

male could generally be found, although he made frequent and regular trips back to the nest to see that everything was safe at home.

At no time was I able to find the male aiding with incubation or nest building. In the one nest that I was able to observe containing young, he did help with the feeding process.

The second nest was located about 45 feet up and three feet out from the trunk of a small tamarack. The tree stood not thirty feet from an occupied cabin near the lake shore. It contained four fresh eggs which the female had not yet started to incubate.

Nest number three was situated about thirty feet up at the end of a small branch of a tamarack. This tree too stood just a short distance from an occupied cabin on the lake shore and in almost every respect was identical with number two. It contained three well incubated eggs.

Nest number four was located well up on the steep mountainside overlooking the lake. Several days were required to locate it, primarily because of the distance which the birds flew from the feeding to the nesting location. The nest itself was placed just a short distance out from the trunk and on top of a fairly large limb of a red fir, some forty feet above the ground. The nest itself was similar in every respect to those above and contained three well-incubated eggs.

When flushed, the females invariably stayed within a few branches near their nests, chattering and complaining incessantly. In no case was a female flushed by throwing an object at the nest, although in one case the nest was actually hit with a small stick. Not until I was within a few feet of it would the female leave, and in each case as soon as I retreated she would go back on again. Her chattering generally brought the male, within a few minutes, which shows that the feeding area must be close enough to the nest that the parents are in constant communication. The nests of these birds are all practically the same, judging from those mentioned above. They were all quite visible from below, of almost identical size, and constructed from similar materials. Following are measurements (all figures are average), from nest number two: Depth outside, 4 inches, width $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, length $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Depth inside, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches, width $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, length $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Materials, framework entirely of small, dead spruce (?) twigs averaging from three to nine inches in length and evidently broken off from the tree. Inner part, or nest proper, constructed of fine rootlets (chiefly dark brown and I think from small tamarack shoots) and a few, fine, strawcolored grasses which are interwoven into the top or surface layer of the nest lining. This second or inner part of the nest varies from an average thickness of slightly less than an inch on the bottom to $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch at the top of the sides. This part, too, is much darker and browner than the outer structure of twigs, which are a typical evergreen gray.—DUDLEY S. DEGROOT, *State College, San Jose, California, August 28, 1934.*

The Lesser Yellow-legs near San Diego in Winter.—Mrs. Michael and I spent the day of January 10, 1934, at Mission Bay, San Diego County, California. Last November when we were there we had several visits with the Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) and got to know this species fairly well. The Lesser Yellow-legs, (*Totanus flavipes*), however, remained a complete stranger. About all we knew about him was that he is a small facsimile of the Greater Yellow-legs and that he is not supposed to be in this section of the country at this time of year.

On the day in question soon after we arrived at the mud flats two birds took wing and instantly we realized that they were not among the shore birds that we were accustomed to seeing. We both guessed Yellow-legs. Their graceful flight carried them up an arm of the slough. We followed along the railroad track and where the arm of the slough meandered close to the track we found the birds feeding. One was feeding in the company of two Willets and two Godwits, the other was on the shore near a Willet and a Black-bellied Plover. Now we were intrigued; the birds were too small to be the Greater Yellow-legs. Feeding side by side with the Willet, the Yellow-legs appeared but half his bulk. Standing with his head held high, there was not such a great difference in the height of the birds although it was quite apparent that the Willet was the taller of the two. Now the Willet is a slender bird, but the Yellow-legs was noticeably of a more slender build. He was a rangy bird, of quick and jerky movements, and he moved over his feeding ground with long strides.

He appeared to step out with wider and more "get there" strides than other shore birds use. He did not forage systematically, but moved rapidly along, making flashing jabs in the mud on both sides and in front. Foraging in this manner he was constantly jerking his head from side to side. During occasional pauses he would up-bob his head in the manner of a Willet, only more so. Most of the time he was feeding in shallow water, but often he got in belly-deep.

The Willets and Godwits that were feeding with the Yellow-legs appeared to probe more intelligently; in other words, they probed only where a prospect was indicated. The Yellow-legs jabbed indiscriminately. His system, if any, was to work fast, jab everywhere miss or hit, and by covering more ground than the systematic probers he would fare as well in the end. And besides, all his actions seemed to indicate a nervous disposition that would not permit of the slow but sure methods.

Standing beside the Yellow-legs, the Black-bellied Plover looked plumper and more hunchy than ever; actually his body appeared to bulk larger and heavier than the body of the Yellow-legs.

For two hours we sat on the bank of the slough with one Lesser Yellow-legs on our right and one on our left, all of the time hoping that one or the other would move within photographic range, but no luck. During this time several other Willets arrived to feed on the same flat with the Yellow-legs. Much of the time the birds were a hundred yards from where we sat, but even at this distance it was no trick at all to separate Yellow-legs from his companions. As he moved about, his quick, jerky mannerisms, his ceaseless jabblings and his hurried stridings set him apart. And also at this distance his gleaming breast was a conspicuous mark compared with the dull breasts of the Willets.

Later in the day we saw other Lesser Yellow-legs and finally we got within "shooting" range. This was a matter of luck; we had the camera set up and were taking a picture of a Long-billed Curlew when our friend the Yellow-legs walked into the scene.

During the day we saw nine Lesser Yellow-legs; always they were feeding with other shore birds, but not once did we see two Yellow-legs feeding together.—CHAS. W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, June 4, 1934.*

Water Ouzel Nests on Black River, Arizona.—Black River, in the White Mountains of Eastern Arizona, still an area remote from heavy traffic, is a naturalist's paradise. Here, on May 17, 1934, I located and photographed a Water Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*) nest with two hungry young in it. I watched the parent birds tilting anxiously up and down on the wet, slippery stones in mid-river, while I stood, tip-toe, on a convenient rock to look into the nest for the young.

The nest, secure in the niche of a rock bluff overhanging the water, was a mossy, mound-like structure padded inside with straw. The entrance was from below at an angle of forty-five degrees.

I am indebted to Mr. Grover Pfluger, foreman of the Fish Stream Improvement in that region, for knowledge of these ouzels. He had previously seen two nests, one with two young in it, other than the one I found, in a section locally called "The Narrows," at an altitude of 9000 feet. Later, he and Mrs. Pfluger saw six nests on Black River, a thousand feet lower in altitude. One of these contained two eggs. May 19, I observed Water Ouzels in the "Box" of Black River at 7000 feet, but I did not locate a nest.

Both Mr. Pfluger and I noticed ouzels on Eagle Creek, Greenlee County, at 5200 feet. Since the stream offers favorable locations for Water Ouzel nests, it is possible that nesting may occur here, too.—CHARLES W. QUAINANCE, *Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado, August 12, 1934.*

An Anserine Fossil from the Pliocene of Western Nebraska.—In August, 1931, a field party from the University of Kansas Museum of Paleontology made a small collection of Middle Pliocene vertebrates from the type locality of Darton's Ogalalla formation in southwestern Nebraska. In this collection was a fragment of a bird sternum, which, through the kindness of Mr. C. J. Hesse, of the University of California, was turned over to me for examination. This specimen, Kansas University Museum of Paleontology, no. 3795, is from the Ogalalla Pliocene at its type locality (Feldt Ranch Beds), SE¼ of Sec. 33, T14N., R38W., Keith County, Nebraska, and was collected by C. W. Hibbard and W. C. McNown.