

**Incubation in the Western Flycatcher.**—The incubation period of the Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) is given by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 179, 1942) and Bergtold (A Study of the Incubation Period of Birds, Denver, 1917) as 12 days, both authors presumably quoting Burns (Wilson Bull., 27, 1915:275).

The writer and his family arrived at their mountain cabin, in Gilpin County, Colorado, two miles south of Rollinsville, on June 25, 1946, after an absence of about a year. On the morning of the following day, June 26, a new nest of the Western Flycatcher was observed on an outside window ledge. The nest contained four eggs. The female bird, unaccustomed to human beings, was extremely wild and flushed from the nest each time the door closed or opened or when anyone passed. This went on for some days, the bird only gradually becoming accustomed to the presence of persons nearby.

On July 12 the eggs still remained unbroken. We thought that they might have lost their viability through chilling and therefore removed them for examination on July 13. One of the eggs was opened and disclosed a nearly-grown embryo, with very small yolk sac. The three remaining eggs were then restored to the nest and the bird resumed incubation. By the afternoon of July 14 two of the eggs had hatched, and on the morning of July 15 the third nestling had appeared. Thus a minimum of 19 days had elapsed before the last egg hatched.

This observation may simply indicate the persistence of viability of neglected eggs, but it also suggests a need for more observations and records of the incubation periods of our common birds.—HUGO G. RODECK, *University of Colorado Museum, Boulder, Colorado, December 12, 1946.*

**Notes on Finches of the Genus *Carpodacus* in Western Washington.**—Since Cowan's reports (Condor, 39, 1937:225; Murrelet, 25, 1944:45) of a breeding population of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) at Victoria, Vancouver Island, it has been natural to expect records would be forthcoming for western Washington. In the spring of 1945 the species did appear near my home in Tacoma. There was no reappearance in 1946.

From April 30, 1945, when I first became aware of the visitor, to May 19 I saw or heard a lone red male nearly every day. These dates are thought to approximate rather closely the actual time of the bird's arrival and departure. It seemed to confine its movements to a rectangular area roughly one-third by one-eighth miles in extent and to follow a regular counter-clockwise path of travel, appearing in song quite regularly at half- to one-hour intervals each morning in the block just east of my home. In the hope that it might find a mate and perhaps nest, no effort was made to collect it, but detailed records of its appearance, notes, and behavior were made sufficient to establish its identity beyond doubt.

For several years the only record of the House Finch in the coastal belt between the Umpqua Valley of Oregon and southwestern British Columbia was that of a straggler at Forest Grove, Oregon, taken on March 21, 1932 (Gabrielson and Jewett, Birds of Oregon, 1940:539). This suggests that in all probability the southwestern British Columbia colony was established by birds coming from the expanding population east of the Cascades via the Fraser water gap and that the members of this colony continue to migrate over that route rather than by way of the Puget Sound-Willamette trough. The record for Tacoma may thus well be of a southward straggling bird from the British Columbia area. Mrs. J. G. Grove's belief (letter of September 17, 1946) that she has heard the linnet's song in Sedro Woolley bolsters this supposition. But Mr. Jewett (letter of September 11, 1946) cites the recent rapid expansion of the House Finch into northwestern Oregon (see Gordon, Condor, 1939:164; Jewett, Condor, 1940:169; Griffee, Murrelet, 1941:36) and believes that it is quite possible that the species now occurs "in Clark County, Washington, and north in the Chehalis Valley . . ." although evidence of this is still lacking.

The range of the Cassin Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*) extends westward in Washington to the Hudsonian parklands of the Cascades and Mount Rainier, but so far as I am aware its presence in western Washington beyond this line has never been demonstrated. Miller and Curtis (Murrelet, 21, 1940:46) cite a Seattle record by E. J. Larrison of "one specimen observed on March 16, 1939," which I inquired about at the time in the hope of substantiating it. It turned out, however, that the identification was based only on sounds heard from a band of purple finches encountered in a fog. Mr. Larrison further cited an instance where a supposed specimen of the Cassin Finch was taken in his presence by E. S. Booth at Chase Lake, near Seattle. On examining this specimen, however, I found it to be a red male *Carpodacus purpureus*. The basis for Larrison's designation of the Cassin Finch as a "rare winter visitor" in the "Field Guide to Birds of the Seattle Area" (Seattle Audubon Society, 1942:22) is thus in doubt. The very recent inclusion of the Cassin Finch in a list of "Birds seen and heard on Lopez Island, Washington" between May 10 and 20, 1938 (Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Grove, Murrelet, 27, 1946:33-34) was based on a single field identification of a red male seen and heard in song near Fisherman's Bay on May 11 of that year (Mrs. Grove, *in litt.*). Mr. Walter Hagenstein notes the