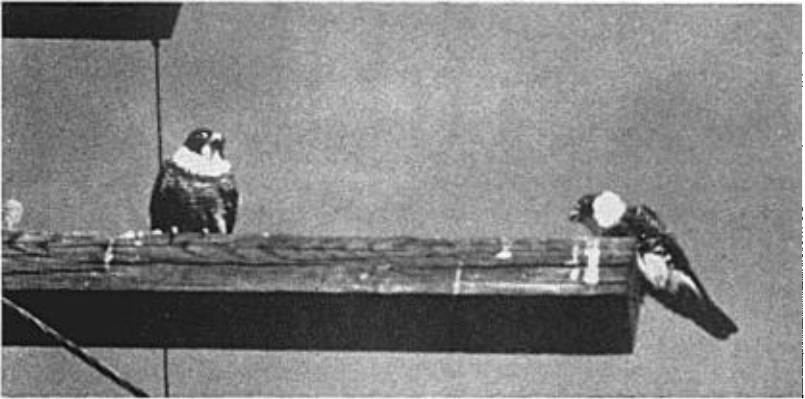
Since not many Great Blue Heron nests have been found in Arizona, a colony of at least fifty nests in this same area is perhaps worthy of note.

A recent report (Sprunt, Auk, 59: 586, 1942) of American Egrets allegedly nesting at Mormon Lake in northern Arizona, should be dismissed for lack of suitable evidence.—GALF MONSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Parker, Arizona.*

**Another Common Tern nest with seven eggs** (Plate 18).—In the July, 1947, issue of *The Auk* was published a note and photograph by Frederick E. Warburton of Owen Sound, Ontario, concerning a nest of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) containing seven eggs. Mr. Warburton's photograph actually showed only six eggs, but in his note he explained that one had disappeared before the photograph was taken. The phenomenon of seven eggs in a single Common Tern's nest may be less rare than Mr. Warburton thinks. On July 5 of this year (1947) I came on a similar nest on the sandbar south of Holgate, New Jersey, where there is a large colony of Common and Least Terns, and some Black Skimmers. As I had my camera with me at the time I was able to photograph it immediately.

Like Mr. Warburton, I cannot say for certain whether all seven eggs were laid and were being incubated by one bird or not, for my presence created the usual commotion and excitement among the terns and skimmers and I was not able to wait until all the inhabitants of the colony had again settled down on their nests. But the eggs in the unusual nest were all warm, despite the fact that it was late in the day and the sun was already low in the sky. Furthermore, in view of the remoteness of the colony, I doubt whether some jokester had combined the eggs of two nests in one, although the possibility of course exists. Unfortunately, as I live far from Holgate, I was unable to visit the nest again.

In view of the reported discovery of two nests of the Common Tern, in widely separated breeding areas, and in different years, each containing seven eggs, I should think it worth while for field ornithologists to keep an eye out for the phenomenon whenever they visit a tern colony, and, if they come on such a nest again, make a point of keeping it under observation until they have been able to establish definitely whether or not it is being incubated. It might even be interesting to continue the



(Top) SUTTON: BAT FALCON, NUEVO LEÓN, MÉXICO. (Middle) MONSON: AMERICAN EGRET ALONG COLORADO RIVER. (Bottom) FRY: COMMON TERN NEST WITH SEVEN EGGS.

observation until the eggs have hatched and report the behavior of the parent birds toward the chicks.—VARIAN FRY, 45 East 49 St., New York, N. Y.

**Western Grebe at Owen Sound, Ontario.**—On May 16, 1947, I saw a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) on the Sydenham River just below Harrison Park, Owen Sound. When first seen the bird was swimming about 100 yards away, with just its head and neck above the surface of the water. It dived quickly when I attempted to approach more closely by canoe, reappearing a little farther away and diving almost immediately. On these and subsequent appearances, however, I had several excellent opportunities to observe the bird through my binoculars. The long, sinuous neck, slightly crested head, black crown and hind-neck, white cheeks and fore-neck, light-colored and slightly upturned beak, and obvious grebe actions would seem to make its identification as this species unquestionable.

Dr. A. L. Rand informs me that “. . . the 1931 A. O. U. Check-List gives this species as ‘casual in Ontario (?)’.” However, there is an old record from Sarnia, a specimen taken by Saunders and reported on in the *Ottawa Naturalist*, 27, 1913, p. 76, and in the 1947 *Auk*, Vol. 64, p. 144 is a note of the species occurring in Massachusetts.”

It would appear, therefore, that the Western Grebe occasionally straggles eastward from its prairie breeding range to the New England coast but is rarely recorded from Ontario.—FRED WARBURTON, 444 Second Ave., East, Owen Sound, Ontario.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird on Long Island.**—Because the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) is ordinarily restricted to the marshes and swamps of western United States, the occurrence of even a single individual on Long Island, New York, seems to be worth reporting.

At his home in Blue Point, Long Island, approximately 55 miles east of New York City, U. S. Game Management Agent, Samuel T. Miller, maintained a small bird-feeding stand last winter (1946–1947). On the lawn and grounds about his home he strewed corn and wheat. On April 17, 1947, a flock of about 15 or 20 Red-winged Blackbirds appeared on the lawn, and with them came a single male Yellow-headed Blackbird, brightly colored, and showing a conspicuous white wing patch. For more than ten minutes Mr. Miller watched this bird feeding, frequently within 10 or 15 feet of the window. This particular bird seemed much more nervous than the rest of the flock. Because of the distinctive color markings and Mr. Miller's knowledge of birds, there seems to be no question about the accuracy of the identification.—Dr. CLARENCE CORTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

**Surf-bird and Vermilion Flycatcher in Panamá.**—On a recent visit to Panamá there were observed two species previously unrecorded from that country or apparently from southern Central America.

On August 14, 1947, while examining the numerous waders feeding on the flats and rock ledges exposed at low tide in Panamá Bay, just west of the ruins of Old Panamá, I noted four birds, somewhat resembling turnstones but with more plover-like bills and with upper parts, head, neck, and breast giving a uniform dark gray effect, which were obviously Surf-birds (*Aphriza virgata*). This identification was confirmed when they were flushed and exposed a white tail with a black terminal band and a conspicuous white wing band. As the Surf-bird winters on the Pacific coast of South America, its occurrence in Panamá is not surprising, even though there seems to be no record for it in Central America south of Guatemala (Griscom, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 64: 129, 1932).