

Regular Winter Occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak at Chico, California.—Recently, in looking over my notes on Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*), I found that I had irregular records for the summer months in the Warner and Trinity mountains of California and for the Sierra Nevada as far south as Sequoia National Park. More interesting, however, were the regular winter records for the Chico area in Butte County. Here the bird has been noted many times each winter since 1934 from the first part of December through March, except in 1943 when I was away.

When the winter snows on near-by mountains descend to the four thousand-foot level and the days become stormy, flocks numbering as many as fifty of these striking birds are seen daily along the Chico-Durham highway feeding on the ground beneath the introduced ornamental pistachio trees (*Pistacia chinensis*). These trees produce large crops of small hard-shelled nuts or cashews which are eagerly cracked and eaten by the Evening Grosbeaks. The birds pay little attention to the speeding cars less than six feet away. They are also quite unafraid of human beings. On one occasion my class approached within ten feet of several birds that were feeding on the ground on the Chico State College campus. The hundreds of pistachio trees, introduced into this vicinity by the United States Plant Introduction Station several years ago, provide the favorite food of the Evening Grosbeak. The nuts of these trees and the proximity of the bird to its summer range may account for the regular occurrence here in winter.—LLOYD G. INGLES, *Chico State College, Chico, California, April 1, 1945.*

Birds of the Yellow Pine Association of Potosi Mountain, Southern Nevada.—Potosi Mountain, Clark County, Nevada, in the southern part of the Spring Mountains, is a high point which attains an altitude of 8500 feet. Twenty-five miles to the north in this same range is Charleston Peak, 11,910 feet, with its cluster of subsidiary crests. Growths of yellow pine and white fir descend in these mountains to 8000 feet (van Rossem, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 24, 1936:8*), rarely to 7000 feet if local conditions of slope exposure are favorable. Between the Charleston Peak area and Potosi Mountain is a low section, at one point 5500 feet, where no yellow pines or firs occur. This gap in Transition-Zone conditions is about fifteen miles in extent. Thirty miles south of Potosi Mountain is Clark Mountain, San Bernardino County, California, from which I have reported (*Condor, 42, 1940:161-163*) a small Transition-Zone avifauna which exists in two pockets of white firs at about 7000 feet. The gap between Clark and Potosi mountains is not only greater than that to the north of Potosi but it is lower, and there is of course no trace of a Transition-Zone biotâ in it. Clark Mountain is an extreme southern outpost in the Mohave Desert for several species of montane birds. Potosi Mountain and its avifauna therefore deserve attention because the Transition area there is small, somewhat as on Clark Mountain, and because the station is intermediate in position.

Potosi Mountain was visited by a party from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from June 11 to 15, 1940. The north slopes are precipitous above the 6500-foot level and yellow pines appear even below 7000 feet in shaded spots and along slanting benches in the cliffs. White firs are in the shadiest pockets. The irregular occurrence and inaccessibility of much of the tree growth made it impractical to determine the size of the population of Transition-Zone species of birds with an accuracy comparable to that carried out on Clark Mountain. I should estimate that the Transition areas in the aggregate were two to three times the extent of the fir pockets on Clark Mountain, yet nowhere was the timber so compact. There was, however, extensive Gambel oak scrub at the lower edge of the Transition areas; this scrub was lacking on Clark Mountain.

In spite of inaccessibility, a reasonably complete check on presence and absence of Boreal species was made. The following were present and apparently were stationed for breeding; summer occurrence on Clark Mountain and in the Charleston Mountains (*vide van Rossem, op. cit.*) is shown for comparison.

	Clark Mt.	Charleston Mts.
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus platycercus platycercus</i>)	x	x
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Dryobates villosus leucothorectis</i>)	x	x
Western Wood Pewee (<i>Myiochanes richardsonii richardsonii</i>)	o	o
Violet-green Swallow (<i>Tachycineta thalassina lepida</i>)	x	x
Mountain Chickadee (<i>Parus gambeli inyoensis</i>)	x	x
White-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta carolinensis tenuissima</i>)	o	x
Mexican Bluebird (<i>Sialia mexicana bairdi</i>)	x	x
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus calendula olivaceus</i>)	o	x
Solitary Vireo (<i>Vireo solitarius cassinii</i>)	o	o
Virginia Warbler (<i>Vermivora virginiae</i>)	x	x
Audubon Warbler (<i>Dendroica auduboni auduboni</i>)	?	x
Cassin Finch (<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>)	o	x
Gray-headed Junco (<i>Junco caniceps caniceps</i>)	x	x

The summer resident species found on Clark Mountain that were absent on Potosi Mountain are the Hermit Thrush (*Hyalocichla guttata polionota*) and the Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*). Detection of the owl on Clark Mountain was somewhat a matter of chance; if the species were hunted for by special nighttime technique, it probably would be found in the more northern mountains here under consideration. The absence of the Hermit Thrush may be ascribed to the openness of the patches of forest on Potosi Mountain; there was no low thick growth of firs. Hermit Thrushes breed in numbers on the Charleston Mountains.

