July, 1945

A Long-tailed Jaeger (Stercorarius longicaudus) was found dead on the H-line of Unit 2 of the Bear River Refuge on August 29, 1944, by C. C. Sperry. The bird had probably died of botulism. Dr. J. W. Aldrich examined the specimen critically and confirmed the identification.—CLARENCE COTTAM, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, May 14, 1945.

Evening Grosbeaks Feeding on Russian Olive Berries.—On March 21, 1945, at 5:00 p.m., I observed 23 Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) feeding on Russian olive berries in Taos, Taos County, New Mexico, at an elevation of approximately 7000 feet. These birds were observed again the next day at noon feeding in the same trees. On both occasions the grosbeaks were feeding with Robins. The feeding site was a row of nine Russian olive trees that were heavily loaded with fruit. After the birds were gone there were no berries left on any of the trees.

At the time of these observations a snow storm was in progress on the mountains around Taos, and on the night of March 21 some snow fell in Taos and the vicinity.—R. FRANK HEDGES, Soil Conservation Service, Taos, New Mexico, May 30, 1945.

Field Damage by Cedar Waxwings.—On April 25, 1945, the Agricultural Commissioner's office of Ventura County, California, was notified that large flocks of birds were eating Zinnia seeds that had just been planted and which had started to sprout. I was asked to go with the Deputy Commissioner to the locality where damage was occurring. The ranch, about six miles south of Saticoy, consists of open fields bordered by euclyptus wind-breaks. These fields are planted to different kinds of vegetables and flowers that are to be harvested for seed. We drove up to one of the wind-breaks and a large flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) flew away. The ranch foreman said that these were the birds that were doing the damage and that they came to the fields just before sundown in flocks that must number at least a thousand birds. We examined the rows where the birds had been working and found that nearly every seed that had been planted in a field of three acres had been dug up, hulled and eaten. Only the seeds that were freshly sprouted and had not yet pushed through the ground were taken. After the plants were above the ground they were not touched, and the Zinnia seed was the only kind that was bothered.—SIDNEY B. PEVTON, *Fillmore, California, May 22, 1945.*