

was September 22. In 1952 he had recordings ranging from Brigham City south through Salt Lake Valley, indicating a still wider and more general range. On April 10 a pair was observed in courting antics about his home.

The increase in the population in Salt Lake Valley through the years is nicely illustrated by the figures for the annual Audubon Christmas bird counts: 1940, 1; 1941, 5; 1942, 82; 1943, 1; 1944, 0; 1945, 5; 1946, 243; 1947, 1,143; 1948, 3,025; 1949, 4,294; 1950, 2,950; 1951, 17,542; 1952, 8,874. The discrepancy between the counts of 1951 and 1952 is probably attributable to weather conditions. In 1951 the snow was deep which caused a concentration of Starlings within the area of the count. An open winter characterized 1952 and the birds were widespread. From these data it would seem that after a few years of sporadic occurrence the population started to increase, the change being rather abrupt from 1946 on.

The first evidence of the Starling nesting in Utah came when a nest was discovered in a tree on the west side of Salt Lake City on May 25, 1949. The nest was located in an old woodpecker or flicker hole. The nesting pair was feeding young at this time. Three young were seen. The identity of the birds was determined by Thayer Evans and reported to C. W. Lockerbie who in turn made the facts known in the Utah Audubon News (*loc. cit.*). It was this note that was cited by Kessel (*loc. cit.*). As corroboration of nesting in 1949, Boyd Shaffer reported seeing young Starlings near Farmington Bay in Davis County on August 29, 1949.

There is also evidence that Starlings nested at Randolph, Rich County, in northeastern Utah in the seasons of 1950 and 1951. On May 25, 1951, some students brought to Ray Jorgensen, the school teacher at Randolph, two eggs of the Starling. They reported that Starlings had been seen to enter a shed for several successive evenings. Here a nest with four eggs was found. Two eggs were taken, which Mr. Jorgensen brought to the University of Utah. The students also stated that Starlings had nested in the same shed the previous spring.

The following miscellaneous notes have a bearing on the further spread of the Starlings in Utah. In the fall of 1948 one was reported at Kanab, Kane County, in central southern Utah by Mrs. Clara M. Shields. The bird was alive but sick when found on September 18, 1948, by children near the school where she taught. In the fall of 1949 a flock of fifty or more was noted at Richfield in central Utah. The exact date is unknown. The record comes from Miss Jennie Reynolds of nearby Monroe who received a Starling from a Mrs. Young of Richfield. Also during the fall of 1949 numerous flocks of Starlings were reported from various areas in and about Salt Lake City by Reed Ferris, Kenneth Tanner and G. A. Gump. The latter was troubled by a flock of 50 Starlings that repeatedly took grain at his home in Holladay which he had put out for pheasants. He constructed a dummy owl to frighten away the Starlings. This apparently was successful. Starlings were reported at Coalville on October 1, 1949, and near Henefer on December 6. Thayer Evans reported hordes of Starlings at Ogden Bay between October 14 and November 28, 1949.

Evidently the species is becoming ever more common in Utah Valley as suggested by the observations of Richard Hansen. During the winter of 1951-52 he found Starlings in several communities bordering Utah Lake. For instance on January 20, 1952, he saw a flock of about 150 at Payson, 200 at Santaquin, 30 at Salem, and 50 near the Geneva Steel Plant. They were frequenting apple orchards and eating dried fruit, Russian olive trees and they also visited livestock feed yards. They tended to remain in separate flocks, but on one occasion they were seen in a mixed flock with Bohemian Waxwings. In previous winters he had not seen them in the vicinity of Santaquin, his home. Robert Selander observed Starlings intermittently in the winter of 1948-49 on the western outskirts of Salt Lake City and reported that they had all left the region by March 28.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 15, 1953.*

Purple Gallinule in Chavez County, New Mexico.—On June 12, 1953, an adult Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrula martinica*) was collected thirty miles east of Roswell, New Mexico, on the Graham ranch, twenty miles from the nearest marsh or body of water. The bird was in a severe state of starvation and expired soon after capture. To my knowledge this species has never been recorded in the state and is not listed by any distributional works on this area. This specimen was identified with the assistance of Vester Montgomery of the New Mexico Military Institute. The skin has been sent to the United States National Museum.—SAM E. TANNER, *Roswell, New Mexico, June 22, 1953.*