

about fifty Starlings near Aberdeen, Bingham County, Idaho. Later in the month the same number of birds was seen ten miles north of Pocatello, Bannock County.

By the end of February, this flock had increased to several hundred, according to the observation of several individuals. On February 17, 1946, these men (Harold Webster, John R. Nichols, Carl McIntosh, and the writer) collected a female and a male from this flock. These are now a part of the collection at the Southern Branch of the University of Idaho, Pocatello (numbers 543 and 544).—VICTOR E. JONES, *University of Idaho, Pocatello, Idaho, February 27, 1946.*

**"Tumbling" of Brant.**—From 1892 until about 1900, I was a frequent visitor to the Coronado Strand at San Diego. At that time it was a common sight to see strings of Brant flying north and rising at a very slight angle. Suddenly the leader would tumble vertically about 20 to 30 feet, followed at the same spot individually by each succeeding member of the string which would then again begin the almost imperceptible climb for another tumble. The tumbles were made at intervals of about a mile. In those days there were many strings visible at the same time. There were no V-shaped flock formations. Was this a "game," courting, or a regular migrational phenomenon?—CHAPMAN GRANT, *San Diego, California, March 11, 1946.*

**The Starling Taken in the State of Washington.**—Several sight records and unconfirmed occurrences of the Starling have been reported in the state of Washington in the past few years. At least one such report was based on misidentification; the alleged Starling when shot proved to be a female red-winged blackbird! However, Joe Drolet, District Game Supervisor of Colfax, Washington, shot two Starlings about three miles northwest of Colton, Whitman County, Washington, on March 3, 1946. These two birds, both males, were examined by me two days after they were shot. There is no question as to their identity, both being adult *Sturnus vulgaris* in full spring plumage. So far as I am aware, this is the first time this species has actually been collected in the state of Washington.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, March 6, 1946.*

**Eye-witness Account of Golden Eagle Killing Calf.**—Fred Houk is a cattleman of many years experience in the Lompoc area, California. I describe the following experience as he told it to me.

On November 23, 1945, Mr. Houk was riding across some hilly, grassy range land about two miles east of Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, California. He noticed the excitement of some crows whose point of interest was just over a rise. Riding to the crest he expected to see a wildcat or a coyote. Instead a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was the focus of attention. It was perched on something in the tall grass about 150 yards from him. He presumed it to have a rabbit or squirrel. Upon approaching the eagle it started to fly, attempting to carry its prey in its talons. Mr. Houk saw that the eagle's prey was a calf and found it to be near death and bleeding considerably about the back and head.

The calf was new-born, probably premature, and was estimated by Mr. Houk to weigh about twenty-five pounds. The parent cow was standing off some distance and appeared to be considerably disturbed; Mr. Houk believed it had been driven from the calf by the attacking eagle. From his observation of the eagle's attempt to carry off the calf he firmly believes that the eagle would have made away with the calf had it weighed five pounds less. This occurred on ground only slightly sloping.

On November 25, an eagle (presumed to be the same bird) was shot by a quail hunter near the same place. It weighed 11½ pounds, and its wing spread was measured as 6½ feet.—DALE T. WOOD, *Lompoc, California, March 12, 1946.*

**Black-billed Magpie on Humboldt Coast.**—While Warden Walter Gray and I were patrolling the north spit of Humboldt Bay on the morning of December 18, 1945, we noted a bird of peculiar appearance flying toward us. As it flew closer, we both recognized it to be a Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*), a bird entirely strange in the vicinity. It soon alighted on a pine snag, and we began a stalk in an endeavor to collect it. For forty-five minutes we trailed it, both on foot and by car, but the bird was quite wary and managed to keep out of range. One time we approached it with the car within twenty-five yards, close enough to note definitely that the bill was black, but it flew before we could stop for a shot. This time it really meant to leave, and the last glimpse we had was over the village of Samoa where it was heading north in a high steady flight.

The weather in the preceding three days had been characterized by steady winds, approaching gale velocity, from the east and southeast. This may have accounted for the magpie's appearance on the coast, 150 miles from its normal range, which lies east of the Cascade-Sierra system.

Both Warden Gray and myself are well acquainted with Black-billed and Yellow-billed magpies, having been stationed in the range of each at some time during our State service.—WILLIAM H. SHOLES, JR., *Arcata, California, January 24, 1946.*