

41, 1939:217) saw grackles south of Isleta, Bernalillo County, on May 5, 1939, and surmised that they might be nesting. I had the colony that Peterson reported under observation from April, 1938, to September, 1942, and he was correct in his guess that the birds were nesting. The presence of this species along the Rio Grande north of Las Cruces is a considerable extension of its previously reported range and the details of its occurrence are worth recording.

On April 12, 1938, a male Great-tailed Grackle was seen at Elmendorf, 18 miles south of Socorro, Socorro County, and five males were seen at a pond one mile south of Isleta. On May 8, 1938, one male was seen one mile north of Isleta and 12 males and 5 females were found at the pond south of Isleta. A female collected at the pond on this date had enlarged ovaries, the largest measuring 10 mm. in diameter. This specimen is no. 86711 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and has been identified by Dr. Alden H. Miller as *Cassidix mexicanus prosopidicola* (see A.O.U. Check-list Supplement, Auk, 61, 1944:460).

During the period of these observations, the pond at Isleta was shallow and weedy with a rank growth of cattails (*Typha*). It was frequented by many species of aquatic birds. The pond was visited again on June 12, 1938, and the grackles were found nesting in a dense patch of cattails at its west side. There were five grackle nests in these cattails: one with 2 eggs; one with 3 eggs; one with 2 newly hatched young; and two that were empty, but excrement about their margins indicated that they had contained young birds. Four young grackles, able to fly awkwardly, were perched in the cattails near the empty nests.

Great-tailed Grackles were seen at the Isleta pond each summer from 1938 to 1942, but I did not again search for their nests. The pond was not visited at regular intervals, and dates of seasonal arrival and departure of the birds are only approximate. In 1939, there were no grackles at the pond on March 22, but on April 2, two males were seen. In 1940, Mr. Barney Hodgkin of the Soil Conservation Service saw about twelve grackles at the pond on March 13, and on March 16 I saw one male. A flock of about 25 was seen at the pond on November 10 and again on November 16, 1940. One male was seen November 30, 1940. On November 16, 1940, ten grackles were seen in trees alongside the highway 3 miles south of Los Lunas, Valencia County.

This species nests and also winters at Las Cruces, New Mexico. A flock of 20 was seen in trees near the Loretta Academy in Las Cruces on January 16, 1940. On January 18, 1940, a flock of approximately 200 was found at the south edge of the town, and on January 21 flocks of 10 to 30 birds were seen within the town. This grackle also winters and nests in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. I saw adults and young in the trees of the plaza at Juarez on May 31, 1940, and found adults there in January, 1931.

Mr. Adrey E. Borell of Albuquerque, New Mexico, reports to me that on May 15, 1943, he observed a male Great-tailed Grackle at a pond on the Ojo del Espirita Santa Grant, 18 miles northwest of San Ysidro, Sandoval County.

In summary, the Great-tailed Grackle nests one mile south of Isleta, which is about 170 miles north of Las Cruces and Carlsbad, where previously it was known to nest. The farthest north that it has been seen in New Mexico is 18 miles northwest of San Ysidro.

I am indebted to Dr. Alden H. Miller for identification of the grackle specimen and to Mr. Adrey E. Borell for allowing me to use his observations.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C., November 1, 1946.*

**Anna Hummingbird at Play.**—I had an interesting experience with a hummingbird while watering my garden in Benicia, California, on June 13, 1946. Frequently I have enjoyed watching a hummer flit through the spray while watering in my yard with the garden hose. On this occasion the water was flowing from the hose in a solid stream about three-quarters of an inch in diameter. A hummingbird, an adult female Anna (*Calypte anna*), flitted alongside the flowing stream and eyed it, then dipped her bill into the stream of water, not apparently drinking as she did not open her mandibles. Then she took a position facing the stream, brought both feet forward and dipped them into the water. Finally she came at right angles to the flow and attempted to light on it as though it were a twig or limb and rode down the stream a way, repeating this stunt over and over again.

