

lected on the branches during high water and closely resembled a clump of usnea moss in which these birds commonly nest. The birds had constructed the nest by pulling in and weaving together the lower fibers of this clump and lining it with finer roots and grasses. The first egg was laid on May 11. An egg of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) was laid on the same day. The next day the warblers added a new story to their nest sealing in both eggs. Three more eggs were laid the following three days and incubation began. A few days later a thunderstorm and flash flood submerged the nest in water. I made my next visit two days later, and the entire nest and the eggs, one missing, were coated with mud. The birds had apparently left the area as there was no sign of them. The nest and eggs were collected.—MARVIN D. SCHWILLING, *Fort Collins, Colorado, November 18, 1950.*

Records of Two North American Corvids in Mexico.—On March 10, 1944, Chester C. Lamb obtained a Raven (Moore Coll. no. 39398) at Charco Redondo, 20 miles west of Ojuelos, Jalisco, México. It was obviously very large. Measurements disclose that the right wing is 465 mm., the tail 261 mm. and the tarsus 69 mm. Mr. Lamb recorded it as a female. If it is a female, the wing is about 33 mm. longer than the longest measurement given for a female of *Corvus corax sinuatus*, and, if there is some error involved in sexing and it is a male, it is 5.3 mm. longer than the wing of the longest male recorded by Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 50, pt. 3:262). In fact both wing and tail measurements are larger than the largest measurements of *Corvus corax principalis*. The tarsal length (69 mm.) lies between the maximum and the minimum lengths of both races. Only for the exposed culmen do we have a measurement closer to *sinuatus*. The unusually large size of both wing and tail and the normal tarsal length indicates that this bird is a representative of *C. c. principalis*, possessing a somewhat smaller bill than usual. Apparently this is the first record of this northern race from México.

Although the Piñon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*) has been recorded as common in the pine belts of the Sierra Juarez and the Sierra San Pedro Mártir of Baja California, apparently it has never been taken in any other part of México. While checking a recent accession of material from México, Dr. John Davis found a female (Moore Coll. no. 50497) collected by Chester C. Lamb on June 10, 1949, seventeen miles east of La Junta, Chihuahua, at 7500 feet altitude. Mr. Lamb's collecting station was about 230 miles south of the Mexican border and therefore this occurrence constitutes a considerable extension of the range of the species. The date of its capture, June 10, is somewhat surprising, but as the gonads were described as "small" by the collector, this date may not be significant.—ROBERT T. MOORE, *Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Eagle Rock, California, September 26, 1950.*

Road-runner in Oklahoma.—The comments of Baerg (Condor, 52, 1950:165) on the occurrence of the Road-runner (*Geococcyx californianus*) in Arkansas and the recording of this species in eastern Oklahoma by Allan (Condor, 52, 1950:43) make worthy of mention in connection with the eastward extension of the range of this species an observation of mine. On June 7, 1932, I saw two of these birds approximately 20 miles east of Oklahoma City while I was driving to that city from Seminole. At this late date I can, unfortunately, make no comments as to terrain.—WENDELL TABER, *Cambridge, Massachusetts, September 7, 1950.*

Laughing Gull on the Coast of Southern California.—The occurrence of the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) in California appears to be of a sporadic nature. A small colony of breeding birds was reported from the Salton Sea in Imperial County by Miller and van Rossem (Condor, 31, 1929:141). A search of the literature does not reveal any records from that locality in subsequent years, but Warden E. J. O'Neill reports the presence of a small breeding colony each summer for the past six years.

Since this gull apparently breeds chiefly on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of this continent, stragglers to the southern Californian coast are of rare occurrence. A bird described as being in the first winter plumage remained at Santa Monica Beach in Los Angeles County for two weeks during March, 1946 (Cogswell, Audubon Field Notes, 1946:106). Mr. R. Mall and I saw an adult of this species over the Malibu Sportfishing Pier at Malibu, Los Angeles County, on June 3, 1950. The bird was in fine plumage and gave its call repeatedly. Because of my acquaintance with the Laughing Gull on the East coast of the United States, identification of this individual presented no problem. The gull remained at the pier for some eighty minutes during which time it fed on fish scraps discarded by fishermen. The bird then flew down the coast toward Santa Monica.

