

area on each side of the Santa Fe railroad tracks about 100 yards due south of the place where the bird was found. The bird was in good condition, very little decomposed, and not bloody. However, before the specimen could be skinned by the writer decomposition had set in and made the cause of death, as well as the sex, indeterminable. Possibly a car struck the bird as it crossed a paved road to reach the spot where it was found. The head showed some signs of concussion.

Swarth (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 10, 1914:53) reported the Western Grasshopper Sparrow only from western and southern Arizona. According to Mr. Allan Phillips of the Museum of Northern Arizona, recent investigation has shown this species to be a common transient and winter resident in southeastern Arizona. It is rare farther west in the state, and previous to this record, according to Phillips, no valid report of the bird had been made from, or north of, the Mogollon Plateau; the plateau is over 130 miles southeast of the Grand Canyon. The Grasshopper Sparrow is known to breed locally in a few places in southeastern Arizona.

The identification of the specimen found at Grand Canyon, which is now number B-472 in the collection of the Grand Canyon National Park, was verified by Dr. Alden H. Miller of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.—JOHN R. ARNOLD, *Stockton Junior College, Stockton, California, August 20, 1941.*

Wilson Snipe Perches on Telephone Pole.—On July 2, 1941, the authors were driving along a highway about 5½ miles south of Alturas, Modoc County, California, when an adult Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*) was noted sitting on top of a telephone pole about 15 feet from the ground. This seemed so unusual that we felt it advisable to recheck our identification of the bird; consequently, after passing a few hundred yards, we stopped and backed the car to a point even with the pole. After a few moments the bird left with characteristic explosive suddenness, uttering its familiar call, and alighted near by in a marsh.—CLARENCE COTTAM and CECIL S. WILLIAMS, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., August 28, 1941.*

A Nighthawk Migration on an Arizona Desert.—When returning by automobile to Grand Canyon, Arizona, on July 29, 1941, Mrs. Bryant and I were astonished at the large number of migrating Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) to be seen in food-getting flight over the desert. After noting twenty or more we decided to take a census. The following results were obtained between 7:30 p.m. and 7:55 p.m., sunset included, on a stretch of the Grand Canyon approach road about 35 miles south of Grand Canyon. The country is covered with sagebrush, with occasional patches of juniper and piñon pine. Mrs. Bryant watched on one side and I on the other, while driving. All birds counted were within 200 yards of the highway so that the strip used in the census was not more than 400 yards wide. We doubt whether the birds were any more abundant near the road than on the open desert and believe this count is a reliable sampling of abundance. The car traveled at 50 miles per hour. Probably many birds were missed in the course of the last few miles because of poor visibility with darkness fast approaching.

| Mile | Nighthawks | Mile | Nighthawks |
|------|------------|------|------------|
| 1st | 5 | 10th | 2 |
| 2nd | 5 | 11th | 2 |
| 3rd | 8 | 12th | 1 |
| 4th | 6 | 13th | 3 |
| 5th | 3 | 14th | 1 |
| 6th | 4 | 15th | 2 |
| 7th | 3 | 16th | 4 |
| 8th | 2 | 17th | 0 |
| 9th | 0 | 18th | 0 |

This made a total of fifty-one nighthawks, seen in a narrow belt over eighteen miles of desert, or an average of nearly three per mile, from a speeding car. And, of course, there were more birds than the eye could catch. The lack of birds in the last two miles may be attributed to the darkness.—H. C. BRYANT, *Grand Canyon, Arizona, September 6, 1941.*

European Starling in Nevada.—Because of the interest ornithologists have had in the movement and distribution of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and also because of the unusual economic significance of this bird, it seems appropriate to record a field observation of this species at Las Vegas, Nevada. The following is quoted from a letter from Dr. M. M. Ellis of the Fish and Wildlife Service:

