

Hylocichla guttata guttata. Alaska Hermit Thrush. A specimen determined by Dr. H. C. Oberholser as this subspecies was taken by D. E. Beck on Pine Valley Mountain, Washington County, October 12, 1935.

Sialia mexicana occidentalis. Western Bluebird. Since records of this species are not too common for Utah, it seems worth while to record a specimen collected by Clarence Cottam at Kigalia Ranger Station, Bear's Ears, Abajo Mountains, San Juan County, June 27, 1927.

Vermivora luciae. Lucy Warbler. A juvenal specimen was taken by J. W. Bee at Calf Creek, Garfield County, July 4, 1938. This appears to extend the known northward distribution of the species.

Guiraca caerulea interfusa. Western Blue Grosbeak. A pair was taken by the writer at Henrieville, Garfield County, September 7, 1937. Local residents state that the species is fairly common in this section in summer.

Poocetes gramineus affinis. Oregon Vesper Sparrow. One specimen taken by F. Atkin at Pan-gitch, Garfield County, August 20, 1934, constitutes the second record for the State.—C. LYNN HAYWARD, *Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, April 11, 1944.*

Hooded Oriole Nesting in Banana Plant at Beverly Hills, California.—The use as nesting sites of the native California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera* and *W. robusta*) by the Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) is well known to bird students. However, the use of the garden-grown non-native banana (*Musa paradisiaca* var. *sapientum*) for that purpose apparently has not been noticed in the literature. The clump of bananas selected for a nest site stood about 15 meters from a house on Canyon Drive in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California, in a protected corner of a backyard garden. Mrs. Verna Mills called attention to a nest between the drooping and sheltering halves of the folded blade of a fully mature leaf of the banana. The nest was constructed entirely of palm fibers brought from veteran washingtonias that form a parkway on Canyon Drive. The palm fibers were sewed into the leaf blade, thereby joining the two halves of the banana leaf together, but the nest was not attached to the sturdy midrib. When in use the nest was entirely concealed within the folds of the untorn leaf. In contrast to the usual choice of a high position in the leaf-crown of fan palms, this nest was but three meters from the ground. It was removed on November 2, 1928, and is now preserved in the nest collection of the University of Colorado Museum. Have other anomalous nesting sites been observed for this oriole? In the light of the fact that abundant sites of much greater comparative safety were so immediately available close by to these orioles, the use of the banana is all the more singular.—J. EWAN, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, April 3, 1944.*

Eastern Blue Jay in Idaho.—Because of the lack of published records of the Eastern Blue Jay in Idaho, a positive identification seems worthy of mention. Dr. R. F. Daubenmire of the University of Idaho has allowed me to publish this record. He observed a jay of the species *Cyanocitta cristata* on September 20, 1942, on Moscow Mountain, about seven miles north of Moscow, Latah County, Idaho. "It was alternately picking up something off the ground at the edge of a stubblefield, and flying up in some low ponderosa pine to eat it. We observed the bird closely enough to see the white wing bars, white on tail, and crest on head."—M. DALE ARVEY, *Boise Junior College, Boise, Idaho, April 24, 1944.*

A Flock of Cedar Waxwings Meets Tragedy.—On March 2, 1944, a fine adult male Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) was brought to the zoological laboratory of Fresno State College together with the information that many others of a flock were found dead or dying at the place where it had been obtained in the Holmes City Playgrounds, Fresno, California. Inquiry was promptly made as to the cause of the trouble.

At first thought, death by poisoning was suspected in this multiple destruction. Careful examination and subsequent dissection, however, suggested another cause. It was noted that the mouth of many of the birds held a blood smear while a spot destitute of feathers on the lower throat suggested a possible collision during swift flight. Dissection further strengthened this idea, for the base of the heart was found almost surrounded by heavy blood clot. This condition prevailed to a greater or lesser degree in all the 25 specimens dissected, and it appeared to be due to a rupture of the blood vessels entering or leaving the heart. In many of the more severely injured the clot extended throughout the body cavity.

