

Very little has been written on the courtship of the Black or American Scoter. Phillips (Natural History of the Ducks, 4, 1926:17) refers to accounts by Brewster (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 66, 1924: 174-175) and Brooks (field notes) but the impression conveyed is sketchy at best. Gunn (Brit. Birds, 20, 1927:193-197) published an interesting account of the courtship of *Melanitta nigra nigra* in which he described low, high, and flight rushes. Gunn's "low rush" and the forward rush described here seem to be the same behaviorism. I did not observe any activities corresponding to the "high" and "flight" rushes.

Gunn (*op. cit.*:194) mentions a "constantly repeated metallic note which . . . sounds like 'crek'." He describes this note as being uttered by a group of males exhibiting a posture in which the neck is elongated upward and the head held horizontal. Although I observed in the male a posture (excited pose) similar to that described by Gunn, the posture was associated with bowing and I did not hear a "crek" note.

Brooks (*in* Phillips, *loc. cit.*) distinguished two notes uttered by the courting male American Scoters, one of them a "musical whistling note," and the other a "rattling tuka-tuka-tuka-tuk." The latter apparently was heard during the forward rush. I detected no such note from the male during courtship nor was I able to hear any but the plaintive whistling calls from male Black Scoters. Brooks also mentions a correlation between the roughness or calmness of the water's surface and the type of call uttered. I heard the whistling note given by birds whether in flight or on the water on both calm and rough days. Brooks wondered whether the "tuka-tuka-" note was made with the wings; none of my observations indicate that it was.

I have heard female Black Scoters give two calls in addition to the "low, growling noises" mentioned earlier. On July 18, a female circled past me two or three times uttering calls described in my notes as a "reedy tooooo-it, tooooo-it, or toooo-oo-oo-it." Later, on the same day, another female, having been flushed from her nest, sat on the water nearby giving the following cry: "Pe-e-e-e-e-e-ut," the first portion of it being higher and consisting of very rapidly repeated syllables, while the last part was a low croak.

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The Vaux Swift in Western México.—According to the Check-list of Mexican Birds (Pacific Coast Avif. No. 29, 1950:159) and earlier works, the only Vaux Swifts (*Chaetura vauxi*) in western México, north of Oaxaca, are transients of the nominate race. However, Phillips (Wilson Bull., 66, 1954:72-73) recorded a specimen of *C. v. tamaulipensis* taken in western Nayarit in late November, along with a specimen of the same race taken in southeastern Arizona in May.

On October 2, 1955, we encountered a large flock of two species of swifts flying low along the crest of a pine-covered ridge in southeastern Sinaloa. The spot was on the El Salto-Mazatlán highway, two road miles south of Santa Lucia and about two airline miles west of El Batel, at an altitude of 4300 feet. We collected five individuals of the small species, all of which proved to be *C. v. tamaulipensis*, four of them clearly differentiated examples of that race, the fifth somewhat equivocal. Webster compared his two specimens with a series of *C. v. vauxi* at the California Academy of Sciences. Later Phillips compared all five with seven Tamaulipas specimens of *C. v. tamaulipensis*, kindly loaned by Dr. George M. Sutton, as well as with a few of the nominate race, one of *C. v. richmondi* from Veracruz, an April series from the coast of Nayarit (La Peñita de Jaltemba), and the two specimens of *C. v. tamaulipensis* he had reported earlier (Phillips, *loc. cit.*). Two of the Nayarit specimens of April 6 in the collection of Lewis D. Yaeger are *vauxi*, but the other one taken the same day is nearer *tamaulipensis*. The other three, taken on April 21 and 22, are clearly-marked specimens of *tamaulipensis*, with the blacker, more metallic dorsal coloration and darker grayish abdomen of that race.

Phillips and Yaeger saw about 25 Vaux Swifts west of Tepic, Nayarit, on July 3, 1956. Later, in passing Las Varas, they found Vaux Swifts still present, a flock of at least 70 being seen there on July 15, and at least five on July 21, 1956. Two birds were also seen on July 16 by Phillips at Chacala, a lake between Las Varas and the beach.