Notable absentees on Potosi Mountain, all of which are summer resident in the Charleston Mountains, are: Williamson Sapsucker, Wright Flycatcher, Steller Jay, Pigmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Robin, Townsend Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee. Probably the forested areas on Potosi are too small to sustain populations of the sapsucker, jay and nuthatch and they are probably both too small and too scattered and heavily insolated for solitaires and creepers; moist ground for robins is essentially lacking.

Surprisingly, two species, the Western Wood Pewee and Solitary Vireo, present on Potosi Mountain, were not found, except as migrants, in the Charleston area. These two were met in the best tract of yellow pine timber, about 20 acres, on the northeast slope of Potosi at 8000 feet. A pair of Wood Pewees sang and buzzed continually and acted as though they were worried about a nest. A male Solitary Vireo was singing with full voice in the middle levels of these pines and gave every evidence of territorial establishment. Upon dissection it showed testes in breeding condition; however, it was moderately fat. The bird, which is typical for worn plumage of *V. s. cassinii*, seems to indicate summer residence of the species in view of the date and other circumstances.

In this same tract of timber, in a small string of white firs, was stationed a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. The male sang repeatedly, and it scolded heavily during a commotion started by Pigmy Owl note given by me at a near-by Mexican Bluebird nest. Audubon Warblers, a Cassin Finch, and a Gray-headed Junco also made their appearance at this disturbance. Mountain Chickadees and Virginia Warblers were much more numerous than on Clark Mountain, the latter in the extensive tracts of Gambel oak scrub.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, April 10, 1945.*

Recent Records of Breeding Waterfowl in Utah and Southern Idaho.—According to the A.O.U. Check-list (1931:51) the Canvasback (*Nyroca valisineria*) is a breeding bird in northern Utah. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 126, 1923:201) gives the breeding range of the Canvasback in Utah as "Northern Utah (Boxelder and Davis Counties)." However, since no breeding records have been reported in recent years, the following observations are deemed worthy of publication.

Two broods of the Canvasback were observed at the Ogden Bay Refuge, near Ogden, Utah, both in the spring of 1943. One brood of eight, about one week old, was first noted by Nelson on July 7 and three subsequent observations were made later in the summer. The other brood of six was seen only once, in mid-July: The most recent Canvasback record in Utah was made on June 27, 1944, by Low and Nelson at Clearlake near Fillmore, Utah. On this occasion, a brood of nine young about three weeks of age was seen. This brood, with the adult female in attendance, was approximately 50 yards away and was easily identified with the aid of binoculars.

On July 21, 1943, at Gray's Lake in Bonneville and Caribou counties, Idaho, two broods were seen by Dr. D. I. Rasmussen, Joe Rabb, and the writers. The first brood was sighted on the channel leading from the south end of the lake at about 6:30 p.m. Identification was readily made at 75 yards with binoculars. This brood was estimated at 7 to 10 days old. The second brood in the pond below the outlet dam consisted of three 14-day-old juveniles, one of which was dead. This dead duckling was made into a skin and deposited with the Utah Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

During a field trip to Gray's Lake, May 12 to 17, 1944, a total of 150 Canvasbacks was counted. On May 13, a Canvasback nest was found by Low. The nest was constructed of hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*) in the corner of a patch of the bulrush in 15 inches of water (fig. 20). The nest cavity was 8 inches across, 3 inches deep, and had a ramp on one side and a slight cupola above the nest. Eight Canvasback eggs plus two Redhead (*Nyroca americana*) eggs were in the nest and incubation had apparently started. The female flushed off the nest at 15 yards from the observer. She alighted in the open water about 50 yards away facilitating even further the identification. Finding this nest and two broods in two consecutive seasons substantiates the claim that the Canvasback is a breeding bird in southern Idaho.

Baldpates (*Mareca americana*) have been recorded from the Ogden Bay Refuge in northern Utah for three consecutive seasons. One brood encountered by Nelson on the Weber River above Unit 1 in early August, 1942, consisted of the adult female and nine ducklings approximately two weeks old, two of which were caught and examined. A few days later, two other broods of eight and seven ducklings, respectively, were observed in one of the channels in Unit 1. On June 12, 1943, one nest of eight