With these conditions revealed, it seemed more likely that the birds, which often fly swiftly and

compactly in flocks, might have struck a large tree-reflecting window. On inquiry, it was learned from the caretaker of the playgrounds that the birds had first been noticed fluttering upon the lawn near the tennis courts in a far corner of the parked area of the grounds. On examining the location the answer to the cause of the accident became apparent almost at once, for there in the one-inch mesh wire netting surrounding the courts along a section of about 20 feet little groups of feathers of the birds were still found fluttering in the breeze. The birds were first noticed about one o'clock in the afternoon on March 1, and some members of the flock were still alive; others died while under observation. A few revived sufficiently to flutter away, and two which had reached the lower branches of a near-by tree remained there all afternoon but were gone next morning. In all, 29 Cedar Waxwings had been killed in this accident.

With such an abundance of material in hand, all taken in the wild, and at the same instant, it was thought opportune to record as many facts as possible as shown in the following summation. (1) Of 24 birds examined, 11 showed marks of external injuries about the head and neck, such as areas destitute of feathers, torn skin, and injured mandibles. (2) Of 24 dissected, 23 showed blood smears, clots and ruptured vessels about the mouth, heart and body cavity. (3) Of 23 dissected, the sex ratio showed 12 females to 11 males. (4) All 25 were non-breeding. (5) Of 10 possessing wax-like tips on the wing feathers, 5 were males and 5 females. Only one, a male, had both wing and tail feathers marked in this way. (6) The food found in the alimentary tract was almost entirely from one kind of *Viburnum*, being the seed, an ovate drupe 8 or 9 millimeters long, with a one-seeded, slightly compressed stone 7 millimeters long. Sixteen birds had whole drupes in the mouth and gullet; 19 had drupes or pits of drupes in the stomach, and in the intestine of 10 birds there were pits from which the covering had been entirely digested. That the pits were ready for elimination through the intestine would suggest that the waxwing could be a disseminator of the seed of the viburnum. The greatest number of seeds found in the mouth and gullet of any one bird was 7; in the stomach, 3; and in the intestine, 4. (7) No external or internal parasites were found.—WILLIAM T. SHAW and A. E. CULBERTSON, *Fresno State College, Fresno, California, March 30, 1944.*

The Black Pigeon Hawk in New Mexico.—While William L. Finley and Irene Finley were on a photographic expedition to New Mexico in the winter of 1943-44, they were stationed for some time at the Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, Rio Arriba County. In early December, 1943, a rather heavy snow storm covered the area with a white blanket that lasted several weeks. The natural food supply for the large numbers of wintering juncos and other ground-foraging birds being covered, feeding was resorted to by the ranch owners. The resulting congregation of small birds attracted two or three small hawks that constantly preyed on the smaller birds. On December 26, 1943, one of these predators was shot by a ranch employee and the bird was skinned by Mr. Finley and sent to me for identification. Much to my surprise, it proved to be an adult Black Pigeon Hawk, *Falco columbarius suckleyi*. Unfortunately, the bird was not sexed at the time of preparation.

The normal range of this bird is the humid coastal belt from southeastern Alaska south rarely to northern California. The only other recorded occurrence of the subspecies anywhere so far to the southeast of its regular range is one reported by Alfred M. Bailey as taken by Lloyd Triplet at Weldona, Morgan County, Colorado, on December 14, 1940 (*Condor*, 44, 1942:37).—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, March 29, 1944.*

Unusual Nest Site of the Western Kingbird.—On June 6, 1943, while driving along the highway leading to Bakersfield, Kern County, California, I noticed two nests in one tree and stopped to investigate. The two proved to be old Bullock Oriole nests, but a pair of Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) put up such a fuss that I decided to climb to them. In the lowest oriole nest were found young kingbirds almost ready to fly. No other kingbird nests, nor orioles, were present in the vicinity. This is the first time I have observed Western Kingbirds using anything but their own construction for a nest.—RAY QUIGLEY, JR., *Los Angeles, California, April 1, 1944.*

Unusual Records of Birds from the Boulder Dam Area, Nevada.—On January 14, 1944, a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was seen by the writer on the shore of Lake Mead at the western end of Boulder Canyon. Although the Bald Eagle has been reported from the Charleston Mountain region some 50 miles west of Lake Mead (van Rossem, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 24, 1936:21), this is the first known record of its occurrence within the boundaries of the Boulder Dam National Recreational Area.