

**Saskatchewan Orioles.**—The Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) is a fairly common summer visitant in Saskatchewan as far north as latitude 55°, and from there it ranges west to Edmonton in Alberta. Farther south on the prairies the Baltimore is uncommon west of Regina and is only occasionally seen in this southwestern corner of the Province. The writer's notes, dating back to 1906, record some ten appearances of this bird in the thirty years. With one exception all these records refer to solitary males; on June 9, 1924, a pair was seen at this ranch but did not stay long. It was therefore a great satisfaction to us when, in 1936, Baltimore Orioles nested here, one pair successfully rearing a brood of five in our plantation, and another pair nesting near-by.

Naturally we hoped the orioles would come back to us this summer; but on May 26 we had the great surprise of seeing, not a Baltimore but a fine male Bullock Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*), sitting in one of our crab-apple trees and busy pulling off the blossoms. Early on May 30 I was again watching this oriole, still busy on the apple blossoms, when a female Baltimore appeared on the scene. On catching sight of her, *bullockii* became violently excited and a wild chase ensued through the trees. Once the two birds grappled and fell together in some tall grass. Five minutes later *galbula* was quietly seated in one apple tree and *bullockii*, still much agitated, in another, both pecking off the blossoms. Incidentally, our apple crop was a complete failure, probably owing to frost in early June.

The following day I was called away on business, and was absent for a week. By that time both orioles had gone, but on June 6 a female Bullock Oriole was seen. In early June a few pairs of Baltimores arrived and remained to nest. On July 1 the writer discovered a pair of Bullock Orioles with a nest about ten feet up in a maple and containing three newly hatched young. Unlike the first Bullock Oriole, which was in full splendor of adult plumage, the male of this pair was a young bird in his first spring dress, having the entire head yellow, with black eye-stripe and throat mark.

On July 10, another visit was paid to the nest, this time in company with Mr. Chas. F. Holmes and his son Paul, both keen bird men whose names the writer has had occasion to refer to more than once. We took the only young bird remaining in the nest. Although we loitered at the spot for nearly an hour we saw nothing of the parent birds, except for a hurried visit by the male. I had hoped that my friends would hear his song. This being quite different from the more tuneful performance of the Baltimore, serves to distinguish the two species at once. Mr. Holmes took charge of the little bird, which has been since submitted to Allan Brooks and identified by him as a male Bullock Oriole.

The range of the Bullock Oriole reaches its eastern limit at the Alberta boundary, and though said to be quite common at Medicine Hat, only thirty miles farther west, there appear to be no previous records of its appearance in Saskatchewan. The writer has made careful search and inquiry for this bird during many years without success. So far as this Cypress Hills region is concerned it is not unlikely that orioles ordinarily avoid our comparatively high altitude, some 1200 feet or more above the surrounding plains; but the last two summers, hot and dry as they have been, may have caused them to extend their range, the one species from the east, the other from the west.

A. C. Bent mentions an oriole taken near Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, which he supposes to be a hybrid between *galbula* and *bullockii* (Auk, vol. 25, 1908, p. 29). Maple Creek is north of the Cypress Hills and twenty-five miles from Alberta.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Gower Ranch, Eastend, Saskatchewan, August 28, 1937.*

**An Albino White-faced Glossy Ibis.**—One "dirty-white" bird, feeding with five dark White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*) in a marshy pasture near Farmington, Utah, was observed September 6, 1937, about 1:30 p.m. It was noted while I was going north on highway 91, between Salt Lake City and Ogden. These birds were disturbed just ahead of my car and flew west just in front of me and not over fifteen feet above the road—a good, clear observation. During the same week a similar bird was reported seen several times at Farmington Bay by a resident at Burnham Gun Club.—MRS. C. W. LOCKERBIE, *Salt Lake City, Utah, October 22, 1937.*

