

**Barn Owls with Two Broods of Young.**—Observations are herein presented of nesting activities of a pair of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) in the vicinity of Davis in northern California. Two nests were made during their breeding season. The first egg was probably deposited in late December of 1953, and the first egg of the second clutch was deposited during the latter part of March or early April of 1954. Reports dealing with other areas clearly indicate that nesting is not necessarily confined to any season. In view of this fact, it is probable that continuous breeding throughout spring and summer by individual pairs may not be uncommon. Stewart (Auk, 69: 227–245, 1952) cites a record of a banded “female taken from a nest with five young at Hunt’s Point, New York, on July 27, 1939, and captured four months and eight days later (December 5, 1939) from a nest with three young at the same place.” Although this may indicate continuous breeding, it may also represent late fall and normal spring breeding.

The nesting site of the owls at Davis was located in an old wooden building which had been used to house a water tank on the second floor. Four small (1 × 2 foot) vents below the eaves of the roof provided entrance for the owls. The empty water tank (approximately 4 feet high and 8 feet in diameter) was partially covered by a galvanized iron lid so that a “quarter moon” opening into the tank was formed. The owls’ first nest was located on top of this lid; the second nest was inside the empty tank.

The first nest was observed January 8, 1954. At this time two adults were seen and four eggs were found. In early February the nest was revisited and three young were observed; one egg was unhatched. Later in the same month one of the downy young was found on the ground floor of the building. It had apparently fallen from atop the tank lid and through a trap door opening to the first floor. It was left unmolested inasmuch as it was quite accessible to the adult owls through the trap door opening and an open window. It was found dead the following day.

On April 10, the nest was revisited. Two adults flushed: one from the top of the tank, and the other from within the tank. One young bird was dead (on the floor at the base of the tank), and the other was almost fully fledged but unable to fly. On this date the second nest was observed with three eggs in the bottom of the tank. The unhatched egg of the previous clutch was still on top of the tank lid with the young owl. Several fresh, decapitated gophers (*Thomomys bottae*) were also observed on the tank lid amid hundreds of owl pellets. At this time the remaining young owl was removed. The nest was again revisited May 5, and as before, two adults flushed, one from the top of the tank and the other from within the tank. The nest in the tank now contained four warm eggs. One of these was taken and opened. A live well developed embryo (ca. 13 days incubation) was found.

On May 31, the nest was again revisited and two downy young, one slightly larger than the other, were observed. The third egg was not found. During the latter part of June the young were found to be nearly fully fledged, and the nest was found empty on July 25.

From the evidence presented it seems clear that one pair of Barn Owls nested twice during their breeding season which began during December 1953 and lasted until June 1954.—G. VICTOR MOREJOHN, *University of California, Davis, California*.

**Ross’s Goose in Texas.**—During a field trip to the Texas coast in December, 1953, I had occasion, in company with U. S. Game Management Agents Frank Clarkson and Carl J. Gruener and State Game Wardens Clarence Beezley and Bert Cade, to check two crippled geese held by Mr. Dorisse Daigle, 1560 Van Buren Street, Beaumont. One of the geese was a Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*);

the other was a Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). The latter bird was crippled by Mr. Daigle on the George Bauer ranch in Jefferson County, between Hamshire and China, Texas.

On January 3, 1954, U. S. Game Management Agent Robert S. Bach checked a hunter on Lissie Prairie near Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas, who had bagged a Ross's Goose. State Game Warden Tom Waddell obtained the bird and had it mounted.

Kortright (The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America, 1942, pp. 147-148) lists California as the wintering ground for the Ross's Goose, and so far as I know these are the first records of this species from the Gulf Coast of Texas, although it has been reported from Colorado, Arizona, and Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Other Ross's Geese may have wintered on the Texas coast last year, for our Texas U. S. Game Management Agents received several reports from waterfowl hunters concerning diminutive snow geese. Mr. Daigle donated the crippled birds to the San Antonio Zoo.—RAYMOND J. BULLER, *Assistant Regional Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

**A Record of the Mexican Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*) from Fort Worth, Texas.**—Occurrence of any species of crossbill in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, is previously unknown. On May 17, 1954, Sister St. Andrew found a dead Red Crossbill on the grounds of Our Lady of Victory College located in the southern part of the city. Although the ants had slightly eaten the head, I was able to make a study skin of the specimen which proved to be a dull, yellow-colored female. Examination of the body did not reveal any abnormalities, and death was attributed to natural causes.

The skin was forwarded to Allen J. Duvall of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service who identified it as the Mexican Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*). The specimen is now No. 458021 in the U. S. National Museum. Griscom in his Red Crossbill monograph (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 41, 1937: 135) mentions the occurrence of this race in Texas on the basis of a June sight record of a small flock in the Chisos Mountains. He goes on to state that identification of any race by sight is purely conjectural. So far as known to me, the Fort Worth specimen is the first authentic record of the Mexican Crossbill for the State of Texas.

Sight records of the Red Crossbill were also reported from the Turtle Creek area of Dallas, Dallas County, about 32 miles east of Fort Worth by Mrs. T. E. Winford (*in litt.*). Five birds, reported to be two males and three females, were observed by various members of the Dallas Audubon Society from March 21 to 25. This appears to be the only other report of crossbills in nearby areas for the spring of 1954.

I am sincerely grateful to Allen J. Duvall for his subspecific identification of this specimen.—WARREN M. PULICH, 2720 Frazier Ave., Fort Worth, Texas.

**The Identity of *Pyrrota valeryi* J. and E. Verreaux.**—Zimmer (Amer. Mus. Novit., 1304: 15, 1945) discussed a suggestion made by James Bond (*in litt.*) that this bird, now known as "*Tachyphonus valeryi*," might in reality be the troupial *Lamprosars tanagrinus* and concluded that, pending a critical study of the type and paratype, Bond's suggestion should be followed. On June 14, 1954, I was able to study the type and paratype (catalogue numbers 7829D and 7829F, respectively, in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) and to compare them directly with examples of *Tachyphonus rufus* and *Lamprosars tanagrinus*. The type and paratype of *Pyrrota valeryi* differ from males of *Tachyphonus rufus* and agree with