

12, 1909, the other from Tillamook collected November 26, 1925. Typical *velox* also occurs at both these places.

*Porzana carolina*. Sora. Hazelton, 1 ♂ juv., August 8. Not found by any of the earlier parties. This seems to be the most northwesterly point at which the species has been taken.

*Totanus flavipes*. Lesser Yellow-legs. Hazelton, 1 ♂, August 6. An addition to the upper Skeena list.

*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. Herring Gull. Hazelton, 1 ♀ ad., August 14; 1 ♀ ad., August 15. Although unrecorded by either Taverner or Swarth, the Herring Gull is stated to breed at Babine Lake, only a few miles from Topley (W. W. Cooke, Bull. U. S. Dept. Agr., No. 292, 1915, p. 37).

*Bubo virginianus saturatus*. Dusky Horned Owl. Hazelton, 1 ♂, August 23. This specimen is even darker than any of our other skins of *saturatus*. Swarth took a series of 21 horned owls in this region, all of which he referred to *lagophonus*.

*Colaptes auratus borealis*. Boreal Flicker. Hazelton, 1 ♂, July 24; 1 ♀, August 26. Both show some traces of red-shafted blood.

*Perisoreus canadensis canadensis*. Canada Jay. Hazelton, 1 ♀ im., August 1; 1 ♂, August 16; 2 ♂, September 1. One of these birds shows an approach to *albescens* of southern Alberta.

*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*. Water Ouzel. Hazelton, 1 ♀ ad., 1 ♂ juv., September 14. Not recorded by either of the previous expeditions.

*Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi*. British Columbia Evening Grosbeak. Hazelton, 1 ♂ juv., August 7.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 9, 1939.*

**Wilson Phalaropes and Avocets at Abert Lake, Oregon.**—On July 6, 1939, W. F. Kubihek, of the U. S. Biological Survey, and the writer while driving south along the east shore of Abert Lake, Lake County, Oregon, were attracted by the sight of unusually large numbers of Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*). Along a three-mile shore line we counted about 1200 of the birds. Others were seen a few miles farther south, and although we did not count those accurately, we estimated that we saw no fewer than 1800 Avocets along about five miles of shore line. Although these birds had nested in considerable numbers at Abert Lake for at least twenty-five years, the population during the summer of 1939 greatly outnumbered that of any previous year during the writer's experience.

While checking on the Avocets, we were astounded at the numbers of Wilson Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*), both on the open water and feeding along the shore line. These birds covered acres of open water, and when detachments made short flights, they whirled and twisted in almost solid formation, much like massed flocks of sandpipers along the ocean beaches. We estimated there were no fewer than 25,000 of these birds in sight at one time. A few days later the area was visited by William L. Finley, the well-known ornithologist; David Aylard, President of the National Wildlife Federation; and Tom B. Murray, of the U. S. Biological Survey, who considered our estimate of the numbers too low. Later, Frank B. Wire, State Game Supervisor, visited the area and estimated that there were 100,000 phalaropes present. The writer does not vouch for the accuracy of any of these estimates, but is positive that he has never before seen such large numbers of Wilson Phalaropes at any one time during his thirty years of field work in the Pacific coast states.

The fact that millions of a species of small brown insect had evidently died over or on the waters of the lake and had washed up along the shore line, forming a solid mass for miles, on which both avocets and phalaropes were feeding, may account in part for such a great concentration of these birds.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 29, 1939.*

**Polygamy in the English Sparrow.**—What was unquestionably a case of polygamy in the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) came to my notice in the spring of 1939. A pair of English Sparrows was taking one of two nesting boxes, put up for the Violet-green Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina*) which nested in one of the boxes for some years; the boxes are close together in the same eave of the house. I destroyed the first nest of the English Sparrows, but, as usual, the birds promptly started nesting again, and I took a second nest with six eggs. Shortly afterwards, I saw the male sparrow with two females, both of which came out of the same box. Fortunately, the eggs taken had not been destroyed, and an examination of these showed four considerably incubated, but the other two showed only traces of blood. I judged that about five days had elapsed between the layings.

I shot four females in a week from this particular box; the first one I did not examine, but it actually came off the eggs; the second had a brood patch whereas the last two showed no sign of brooding. This seemed to exhaust the supply of unpaired females, for although the male remained around some time and was calling all the time, no further nesting took place.