

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

An Ancient Murrelet in Northeastern Nevada.—On the morning of November 14, 1955, following the first major winter storm of the season, Frank Lespade found an Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) in the yard of a local lumber dealer in Elko, Nevada. The live bird was turned over to George E. Gruell who in turn passed the bird on to me.

In view of the unlikelihood of this individual finding its way back to a marine environment from so far inland, it was made into a study skin (now no. 133834 Mus. Vert. Zool., Berkeley). The bird, a female, was lean and showed signs of diarrhea. This specimen not only constitutes the first record for this species in Nevada, but apparently it also represents the first Nevada record for any member of the family Alcidae. Later, it was learned that Mike Coboz, an associate of Lespade, saw another bird of apparently the same species on the Humboldt River in Elko on this same day.

One can only speculate how a normally short-flighted, strictly oceanic species could wander so far inland. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 107, 1919:138-140) notes that the flight of this species is "swift and direct, usually close to the surface of the water, and not usually much prolonged." He continues: "I have never seen this species make a long flight." The murrelets that appeared in Elko would have had to make a sustained flight of at least 175 miles from the nearest large body of fresh water (Pyramid Lake, in western Nevada), or one of nearly 475 miles from the nearest seacoast of northern California, crossing mountain ranges exceeding 5000 feet elevation en route.

The possibility that the storm of November 13 might have carried these birds so far inland makes it worthwhile to record some details of this storm. On November 11, there was a strong low pressure area centered in northwestern Colorado, and a strong high pressure area centered about 600 miles off the Washington coast. The gradient between the two pressure centers was steep enough that an air mass moved almost directly to the east, accompanied by winds with velocities of 20 to 39 knots at lower levels. This rapid movement of air brought moderately heavy precipitation in the form of snow to much of northern Nevada, and perhaps it also carried a flock of lost Ancient Murrelets along with it.

Perhaps significant is the recent record by Jewett (Condor, 53, 1951:301) of a female of this species east of the Cascades in central Oregon, also in mid-November (1950) and following a heavy cyclonic storm with high winds. If the Nevada birds were diverted while on southerly migration from their Alaskan nesting grounds, one would expect them to be gradually pushed inland as they moved south, coming over the same area from which Jewett reported his bird, rather than being blown directly east from the northern California coast.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Elko, Nevada, November 21, 1955.*

Prolonged Incubation by an Anna Hummingbird.—On June 27, 1955, a female Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) started building a nest in the pendulous branches of a birch tree (*Betula alba*) at Alameda, California. The first egg was laid on July 3. On the following day the second egg was laid and she began incubating. The eggs did not hatch but she continued sitting through October 6, a total of 95 days. All during this time nothing seemed to disturb her. She sat as tightly as she had done in the beginning. I could approach within two feet of the nest before she would leave. Several times birds would perch within a foot of the nest and she would not move.

She continued to turn the eggs. At times she was seen bringing cobwebs and pappus of the achenes of *Gazania splendens* which she would poke into the nest. When she finally deserted the nest, I sent the eggs to Alden H. Miller who stated that they showed no signs of embryonic development. All that was left was dried yolk material as from a fresh egg. Presumably the eggs were infertile.—JUNEA W. KELLY, *Alameda, California, December 5, 1955.*

Another Record of the Tropical Kingbird for California.—On October 22, 1955, approximately three and a half miles northwest of Arcata, Humboldt County, California, a kingbird was observed flying and feeding from a barbed wire fence next to a pasture. Upon close examination, the notched tail was observed and the bird was collected. Comparison with specimens at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology proved that the species was the Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*. The length of the wing (104 mm.) and tail (88 mm.) agree well with those of the race *T. m. occidentalis*. The sex of the bird was not determined but the frontal and parts of the parietal bones were still