

Apparently the extension of the breeding range of the Beardless Flycatcher into the Binghamton Pond area is recent, for we saw no individuals there in the preceding twelve years.

On May 26, 1946, we were fortunate in finding a second nest. It was located eight miles south of Tucson near the dry bed of the Santa Cruz River. Like the first one at Binghamton Pond, it also was built in a tent caterpillar nest in a vertical fork of a willow tree, although somewhat higher, about twenty feet above the ground. However, the tree grew in a wide arroyo crowded with tall cottonwoods and willows so close that their branches interlaced. A tangle of second growth mesquites fringed and overhung the high dirt bank. Were it not for the unmistakable call notes, we would not have discovered the two adults carrying food to their nest. They showed no alarm as we watched them a short distance away. Ten or twelve feet below, on a horizontal branch, a Ground Dove (*Columbigalina passerina*) sat undisturbed in her nest on two eggs. On our final visit on June 2 we observed a young Beardless Flycatcher perching in the upper part of the tree close to its nest. In a few minutes the parents arrived and one of them fed the begging fledgling.—ANDERS H. ANDERSON and ANNE ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, January 18, 1948.*

A Second Record of the Cassin Auklet at Portland, Oregon.—On January 13, 1948, Jack Marks, Director of the Portland Zoo, brought to my office a very emaciated and very weak Cassin Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*). The bird had been captured by hand during the night before as it wandered about on the Terminal Docks along the Willamette River in the northern part of the city. Marks had tried to force-feed the auklet without success. It died on the morning of January 13. The stomach was entirely empty. The specimen proved to be an adult female in good winter plumage but without a trace of fat on skin or body. It has been prepared as a study skin.

The only previous record of the occurrence of the Cassin Auklet inland from salt water in Oregon with which I am familiar is of a bird found on the Willamette River near the above location which was brought to me on October 4, 1921 (*Birds of Oregon, 1941:316*).—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, January 29, 1948.*

An Early Record for the Barn Swallow in the San Francisco Bay Area.—An early spring occurrence of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) was recorded on February 29, 1948, on Bay Farm Island, Alameda, California, by Mr. D. H. Beeson of San Leandro. One adult male was observed. Subsequently, on March 6, the writer observed four birds there. To my knowledge, the February date constitutes one of the earliest records for this species in the San Francisco Bay area.—JAMES A. YOUNG, *Alameda, California, March 17, 1948.*

Frigate-bird Bested by Brown Booby.—On November 29, 1947, off Moku Manu Island on the southeast coast of Oahu, Mr. David Woodside and I witnessed a reversal of the Frigate-bird's usually successful privateering. Our attention was drawn to the swift chase of a Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) by a Frigate-bird (*Fregata minor*). Following immediately behind, and closely approximating the fast maneuverings of the first two birds, was a Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*). The chase had gone on for at least 200 yards and was close over the water when the Red-footed Booby was seen to disgorge what presumably was a fish. The Brown Booby, about even with and slightly below the Frigate-bird, dived down, snatched the fish from the water, and was away before the apparently confused Frigate-bird could even give chase.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, April 6, 1948.*

Water-surface Feeding of Robins.—While observing birds in the vicinity of Credit Island Harbor in Scott County, Iowa, on September 25, 1946, I saw about a dozen Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) behaving in a manner I had never before observed. The Robins flew low over the water and then made awkward and ungraceful dives to emerge with large insects of undetermined species in their mandibles. A few of the birds were able to skim over the surface of the water and pick up the insects without getting wet but most of them plunged into the water and emerged shaking their feathers and giving their scolding call. I watched these Robins and their manner of feeding for about an hour until the light failed at sunset, making the insects invisible to the birds and causing the birds to roost. A limited search of the literature revealed no report of such feeding tactics by Robins. However,

Richardson (Condor, 1947, 49:212) has recorded water-surface feeding of Red-winged Blackbirds.—JAMES HODGES, *Davenport, Iowa, March 25, 1948.*

Starlings in Washington State.—During the months of February and March, 1948, a number of flocks of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were found in the Walla Walla Valley of southeastern Washington. Flocks of from 50 to 500 birds could be seen on almost any day during those two months, and many birds were found among Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). The Starlings were found to be extremely wary, and only one specimen was obtained after numerous attempts. The total numbers present must have run well into the thousands.—ERNEST S. BOOTH, *Walla Walla College, College Place, Washington, April 6, 1948.*

Misalliance of California Quail with Mallard.—During the month of March, 1948, a female California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*) again entertained astonished visitors to the Lake Merritt Waterfowl Refuge, Lakeside Park, Oakland, by her persistent pursuit of certain males of the local group of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). This affair was first observed in June, 1947, when this erratic quail deserted her own mate and began following certain Mallard drakes, attacking and driving away their legitimate mates. On that first occasion the male quail remained in the vicinity, in a distracted condition, and was subsequently run over and killed by an auto passing the duck-feeding area. On all occasions the attentions of this perverted quail have been largely ignored by the drakes, which continued to follow their normal habits as far as possible. In some instances the ardor of the female quail led her to enter the lake or the feeding and bathing pool to maximum wading depth when the object of her affections took to the water. During these recent performances by this frustrated bird a male quail again attempted to divert her from her fruitless pursuit. At the date of this writing she has not been observed in the vicinity of the Mallards for approximately two weeks.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Oakland, California, April 20, 1948.*

Crane Migration in the Willamette Valley, Oregon.—In the period between April 6 and 17 of 1947 at least seven large flocks of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) moved through the Willamette Valley of western Oregon on their northward migration. Six of the seven flocks consisted of 40 to 55 birds, the seventh of only eight. In all, about 300 birds were seen.

Most of the flocks followed the same general pattern of movement, coming into the broad valley near Eugene at a low elevation through the valley of the Coast Fork River. As they moved out through the valley they sought and found areas of thermal updrafts. Following these updrafts in the soaring manner of vultures, the cranes ascended many hundreds of feet, often disappearing into clouds. During the soaring the birds did not maintain their formation, but circled and climbed independently. Upon attaining the desired height, the characteristic "V" formation was assumed, and the flocks continued the northward journey with the typical half glide, half stroke flight motion.

Every year a few cranes move through this area, but the spring flight of 1947 seems to have been the largest recorded in recent years.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, October 27, 1947.*

Ground Dove in Ventura County.—On August 20, 1947, a Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) was seen as it fed on weed seeds in a citrus nursery near the Santa Clara River bottom in Ventura County, California. The next day at the same location, two birds were observed. They were quite tame and fed within fifteen feet of me, so there is no doubt as to the identification. The location was about three miles east of Santa Paula and close to a large grove of mixed willow and cottonwood trees. This species is a rare vagrant to coastal southern California.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, April 2, 1948.*