

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).