When she flew away, I remained motionless holding the hose, suspecting that she might return. This she did after a brief interval and went through almost the same maneuvers, apparently enjoying her fun as much as I enjoyed watching her.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, June 13, 1946.*

**The Blue Goose in Yolo County, California.**—C. G. Fairchild, United States Game Management Agent, of Sacramento, California, has just brought my attention to the following significant record. On the afternoon of January 8, 1946, Joe Patterson of Elk Grove, Sacramento County, California, killed a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) in a rice field near Sycamore Slough, Yolo County. This bird had been feeding with a mixed flock of Snow and White-fronted geese in a field between

Knights Landing and Dunnigan just before it was shot by Mr. Patterson. The specimen was mounted and is now in the possession of Mr. Patterson at his home in Broderick, Yolo County.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, June 10, 1946.*

**The White-winged Dove in San Diego County, California.**—The range of the White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) in California is defined by Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:185) as, "extreme southeastern corner of state: valley of Colorado River north from the Mexican line to vicinity of Needles, San Bernardino County; northwest from Imperial Valley to Coachella Valley, Riverside County and Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County." Several "vagrant occurrences" have been recorded to the north and west of this range, the earliest for July 18, the latest January 17. All are for solitary birds except for a group of 6 which apparently wintered in the vicinity of Redlands, San Bernardino County (McAllister, Gull, 22, 1940:25). These records seem to indicate post-breeding wandering, a supposition which is further substantiated by our observations.

We saw two of these doves at noon on July 25, 1946, at Yaqui Well, a permanent desert water-hole in San Diego County, 13 airline miles east of Julian. At sunset of the same day, 8 White-winged Doves were seen on the bare ground adjacent to the spring. Two were seen in the mesquite trees in this vicinity the following morning and again on August 1. One White-winged Dove was seen an hour before sunset on August 31, 1946. Further search was prevented by lack of time.

The presence of these birds on several occasions points to more than an accidental occurrence, and the records of subsequent seasons will be watched with interest to see if the White-winged Dove will establish itself as a regular post-breeding visitant to favorable localities along the western edge of the Colorado Desert.—PHILIP H. KRUTZSCH and KEITH L. DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 23, 1946.*

**Bitter Cherry and Serviceberry as Food for Birds.**—Within a couple of yards of my house in Portland are two kinds of wild fruit trees. These are *Amelanchier florida*, the western serviceberry, and *Prunus emarginata*, the bitter cherry. The first bears several-seeded, blue berries with a rather insipid, sweetish flavor. The second bears very small red cherries that are as sour as pie cherries and intensely bitter as well. In 1946 the serviceberry fruit was ripe by mid-July, and most of the crop had dried on the twigs five weeks later. The cherries were ripe by mid-August, and ripe ones were available until about October 10.

To the human palate the serviceberries were vastly superior to the cherries, but not, apparently, to the birds. The only species regularly utilizing the serviceberries was the Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). Half a dozen finches could be seen working on them at any time of day for about a month. They ate only the seeds and entirely discarded the pulp. This was observed many times at a distance of but a few feet. Other species eating the whole berries were Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), and Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), each observed on two or three occasions, and Steller Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), once. Purple Finches and Waxwings continued to use the berries after they were dried.

The bitter cherries, however, were quite another matter. The first bird seen to eat the cherries was an *Empidonax* which I believe was the Traill Flycatcher (*E. traillii*); one or both of a resident pair ate several on two or three occasions early in the season when the cherries were scarcely ripe. Later they were not observed to take any, although they used the trees for perches until they left about September 1. Probably two-thirds of all the cherries were eaten by Robins. Toward the end of the season they had much difficulty because the only fruit left was at the extreme ends of slender twigs where the Robins could not easily reach it. The next most avid cherry eaters were a dozen or so Chestnut-backed Chickadees (*Parus rufescens*). They arrived *en masse* several times a day during all the time the cherries were fully ripe. A chickadee would flutter in the air, seize a cherry in its beak, fly to a twig, hold the fruit with one or both feet, and eat the pulp. The seed was allowed to fall. After each bird had eaten five or six cherries, the flock would depart only to return in a couple of hours. Russet-backed Thrushes (*Hylocichla ustulata*) were seen nearly every day, but usually singly until the crop was almost gone; then eight or ten thrushes completely cleaned the trees in a period of three or four days. Cedar Waxwings fed in the cherry trees at some distance, but seldom paused to feed in those close to the house when they saw us only a few feet away.

Birds commonly seen perching or foraging in both the trees, but never observed to take either fruit, were Western Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes richardsonii*), Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), Bush-tit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*), Long-tailed Chat (*Icteria virens*), Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), Oregon Junco (*Junco oregonus*), and Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).—R. M. BOND, *Soil Conservation Service, Portland, Oregon, November 11, 1946.*