

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).

On August 19, 1947, at Playa Coronado, a beach cottage development on the Gulf of Panamá, about forty miles west of the city of Panamá and four miles from the village of Chame, I found a brilliant male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), perched on a low barbed-wire fence in front of a house perhaps a hundred yards from the beach. The bird, which had not been noted during the previous days of my visit, and was not present on any subsequent day, spent the whole afternoon in the same locality. No other Vermilion Flycatcher was seen, though the avifauna of the vicinity was repeatedly inventoried. Playa Coronado is situated in a region of low scrubby woodland interspersed with small grassy areas, which become more extensive some miles westward, finally merging with the scrub-dotted open grasslands of Coclé Province. While the Vermilion Flycatcher ranges from the southwestern United States to Guatemala and the Caribbean slope of Honduras, and reappears in Colombia and Venezuela, breeding through the more open areas of South America, it seems to be unknown in southern Central America (Hellmayr, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 13 [pt. 5]: 93, 1927; Griscom, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 64: 247, 1932). Whether this individual was a migrant or an accidental, or came from some unknown breeding colony in Panamá remains uncertain. As I had no means of collecting the bird (although I was near enough to secure a tiny but recognizable image on 8mm. kodachrome motion picture film), it was not possible to determine the subspecies involved.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *Linnaean Society of New York, New York, N. Y.*

**Four species of chickadees in Glacier National Park.**—Northwest Montana is the only area in the United States where the ranges of all of the four distinctively marked species of chickadees overlap. Despite this fact, however, only two of these, the Black-capped (*Parus atricapillus*) and Mountain (*P. gambeli*) Chickadees, have been definitely recorded from Glacier National Park, within this area ('Checklist of the Birds of the National Parks,' Wash., D. C., 1937, mimeogr.). F. M. Bailey ('Wild Animals of Glacier National Park,' Washington, D. C., 1918) additionally caught a glimpse of what appeared to her to be a Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*P. rufescens*) near Lake McDonald and listed this species with a question mark. In view of the limited recorded observations to date and the complications of collecting in a national park, the following 1947 sight records for the park are presented. They may at least be helpful to later investigators.

Among a mixed flock of Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, one Chestnut-backed was definitely identified at close range about half way up Avalanche Creek on July 20. Two others were seen in a similar mixed flock along upper Sprague Creek on July 30. These birds had distinct black caps which contrasted sharply with their brown backs. Both locations were on the west slope of the Lewis Range, along the crest of which runs the Continental Divide. On August 20, a lone Hudsonian Chickadee (*P. hudsonicus*) was observed closely among a large flock of Creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) on the south side of Two Medicine Lake, on the east side of the Divide.

Typically, the common Black-capped Chickadees in the park appeared to prefer portions of the cedar-hemlock and Douglas fir-larch-lodgepole pine forests broken by shrubby openings, as along streams. Mountain Chickadees were found in all of the park's coniferous forest types, but especially in the Engelmann spruce-alpine fir association. The Chestnut-backed Chickadee seemed to be associated with the cedar-hemlock forest; the eastward extensions of the ranges of both the bird and dominant plant species showed striking similarities. The one Hudsonian Chickadee