

**Starlings Nesting in Montana.**—On May 15, 1943, Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were discovered bringing food to nestlings in a cavity in a barn at the North Montana Branch Station, seven miles southwest of Havre, Montana. On the day following, a pair was seen carrying material to an opening high up on the side of a grain elevator at Laredo, a few miles southwest of the Station, and it was presumed that they were nesting at this point also. As far as I am aware this is the first record of nesting of this species in Montana.

In the course of the past five years I have had opportunity to collect a number of records of this species in Montana. The first one for the state, of which I have knowledge, is based on a bird found dead at Lindsay in January, 1939. In February of the same year I examined a caged Starling which had been captured on a ranch near Great Falls. This occurrence is discussed by Wessel (Montana Farmer, 26, 1939:10). Other records, exclusive of those given by Wright (Condor, 45, 1943:119) are as follows:

Big Timber	Stillwater County	October, 1939
White Sulphur Springs	Meagher County	December, 1939
Sieben	Lewis and Clark County	March, 1940
Silesia	Carbon County	July, 1943
Savage	Richland County	July, 1943
Chinook	Blaine County	July, 1943

As yet, I have seen no evidence of flocking of this bird in the State, all of my records being for one or two birds. Wright (*op. cit.*) mentions but five or six in the group observed by him. It would seem that as of this date the Starling is uncommon but widespread in Montana.—HARLOW B. MILLS, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana, July 12, 1943.*

**Starling in Northern Idaho.**—In the course of my recent study of the birds of northern Idaho, Bill Musgrove reported to me that he had observed a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) on a telephone wire one mile east of Moscow, Latah County, Idaho, on December 13, 1941. He has collected this species in Montana and was certain of his identification, which to the best of my knowledge is the first record of the Starling in northern Idaho, if not in the whole state. This individual was apparently a winter straggler as were those seen in western Montana by Wright (Condor, 45, 1943:119).—ANDREW C. OLSON, JR., *San Diego, California, June 14, 1943.*

**Notes on the Shore Birds of Washington.**—The following is a miscellany of unpublished data on shore birds of the State of Washington which for various reasons are considered worthy of record. Unless otherwise stated, they are the results of my field activities in the past four years.

*Charadrius semipalmatus.* Semipalmated Plover. A solitary female was taken by the writer on the Tacoma tideflats on July 22, 1940. On August 25 of the same year I saw one, with a killdeer, on the Nisqually flats, and on August 29 a group of about 12 were seen at the same place. The species has been rarely recorded on Puget Sound, although it is common on the ocean beaches at Westport.

*Squatarola squatarola.* Black-bellied Plover. Miller, Lumley, and Hall in their "Birds of the San Juan Islands, Washington" (Murrelet, 16, 1935:51-65) were able to include this species in their list only hypothetically. It was common at Smith Island, southernmost of the islands of San Juan County, during a visit there from March 25 to 27, 1942; a specimen was taken on the 26th.

*Arenaria melanocephala.* Black Turnstone. Miller, *et al.* (*ibid.*: 58) list only a single spring record of this species for the San Juans. On April 23, 1939, I saw at least a score on Decatur Island, and at Smith Island from March 25 to 27, 1942, I saw large numbers, collecting one on the 26th. They are quite rare on southern Puget Sound; on August 12, 1940, I saw a single bird near Dash Point, north of Tacoma, and on the 28th following, took two from a barnacle-covered snag at the mouth of the Nisqually River.

*Actitis macularia.* Spotted Sandpiper. Gabrielson (Condor, 25, 1923:106) has published a winter sight record of this species for the Olympic Peninsula and mentions that it has occasionally been taken along the Washington and Oregon coasts in winter. While fishing for steelhead in the Nisqually River a few miles above its mouth on February 4, 1940, I observed a single Spotty repeatedly and at close range, as it worked along the river's edge. The majority of this species seems to arrive in May and leave in August in the vicinity of Tacoma.

The ability of this species to dive into, swim under, and take wing from either still or running water has been frequently mentioned in the literature (see Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 146, 1929:87-89; Sutton and Pettingill, Auk, 59, 1942:10). The plight of a bird found on a warm spring day (May 19, 1940) in a rearing pond at the state fish hatchery near Steilacoom may be of interest as an indication of the limitations of these abilities.