

Robin Nesting at Pacific Grove, California.—On June 24, 1941, the nest of a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) containing three eggs was found in Pacific Grove, Monterey County, California. The nest was built against the trunk of a Monterey pine, about twenty feet above the ground. Its support was concealed by the mass of nesting material, but presumably it rested on a short dead stub of a branch, as there were many such stubs along the trunk. One adult was singing near by; another was on the nest in an attitude of incubation. So far as I am aware this constitutes the first breeding record for the Monterey Peninsula.—LADLAW WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California, July 25, 1941.*

Man-o'-war-bird in Santa Barbara County, California.—Man-o'-war-birds are sufficiently uncommon in California to make it worthwhile to record one more. A bird was seen on July 11, 1941, at a distance of as little as 100 feet, along the beach and a short distance inland, about five miles west of Gaviota, Santa Barbara County, California. It was seen by several observers beside myself, one of whom was familiar with the genus in the tropics. The bird was working westward parallel to the shore. Its light head and breast showed that it was an immature individual, probably of *Fregata magnificens*, since the rufous cast over the head, as described for *F. minor*, was not noted.—RICHARD M. BOND, *Oakland, California, July 23, 1941.*

Black-headed Grosbeak Nesting at Fresno, California.—Although the occurrence and nesting of the Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*) has been noted by local observers at Fresno, California, in recent years, it is interesting to point out that Fresno was originally a semi-arid desert area unfavorable to this species. These grosbeaks usually are inhabitants of the more forested regions and wooded stream sides. Undoubtedly introduced cover and the trees in the parks of Fresno have attracted them. These fine areas of trees and moist lawns have also made possible the summer residence of the Western Robin.

The grosbeaks were first recorded by the writer on April 17, 1941, and by May 3 a nest had been constructed and a normal complement of three eggs was present. Approximately thirteen days later, the three purplish young had hatched; seven days after this the entire brood disappeared. This was the result of visits to the nest by the introduced western fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger rufiventris*). These mammals, by reason of overabundance, present a problem for the nesting birds in the municipal Roeding Park area. In 1940, a grosbeak nest situated in the same tree as this year's nest was destroyed in a similar manner.

To illustrate the ecological changes and resultant acquisition of nesting birds in recent years, it is to be noted that Tyler (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 9, 1913:87-88, 108) reported Western Robins in Fresno as winter and early spring migrants, the main band leaving in March, and Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen by him only in the spring as they loitered before passing on to more suitable summer homes. At the present time, both species are raising young in this region.—RICHARD H. BOYER, *Fresno, California, June 16, 1941.*

Inland Record for the White-winged Scoter.—Inasmuch as published records of the occurrence of the White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*) on fresh water are comparatively few, it may be worth while to record the presence of an adult female of this species at a small reservoir in Prospect Park, Redlands, California, on November 8, 1937. The bird was remarkably tame, allowing the observer to secure an excellent view at close range with a minimum of effort. Our identification was confirmed by Harold Hill. The scoter freely exhibited its ability as a diver, and was under the water for a considerable part of the time. Approximately ten days after its appearance we were surprised to find that the scoter was absent. We later learned that it was shot by one of our neighbors. The normal habitat of this species, along the ocean beaches, is approximately eighty-five miles from Redlands.—MILTON MOORE and DONALD MOORE, *Redlands, California, June 3, 1941.*

The Thick-billed Kingbird of Northern Sonora.—Several years ago when J. T. Wright was engaged in collecting birds in Sonora, one of his most interesting discoveries was that of a breeding colony of Thick-billed Kingbirds (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) at Rancho La Arizona in the extreme north-central part of the state and only about thirteen miles in an airline from the Arizona boundary. These birds were recorded by the present writer (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 6, 1931:259) as from Saric, the locality given on Wright's labels. However, when Robert Hannum and I visited the region in May, 1937, we found Wright's collecting to have been done at Rancho La Arizona, several miles closer to the border than Saric and in a higher life zone. This ranch is at an altitude of 3200 feet, just at the juncture of Lower and Upper Sonoran zones, although the latter is dominant. Saric is several hundred feet lower and is strictly Lower Sonoran. On the occasion of our own visit to Rancho La Arizona we succeeded in collecting two pairs of these kingbirds and saw several other individuals.