The Mexican check-list mentions skins from northern Sinaloa, from Babizos and Carrizo, on July 14 and April 20, as *C. v. vauxi*. It seems unlikely that Vaux Swifts are actually migrating in July, and further collecting in the area may well result in finding a breeding population, of which these July specimens are probably faded or worn examples.

The status of the various forms of *Chaetura* remains unclear. There is a strong suggestion, however, of a more or less resident population of *Chaetura vauxi tamaulipensis* in the mountains of central western México and locally on the coast.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona*, and J. DAN WEBSTER, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, September 18, 1956*.

Summer Records of the Golden-crowned Sparrow in Okanogan County, Washington.—In July, 1956, while engaged in field work near Hart's Pass on the summit of the Cascade Mountains in Okanogan County, Washington, we encountered two territorial pairs of Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). The male in each of the pairs sang repeatedly. From one pair the male was collected (WSC 56-328, Slate Peak Trail, about 6500 feet, Okanogan County, July 15, 1956); the testes were well developed with a combined weight of about 650 mg. From the other pair the female was collected (WSC 56-329, Slate Peak Trail, about 6475 feet, Okanogan County, July 14, 1956); the largest ovarian follicles had diameters of 1.5 millimeters. These Golden-crowned Sparrows were observed and collected in small clumps of alpine firs (*Abies lasiocarpa*) which are rather widely scattered over sloping meadows. Dwarf willow (*Salix* sp.) grows densely in moist sites; most of the ground is covered with alpine vegetation. Other territorial, and presumably breeding, species included Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melo-leucophrys*).

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), and White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia*). Insofar as we can ascertain, the southernmost published breeding record for the Golden-crowned Sparrow is that of Munro and Cowan (Brit. Columbia Prov. Mus., Spec. Publ. No. 2, 1947:228) for Alta Lake, British Columbia, about 165 miles northwest of Hart's Pass. However, Dr. Cowan (personal communication) has informed us that he encountered Golden-crowned Sparrows apparently nesting at the head of the Ashnola River just north of the 49th parallel in British Columbia on July 8, 1951. This locality is about 40 miles north of Hart's Pass.—DONALD S. FARNER and IRVEN O. BUSS, *Department of Zoology, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington, October 30, 1956*.

Observations on Birds of Central Oregon.—The following observations made in central Oregon add to the information on distribution in Gabrielson and Jewett's Birds of Oregon (1940).

Casmerodius albus. Common Egret. According to Gabrielson and Jewett, this species is not to be expected north of Harney or Klamath counties in Oregon until after the breeding season. A single bird was seen on April 19, 1953, at Huston Lake, about 6 miles west of Prineville.

Aix sponsa. Wood Duck. Within recent years the Oregon State Game Commission has put up nesting boxes along the sloughs of the upper Deschutes River, not far south of Bend, and Wood Ducks now breed in this area.

Accipiter gentilis. Goshawk. There seem to be no recent breeding records for this species from Oregon. An occupied nest containing three eggs was found about 30 miles southeast of Bend on May 8, 1955. It was about 20 feet from the ground in a lodgepole pine. At least two other nests were found within 100 feet, apparently indicating previous years' nestings.

Alectoris graeca. Chukar Partridge. This species was introduced along the Crooked River east of Prineville four or five years ago. A small covey now seems established on Pilot Butte, just outside of Bend. A female and two young were seen several times in June, feeding along the highway.

Grus canadensis tabida. Sandhill Crane. On July 10, 1954, Mr. R. Sawyer, of Bend, told me of having seen two cranes at Swampy Lakes, about 14 miles west-southwest of Bend. I visited the area with him on July 23, when we saw two fully-fledged young birds; they were able to fly but had much cinnamon color in their plumage. This observation, plus that of Gullion (Condor, 49, 1947:128), may indicate the presence of a small breeding population in the lake district around the headwaters of the Deschutes River.