R. Mall and I saw a bird which may have been an immature Laughing Gull at Bolsa Chica Gun Club in Orange County, California, on August 19, 1950. The identification was far from satisfactory, for the bird did not remain in the area for long. It appeared to be an example of what I call the "chicken" Laughing Gull, an expression used locally in the eastern United States to describe the early plumage of this bird. In this plumage there is considerable dark feathering on the breast, a black hood and a white spectacle about the eye.—ARNOLD SMALL, *Department of Zoology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, August 25, 1950.*

A Record of *Sphyrapicus varius varius* for California.—On July 19, 1950, a mummified sapsucker was found in a deodar tree (*Cedrus deodara*) at 1420 East Mountain Street, Pasadena, California, and was subsequently identified by us as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius varius*. The bird is a female in the first adult plumage. Its coloration is that of typical *varius*, although the individual is slightly aberrant in that four of the most anterior chin feathers are red. Distortion is so great that wing and tail measurements cannot be taken accurately. *Sphyrapicus varius varius* is not included in Grinnell and Miller's list of birds of California (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944), and this is apparently the first recorded occurrence of that subspecies in the state of California. The specimen is no. 51136 in the collection of Robert T. Moore.—JOHN DAVIS, *Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Eagle Rock, California*, and THOMAS R. HOWELL, *Dickey Collection, University of California, Los Angeles, California, October 26, 1950.*

Condor Egg Hatched in Incubator.—An egg of a South American or Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*) was successfully incubated and hatched on June 1, 1950, in the Zoological Gardens of San Diego. The egg, which measured 76 mm. \times 113 mm., was placed in the Zoo's incubator on April 7, one day after it was laid. The incubation period was 56 days. The temperature within the egg chamber was kept at 94°F., the humidity of the machine at 84 per cent. This egg was turned three times each day by hand.

The young Condor, a female, weighed 9 oz. thirty minutes after hatching. From previous experience with four males and three females raised in San Diego, sex of a newly hatched bird of this species can be determined by presence or absence of a fleshy caruncle on the head. The body length measured 20 mm.; width across the back 7 mm., wing length 6.5 mm. When first hatched, this bird appeared naked and eight hours passed before the body was dry and covered with a complete vestment of soft gray-black down.

We believe this to be the first successful attempt in incubating a Condor egg in a machine.—KENTON C. LINT, *Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, California, September 13, 1950.*

Longevity of a Crippled Brewer Blackbird.—The process of natural selection is in constant operation in natural environments to eliminate the weak, the crippled, and the otherwise unfit. However, in the congenial environment of a city, which may offer food, shelter, and protection from excess predation, the eradication of the unfit may be less complete. This fact is illustrated by an adult male Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) observed in the Crenshaw district of Los Angeles. The bird was first noticed because of its progression on the ground by hopping instead of the usual walking. When at rest the bird crouched down on the grass instead of standing. Closer observation revealed that the bird had no right leg. It did not appear to be inconvenienced by this lack, and it engaged in foraging and flight with the rest of the flock. The bird was first observed in the fall of 1948 and was dismissed from mind with the observation that perhaps the leg had been lost only recently and that the bird would soon be adversely affected by its crippled condition. However, in the fall of 1949 and again in the fall of 1950 it was seen in a flock of blackbirds which frequents the area. Although the individual bird was not marked in any other way, the probability of the same bird's reappearing in successive years is much greater than the probability of a different one-legged male blackbird's appearing in a given area each year. The continued reappearance of this bird provides an interesting note on the effect of especially favorable environment on the longevity of a bird with a major disability.—WILLIAM V. MAYER, *Department of Zoology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, November 20, 1950.*