All of them were in riparian growth, chiefly willows, cottonwoods, walnuts, and giant mesquites, which grow along the small stream, a fork of the Altar River which at its headwaters in Arizona is known as Bear Creek.

This colony of Thick-billed Kingbirds seems to be isolated from its nearest neighbors by 300 miles, for the species reappears again only in extreme southeastern Sonora, where it is not uncommon along streams in the Arid Tropical Zone. Wright found no trace of it at any of the several intervening localities where he worked, nor have Chester Lamb, W. W. Brown, myself, and several other collectors detected it.

A careful inspection of nine northern specimens shows several departures from the race *pompalis* which make a separate name for them desirable. I propose

Tyrannus crassirostris sequestratus new subspecies
Northern Thick-billed Kingbird

Type.—Breeding adult male, no. 28580 Dickey Collection; Rancho La Arizona, Sonora, Mexico, altitude 3200 feet; collected June 11, 1929, by J. T. Wright.

Subspecific characters.—Compared with *Tyrannus crassirostris pompalis* Bangs and Peters of southern Sonora, upper parts darker and grayer; wing coverts with light edgings narrower and nearly obsolete; posterior under parts paler yellow; bill very slightly shorter but decidedly deeper (10 per cent) throughout its length.

Range.—Known only from the type locality.

Remarks.—The describers of *pompalis* were misled, in one respect, by the notorious fading to which many of Frazar's skins are subject. Recently collected specimens of that race are slightly darker and grayer dorsally than *crassirostris*, not paler and grayer as originally supposed. It also has a slightly more highly arched culmen than *crassirostris* and seems to be in every respect a race intermediate between *crassirostris* and *sequestratus*.

I examined Swainson's type of the nominate race when at Cambridge, England, in 1933 and found it to be a typical Bullock skin, flattened, distorted, and almost devoid of stuffing. It is so faded by the passage of over a hundred years as to be worthless for color comparisons. The measurements taken at the time are: wing, 128 mm.; tail, 96; exposed culmen, 27.4. No indications of locality are on the tag other than "Bullock Mexico." It is a female to judge by the degree of primary emargination. Since Swainson originally named *crassirostris* from "the warm districts of Mexico" and later (Phil. Mag., n. s., 1, 1827:368) listed it as inhabiting "Maritime and tablelands," it would appear that the selection, as a restricted type locality, of Acapulco, Guerrero, by Bangs and Peters (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 68, 1928:306) is an excellent one. Indeed it may well be the actual type locality, for there is good, though not conclusive, evidence that Bullock was at one time in Guerrero. I refer to the type of *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Swainson which is also a Bullock skin and very definitely of the Guerrero race (see Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 52, 1939:15).

It may be well to emphasize that kingbirds with green or olive backs and yellow underparts change color very rapidly after the annual molt. The backs become gray with little color tint in a very few months. The yellow underparts become much paler, sometimes in the present species almost creamy white. Post-mortem change seems to be rather different, in that extremely old skins undergo a general paling of the entire plumage. It goes without saying that reasonably recent skins in comparable plumage must be used in making color distinctions.

Measurements.—There seem to be no differences whatever in the wing and tail lengths of *pompalis* and *sequestratus*. In the following table of bill measurements (extremes and averages), sex has been disregarded, as in this respect I can detect no differences between males and females.

	9 <i>sequestratus</i>	15 <i>pompalis</i>
Exposed culmen	25.3–26.8 mm. (26.1)	25.5–28.0 mm. (27.2)
Depth of bill at nostril	10.5–11.5 (11.1)	9.8–10.5 (10.0)

—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California at Los Angeles, July 3, 1941.*

Racial Determination of Bewick Wrens in the Western Great Basin Region.—Bewick Wrens are of scattered occurrence north of latitude 38° on the east side of the Cascade-Sierran axis and are common in only a few localities. Southward from southern Mono County, California, and Esmeralda County, Nevada (Linsdale, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936:92), the Desert Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii eremophilus*) is encountered regularly as a breeding bird. The more northern occurrences of the species in California and Nevada in summer have been allocated to the race