**Long-crested Jay in Southeastern California.**—While on a trip to the bottomlands of the Colorado River, near Blythe, in Riverside County, California, on February 23, 1935, I saw in the distance a flock of jays. Getting closer, I was able to count 28 of the birds, one of which I shot. Then the flock became restless and flew on to taller trees. Later, I judged the flock to comprise fully 50 birds. The specimen that was taken, at a point one mile south and one mile east of Blythe, was an immature female and is now no. 72522, Mus. Vert. Zool. It was compared at the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where my identification of it as *Cyanocitta stelleri diademata* was confirmed.—C. O. REIS, *Los Angeles, California, October 30, 1937.*

**Brewster Egret Nesting in Colorado.**—The Brewster Egret (*Egretta thula brewsteri*) is a regular, although not numerous, summer resident in favorable localities east of the foothills in Colorado. We have observed it in pairs in the vicinity of Barr Lake, Adams County, throughout

the summer for many years; there they were associating with the Black-crowned Night Herons and we have felt reasonably sure that a few pairs were nesting.

Our belief was verified on July 8 of this year when we visited Barr, accompanied by Fred G. Brandenburg. A nest with three large young and an addled egg was found in a cottonwood in a Black-crowned Night Heron colony, the nest being twenty-five feet from the ground and similar in construction to the nests of the night herons. It was not composed of fine twigs as is often the case in the nests of egrets breeding in Utah. We returned to the nest on July 10 and found that only two birds remained. Inasmuch as we desire to have the egrets increase in numbers, and young of unknown age would be useless to determine their race, we did not collect them, but took the addled egg (C. M. N. H., no. 6369) and photographs of one of the young to substantiate the record. As there are several large night heron communities around Barr, and as we have often observed more than a dozen egrets flying over the colonies, we feel certain that other pairs were nesting.—ALFRED M. BAILEY and ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, September 10, 1937.*

**Fork-tailed Petrel in San Francisco Bay Region.**—On August 31, 1937, a live Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) was brought to me by Mr. W. Vernon Bernard. It had been obtained at his residence, 227 San Carlos Avenue, El Cerrito, Contra Costa County, California. This place is at the base of the hills a mile and a half distant from the bay shore. The bird first came to notice when it struggled free from a hawk perched on a telephone wire. Apparently the hawk was of accipitrine type. The petrel flew along the ground coming to rest several times, and finally was captured by hand. It seemed uninjured when I examined it a half hour later (6:15 p.m.), but it was exceedingly thin and some feathers were missing from the side of the head. The bird died during the night. Upon skinning it, no lesions could be found; the breast muscles were, however, greatly atrophied.

It seems unlikely that this petrel was carried any distance by the hawk; for surely had this been the case, it would have been killed or obviously injured. Probably the bird, in a weakened condition, had just been captured. The petrel was a male, in good plumage (no. 72288, Mus. Vert. Zool.); it showed no evidence of immaturity. The causes of its inland wandering are obscure. On the day of its capture there was only the customary, moderate, inshore wind of the summer season. Heretofore, Fork-tailed Petrels have been known from the vicinity of San Francisco Bay at off-shore localities, about the Farallon Islands and off Point Reyes.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 3, 1937.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in Fresno, with the bird students of that section of central California serving as hosts. The dates of the sessions are tentatively set for Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16. Field trips are planned for Sunday, the 17th. The Board of Governors will hold its Seventeenth Annual Meeting on the evening of the 15th. This will be the first general meeting of the Club "north of Tehachapi" in other than the immediate San Francisco Bay region. Thus centrally located, it should draw large attendance from both north and south. Members planning to contribute to the program will need to begin preparing their papers at once, so as to be ready to submit titles when called for by postal notice about March 1.—GEORGE WILLET.

There can be no question now but that *water* is far and away the most valuable natural resource of the arid Southwest. And with the huge increase of the human population concentrating in the lowlands, needing to be sustained there, inevitably the water-producing uplands will be more and more conserved for that one value—as against grazing in any degree, lumbering, wood-cutting, and hunting (this practice eliminated because of the fire-hazard in the long dry season). A recent tour of southern California was convincing of the trend: Many mountain ranges, small as well as large, are already closed to grazing and hunting. The watersheds, with their essential cover of chaparral and woods, are being set aside and guarded for that function alone—of water supply to the valleys and plains below.