

First Record of European Skylark on San Juan Island, Washington.—On August 15, 1960, while crossing a field about three miles southwest of Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, Washington, my attention was suddenly directed to a brown bird which rose from the grass with an unfamiliar call note and began climbing away from me in a long arc. The generic characteristics of this bird were readily apparent through 8 × binoculars as I had often seen larks of the genus *Alauda* 17 years previously in North Africa. The white outer tail feathers, low crest, and relatively short tail peculiar to the European Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) were closely observed.

The lark's flight pattern was characterized by a gradual ascent to a height of 25 or 30 yards followed by a rather steep descent into the grass at a distance of 75 to 100 yards from the starting point. The bird permitted me to approach to within six or seven yards before flushing, and it circulated entirely within a 50-acre tract. The surrounding terrain encompassed several hundred acres of rolling sheep pasture divided by alder hedges and barbed wire fences. It supported a fairly dense growth of dry grass averaging about one foot in height. The predominant birds present were Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*) and Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*).

Apparently the seven mile width of Harro Strait has been an effective barrier in confining the European Skylark to Vancouver Island since its successful introduction there. The total distance between Friday Harbor and Saanich Peninsula, Vancouver, is about 16 miles. It is noteworthy that in Europe the Skylark is a wide-ranging species of migratory habit. A careful search of large fields on San Juan Island may reveal a few nesting pairs of this lark.—JAMES A. BRUCE, *Wooster, Ohio, December 3, 1960.*

Recent Waterfowl Records for Colorado.—*Oidemia nigra*. Common Scoter. One immature bird was found by Laren A. Roper and Philip L. Lee on November 24, 1960, on Watson Lake, five miles northeast of Fort Collins, Larimer County. The bird had washed ashore, apparently after being shot. The wings are in the Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Collections. Niedrach and Rockwell (The Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks, 1939) considered this species an extremely rare visitant and mentioned only two records for the Denver area. Cooke (The Birds of Colorado, 1897) mentioned two other records for the state, one from near Fort Collins.

Clangula hyemalis. Oldsquaw. An immature male was found dead near Masonville in Larimer County, November 25, 1958, by T. O. Thatcher. The specimen is now in the collections of the Zoology Department, Colorado State University. Bergtold (A Guide to the Birds of Colorado, 1928) listed the Oldsquaw as a "rare winter straggler" in Colorado. Sclater (A History of the Birds of Colorado, 1912) mentioned records for Denver, Fort Collins, Loveland and Longmont. Niedrach and Rockwell (*loc. cit.*) cited a few more records for the Denver area. A biologist of the Colorado Game and Fish Department noted a bird during hunters' bag checks in the Arkansas Valley of southeastern Colorado, November 7, 1950. Records of the Colorado Bird Club include sight observations of individuals seen near Fountain, November 3, 1955, and near Colorado Springs, December 29, 1956. John and Margaret Douglass observed a female Oldsquaw in winter plumage at Estes Park, December 10, 1960.

Branta nigricans. Black Brant. Hansen and Nelson (Trans. N. Am. Wildl. Conf., 1957) reported a banded Black Brant recovered near Loveland, Colorado. Hansen (*pers. comm.*) was confident the bird recovered was correctly identified as a Black Brant at the time of banding. Mr. Johnny Price shot the goose (band no. 48-737790) at Union Reservoir near Longmont in Weld County sometime between November 1 to December 30, 1954. It had been banded in western Alaska on Nelson Island (about 60° 45' N; 165° W) on July 28, 1951. This apparently is the first record of the species for Colorado. Sclater (*op. cit.*) lists one questionable record for *Branta bernicula*, a specimen shot at Fort Lyon, April 11, 1883, which was not preserved.—RONALD A. RYDER and LAREN A. ROPER, *Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, April 24, 1961.*

Cassin Finch and Pine Grosbeak in West-central Kansas.—On December 27, 1960, I collected a pair of Cassin Finches (*Carpodacus cassinii*) from a flock of eight on the Fort Hays Kansas State College campus. This species has not previously been recorded from the state. Flocks of three to 19 birds were observed at intervals throughout the winter usually in brushy vegetation bordering Big Creek or in ornamental plantings on campus. A few Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) were occasionally present with the Cassin Finches, but in general the two species mingled very little. A singing male Cassin Finch was collected March 12, 1961, and the species is still present at this writing.