

of W. W. Dalquest; wing 106.0 mm., tail 48.0, culmen 19.0, tarsus 34.0. W.S.M. no. 10336, adult male taken at Sammamish Slough, King County, Washington, on November 28, 1933; collected, after accidental death, by Walter W. Dalquest; wing 103.5 mm., tail 44.0, culmen 17.2, tarsus 31.5.—J. W. SLIPP and M. R. FLAHAUT, *Washington State Museum, Seattle, January 21, 1942.*

The European Starling in California.—Under date of January 22, 1942, C. G. Fairchild, Refuge Manager of the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou County, California, wrote me as follows: "Wish to advise you that Howard Cantrell collected a starling at the Peninsula Cabin. He saw a flight of about forty, east of the town of Tulelake, California. He also saw another bunch around the Peninsula Cabin of approximately four." On February 4, 1942, I received by mail a specimen of starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the flesh with a tag bearing the following inscription: "Howard Cantrell, January 10, 1942—11:30 a.m. Peninsula Cabin." The bird, an adult male, has been prepared as a study skin and the stomach saved for future study. So far as is known, this is the first record of the European Starling in the state of California.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, February 4, 1942.*

Winter Range of Oklahoma's Hybrid Orioles.—A few years ago the writer reported on oddly plumaged orioles from Oklahoma which he believed to be hybrids between Baltimore and Bullock orioles, *Icterus galbula* and *Icterus bullockii* (Auk, 55, 1938:1-6). Recently, while examining the Baltimore Orioles in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, he came upon three more of these hybrids, all highly plumaged males from Guatemala. The most obviously intermediate of the three is very much like figure 2 in the color plate illustrating the Oklahoma birds, the principal difference being that in the Guatemala bird the corners of the tail are orange rather than yellow, and the white tipping of the greater coverts is a little less extensive. This bird (no. 398609) was taken at San Lucas, Guatemala, on December 26, 1927; it was probably in its winter home (see Griscom, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 64, 1932:390). The other two (nos. 398601 and 398597) were taken at San Lucas, November 16, 1926, and at Panajachel, October 14, 1926. They are closer to *galbula* than to *bullockii*, but the paleness of the middle coverts, the extensive white tipping of the greater coverts, and a tendency to dusky tipping of the outer rectrices reveal their *bullockii* blood. Close examination of all Central and South American specimens in our museums will doubtless reveal further examples of these hybrids, and it would be interesting to discover where most of them winter.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, October 20, 1941.*

Osprey at Baldwin Lake, San Bernardino Mountains.—A lone Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus*) was observed at Baldwin Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, California, on May 11, 1941. The bird was hunting over the northern part of the lake and was viewed for some time at fairly close range with seven-power glasses. It did not capture anything while James Fairchild, a boy scout, and I watched it. Occurrences of this species in this vicinity are so rare that they should be recorded.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, September 6, 1941.*

Interior Dowitcher in the State of Washington.—In the course of recent studies of dowitchers from California and Oregon in various collections, a comparatively large number of skins of the interior race (*hendersoni*) of this bird has been recognized. There is a full-plumaged adult male *Limnodromus griseus hendersoni* in my collection taken at Westport, Grays Harbor County, Washington, on April 26, 1940. Although this race has not before been recorded from Washington, I predict that when Washington-taken specimens of dowitchers are given more study, a considerable proportion of them will prove to be this interior form. The race *hendersoni* Rowan (Auk, 49, 1932:14-35) was described too late to be included in the last check-list.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, September 25, 1941.*

Prairie Falcon Food Habits.—On May 28, 1939, I found a Prairie Falcon's (*Falco mexicanus*) nest about six miles north of Schurz, Nevada. The nest contained four young about 10 days old. Seventeen pellets were picked up in and under the nest, and these were analyzed with the following results: 13 pellets contained remains of ground squirrels, *Citellus mollis* (10 without other contents); 3 contained horned lark (1 nothing else); 2 contained grasshoppers; 2 contained pentatomid bugs; 1 contained beetles; and 1 contained hair of what appeared to be a young kangaroo rat. The insects probably could have been counted, but the mammal and bird material could not be. The importance of ground squirrel and horned lark in the Prairie Falcon diet in this region is borne out by my occa-

sional observations of hunting falcons there. Mr. Charles Miller assisted in some of the identifications of the material listed above.

