

structure, but immediately came over and tore off the tail of the lizard, which she ate. Following this, she dismembered the rest of the lizard and fed it to the young, who had followed her over to the food.—GLEN CHRISTENSEN AND THOMAS TRELEASE, *Reno, Nevada, February 8, 1941.*

Range of the Texas Woodpecker in Colorado.—Literature relating to the distribution of the Texas Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris*) in Colorado has defined its range as being south of the Arkansas River, generally below the 5000-foot contour, and in particular confined to the extensive pinyon and cedar association below this limit. Since several standard texts (A. O. U. Check-list, 1931, and others) have accepted these limits, five records from north of the Arkansas, where the pinyon association is represented chiefly by scattered stands in arid localities, seem worthy of mention.

Sclater, in his "Birds of Colorado" (1912:227), states that "recently Aiken has received examples . . . taken in the Fountain Valley some twenty miles north of Pueblo." Pueblo is on the Arkansas, at 4600 feet elevation; the Fountain Valley is entirely a region of cottonwoods, with few pinyons anywhere. Aiken also saw one in lower Colorado Springs, September 1, 1915. During the winter of 1931-1932 a single Texas Woodpecker was present in Colorado Springs at the feeding tray of Miss Mary Avery, an observant bird lover, who made a careful identification. Colorado Springs is 45 miles north of Pueblo, at 6000 feet altitude, and literally at the upper margin of the Upper Sonoran Zone.

Three records for *scalaris* have been obtained by the writer in the past fifteen months. A female was present at the Johnson Reservoir, just east of Fountain Creek, eleven miles south of Colorado Springs, between February 10 and March 23, 1940. This was in a cottonwood association. Another winter occurrence was noted December 23, 1940, in the lower foothill (lower Transition) zone, during the Christmas census count. This bird, a male, was observed in a cottonwood grove beside Cheyenne Creek. Finally, a female was seen and carefully studied in a choke-cherry thicket near lower Colorado Springs, on May 3, 1941.

It seems possible, from these notes, that the range of the Texas Woodpecker is extending northward in Colorado beyond its formerly well-defined boundaries in the cedar and pinyon country. While so far the advance has been relatively small in distance (45 miles), students of Colorado's complex life-zone problem will recognize that these movements, reaching nearly 1400 feet greater altitude beyond the strongholds of the cedar and pinyon association, have breached one of the best-defined zones in the state.—SAMUEL W. GADD, *Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 8, 1941.*

Western Robin Nesting Near Pasadena, California.—Inasmuch as Mr. George Willett advises he has received no record of Western Robins (*Turdus migratorius propinquus*) nesting at a low elevation in the San Gabriel Valley, California, since the report by Wilson and Campbell (Condor, 33, 1931:250) of young at Monrovia, in June of 1931, it seems well to record the breeding of several pairs this spring (1941) in the Pasadena area. Prior to this year, there seem to have been no records of nests and only two records of young birds observed in the foothill region of southern California below an altitude of 5000 feet (Willett, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933:130.).

On April 1, a pair of these birds was flying about a new lawn owned by us in Flintridge. The birds carried nesting material to a square metal ornament, which flares out at the top of a water spout immediately under the eaves of the north side of the garage. This is almost directly over the parking area, into which cars have been passing daily for months. The birds are obviously much tamer than the migrating robins, which normally roost during migration in the tops of near-by poplars. By April 15 both birds had become so used to people that they would fly from the nest down to the lawn, gathering worms within a few feet of persons playing croquet. The building of the nest seemed to occupy the birds in a desultory fashion for a number of days.

It was not until about April 30 that the parents were observed feeding young. Although the male helped with the feeding, the female invariably brooded the young at night. By May 6 it became apparent the parent birds were going farther afield to obtain worms, disappearing into the arroyo on the west, where the ground is wet nightly by an automatic sprinkler and kept damp by the thick tree-growth. Lack of rain for about ten days had rendered the ground on the lawn hard and had driven the worms well below the surface. On May 13 the nest contained three young birds, approximately one-third grown.