"On August 12, 1938, Dr. B. A. Westfall . . . and I saw three adult Starlings in the trees in front of the post office at Las Vegas, Nevada. This was about 9 o'clock in the morning. Dr. Westfall is a trained ornithologist having had considerable experience in that field and I am well enough informed on the common birds to know Starlings without a doubt. We were both surprised to see these birds so far west and followed them as they flew from bush to tree in the vicinity of the U. S. Post Office. Our observations lasted over 15 or 20 minutes during which time we were very close to the three birds. Business matters took us on but we were so impressed with our find that we discussed it several times during the day and the next morning looked for the birds again. We did not see them. As you know large trucks come through from the East and Las Vegas is a base point for considerable trucking. We have nothing to offer beyond that suggestion concerning the arrival of these birds in Las Vegas. Both Dr. Westfall and I feel absolutely certain of our identification."—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., September 8, 1941.*

Nesting of Buffle-head Duck at Lake Almanor, California.—While motoring on Lake Almanor, Plumas County, on May 19, 1940, I passed through some standing dead timber on the south side of the lake. I was surprised to flush a female Buffle-head (*Charitonetta albeola*) from a hole 25 feet up in a dead tree. Either the noise of the motor or the boat brushing against the tree scared her out. The duck flew up the lake a considerable distance and settled on the water, giving opportunity to identify it with the aid of field glasses. On May 20, I returned with a ladder. The female was in the vicinity but she did not allow me to approach closely. The nest contained six partly incubated eggs.—HOWARD P. DAVIS, *Alhambra, California, January 27, 1941.*

Two New Records for Nevada.—Examples of two species of birds heretofore unknown from the state of Nevada recently have been taken in the vicinity of Fallon:

Crocethia alba. Sanderling. A lone individual was seen and obtained (no. 81635, Mus. Vert. Zool.) on May 10, 1941, at the south end of Soda Lake, Churchill County.

Seiurus aurocapillus. Oven-bird. One was obtained (no. 83232, Mus. Vert. Zool.) on June 12, 1941, four miles west of Fallon, Churchill County. This bird was found by Mr. W. H. Alcorn near the stock corral on his ranch. It appeared to have been dead for about two days; we were unable to determine what had killed it.—J. R. ALCORN, *Fallon, Nevada, July 18, 1941.*

Summer Records from the Bodega Bay Region, California.—Ornithological observations made in the period from May 20 to June 27, 1941, in the vicinity of Bodega Bay on the central California coast, include a number of noteworthy records of summer occurrence. The field work centered about Dillon Beach, Marin County, and included the lower end of Bodega Bay, the northern part and mouth of Tomales Bay, and Tomales Point. In evaluating these records, I have had access to references on the birds of California assembled by the late Dr. Joseph Grinnell.

Gavia stellata. Red-throated Loon. This winter visitant usually leaves the coast of central California by early May. One adult was seen on June 13 on protected waters near the mouth of Tomales Bay. Two more individuals were noted on June 21 at the same location. Moffitt's record (Condor, 40, 1938:261) from Marin County of an individual taken May 22, 1921, is apparently the latest record heretofore.

Brania nigricans. Black Brant. Brant usually stay through April. A small flock of approximately forty individuals remained near the mouth of Tomales Bay until May 30. One or two individuals were seen at the same place on June 10, 25, and 26.

Numenius americanus. Long-billed Curlew. Mid-summer records of this curlew, which is predominantly a fall transient along the coast, are apparently few. A flock of ten was seen on June 26 on mud flats near Tom Point on Tomales Bay. Grinnell and Wythe (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 18, 1927:71) mention July 6 as an early date for the San Francisco Bay region.

Ereunetes mauri. Western Sandpiper. Summer "stragglers" have apparently been recorded on a number of occasions along the central California coast. But it seems worth while to record a sizable flock of about seventy individuals which appeared on the mud flats near the mouth of Tomales Bay on June 26. Prior to this date no limicolines other than a few isolated individuals were noted in the region, but on the 26th, besides the present species, the curlews recorded above, a flock of seven willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), and several unidentified sandpipers of different species appeared.

Limosa fedoa. Marbled Godwit. Approximately ten godwits were seen scattered over mud flats of Bodega Lagoon, Sonoma County, on June 12. "Stragglers" have been recorded along the central California coast through the summer season.

Larus philadelphia. Bonaparte Gull. A single immature gull of this species was seen on June 21