Another Prairie Falcon nest about 20 miles north of Yerington, Nevada, was visited on June 10, 1941. There were two young birds in the nest and two that had just left it. Thirty-eight pellets were picked up in and under the nest and all contained hair of *Citellus mollis* and nothing else. In addition there were partly eaten remains of seven of these squirrels in fairly fresh condition in the nest. The squirrels were very fat, and most of them had been skinned back from the head, as reported in an earlier note (Bond, Condor, 38, 1936:75). No remains of birds were found at this nest, although several species were abundant in the neighborhood.—R. M. BOND, *Piedmont, California, February 11, 1942.*

February Records for the Black-headed Grosbeak.—Here in the San Francisco Bay region the Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*) is a common summer resident, arriving about the middle of April and leaving in late September. The earliest date of arrival which I have found reported is April 4, as given by Mrs. A. S. Allen (Condor, 35, 1933:226). The latest date of departure which she gives is October 7.

On the morning of February 19, 1942, while driving on College Avenue near the Oakland-Berkeley line, I saw a Black-headed Grosbeak lying in the street between the car tracks. Before my son could retrieve it, the bird was somewhat damaged by a passing truck, but even so made a good study skin, and is now no. 84639 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The bird could not be sexed because of injuries, but is in male plumage, which is in excellent condition, making it improbable that it was an escaped cage bird. An abraded area on the head makes it seem possible that the bird had been stunned by striking an overhead wire before falling to the street.

Mention of this specimen elicited from Dr. Richard M. Eakin the information that at about sunset on February 16, or 17, while crossing the campus of the University of California between the President's House and Haviland Hall, he had heard the song of a Black-headed Grosbeak, but did not see the bird. Miss Susan Chattin adds that on February 24 she had an excellent view of a Black-headed Grosbeak on the lower campus, near the Center Street entrance.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 9, 1942.*

Social Behavior of the Oregon Junco.—In the course of two winters, observations have been made which seem to indicate that the foraging behavior of flocks of the Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus*) shows a distinct pattern. Deep snow was a common condition at my station at 5000 feet elevation on Cuyamaca Peak, San Diego County. Corn meal was spread on the snow, with one or two central heaps. As an individual junco came to feed, the tail would be spread each time a morsel of food was picked up. Succeeding birds would not alight on the feeding area at random, but would perch on a shrub or some other elevated point in order to view the flock. Careful appraisal would soon reveal that at one or two points the feeding birds were flashing their tail marks very rapidly. Invariably it was to one of these points that the new and hungry bird would fly, and in alighting force the feeding bird to vacate the spot where cornmeal was piled. The failure of the feeding bird to obtain food was a sign for the flock to break up. By the first of April the birds would flutter their wings, trill, fly at one another and rise a foot into the air in combat. Necessity of sharing the food passed quickly and the birds lost their flock unity with the coming of spring.—JAMES G. PETERSON, *Diablo, California, January 2, 1942.*

Birds Affected by Botulism at Soda Lake, Nevada.—What was judged to be an epidemic of botulism was observed from July 26, 1941, to August 19, 1941, among the birds inhabiting the vicinity of Soda Lake, Churchill County, Nevada. Individual birds showed various symptoms, some of which were limberness of the neck, greenish diarrhea, drooping of the wings, and muscular weakness. Torticollis, or twisting of the neck, was noted among many Avocets. Some birds seen along the shore entered the water and made slow progress by flapping along on the surface.

On numerous occasions birds were observed apparently feeding on what was thought to be the dead bodies, or dead larvae, of many soda flies (*Ephydra hians*). These flies were piled from one-half to one inch high in many places around the water's edge at the southwest tip of the lake, and it was at this point where dead birds were found. Regrettably, these insects were not submitted to an entomologist for identification.

Accompanied by Mr. Vernon L. Mills, a visit was made to the lake on July 26, 1941. We saw one Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) in an advanced stage of sickness. Other birds found