Four other nests have been found in the vicinity of Pasadena this year. My friend, Wendell Taber, reported about the middle of April that he had observed robins near South Arroyo Drive, and later he prepared a memorandum dated April 29, from which I quote the following: "Saw a robin taking mud out of gutter in South Arroyo Drive, Pasadena, opposite end of South San Rafael Street bridge. I saw nest with bird molding it by squatting and moving around. The nest is about

twenty feet above the ground and is made most conspicuous by having what is apparently a paper napkin inserted near the bottom in such a way that perhaps two-thirds of the napkin projects and moves with the wind."

On the same day, he discovered another pair of robins only a few hundred yards from the first pair and observed one of the birds carrying nesting material. The nest was discovered on May 13 and on May 10 Mrs. Lawrence Kiplinger of Busch Place, Pasadena, showed Mr. Taber two more occupied nests of robins not far from her property, in the Arroyo. Mrs. Kiplinger states that the robins nested in this locality in the years 1939 and 1940.

A satisfactory theory as to the underlying cause which has prompted robins to nest at the low altitude of Pasadena (700 to 1200 feet) may be found in the heavy rains of the past two years. The normal annual rainfall for the Pasadena area is 19.87 inches, but for the season of 1941 to date it amounts to 46.29 inches! Frequent rains continued throughout the latter part of March and April, keeping the ground damp and worms close to the ground surface. In fact, they were observed frequently crawling on the driveway of a near-by house. The dryness of the soil in normal years makes the obtaining of worms a problem and probably is an important factor in restricting nesting to high altitudes, where rains are more frequent.

However, it should be noted that several species of birds, normally restricted to the higher mountains, such as the White-headed Woodpecker (see p. 196) and the Blue-fronted Jays have been observed in the Pasadena area this spring. Various reports have come to me of Blue-fronted Jays staying late in April at low levels, and a pair remained on our property in Flintridge at least until April 20. For a long time there were two pairs, but only one remained through April. These individuals went through all the secretive peering actions common to birds hunting for nesting sites. As I was not well during this period, I could not definitely determine whether a nest was built. They have not been observed since May 4.—ROBERT T. MOORE, *Pasadena, California, May 19, 1941.*

Yellow-headed Blackbird Nests near Minden, Nevada.—Near Minden, Douglas County, Nevada, where a branch of the Carson River spreads into a marsh, there is a colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) nesting. The area that I have been particularly interested in is a farm where cattle, sheep and pigs are kept. There are ditches bordering cultivated fields and meadow land where in the spring open water stands. From this farm the east wall of the Sierra, with snow on the upper portion, seems very close. A slight rise of ground toward the hills puts one immediately into sagebrush country.

In an attempt to find out how many Yellow-heads were nesting in what seemed to be a large and rather spread out colony, I chose for study a small patch of tules that was accessible (with the aid of high rubber boots) and where in several seasons I had seen full-plumaged males perched and singing. On May 31, 1941, I examined this patch of tules, which was approximately 20 feet long and perhaps 10 feet wide through its thickest part. I counted thirty-one nests. Ten nests had four young that had been recently hatched; one nest had one egg and three young; two nests contained three eggs only; eleven nests had four eggs each. The rest of the nests were empty. Some seemed to be new and waiting for occupancy; the others were old and disheveled. In one instance, two nests containing four eggs each were less than eighteen inches apart.

There were other nests in tules bordering the deeper open water of the marsh and some of them I saw from a boat, but did not count. Across the highway where the marsh is completely overgrown, full-plumaged males sat in the tules or other vegetation and sang and females were seen in and about the area. This was also true along some of the ditches.

I have no idea of the size of the colony but it seems to me it must number in the hundreds.—HOPE M. GLADDING, *Berkeley, California, June 16, 1941.*