

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.

Johnston (Univ. Kans. Mus. Nat. Hist. Misc. Publ. 23, 1960:60) includes the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) on the hypothetical list since none of the sight records is supported by a specimen. I first observed Pine Grosbeaks on campus November 17, 1960. They were next seen on December 13 and remained in the area until at least February 8, 1961. Groups of two to six were frequently noted, chiefly during snowy periods, in conifers and hackberry trees on or near campus. My series (2 adult females; 2 immature females; 1 immature male) is referable to the race *P. e. leucura*. No adult males were seen. I wish to thank Dr. G. M. Sutton (University of Oklahoma), Dr. R. F. Johnston (University of Kansas), and Mr. R. J. Niedrach and Dr. A. M. Bailey (Colorado Museum of Natural History) for the loan of specimens.—CHARLES A. ELY, *Department of Zoology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas, March 14, 1961.*

Prairie Warbler off the Pacific Coast of Guatemala.—At 11 a.m. on September 25, 1960, as scattered showers approached from the east, an immature Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) flew aboard the freighter, M. S. Oakville, on which I was traveling between Los Angeles and the Panama Canal. We were on a course parallel to and some 190 kilometers southwest of the coast of Guatemala near Tahuesco. At noon, when I last saw the warbler, we were at latitude 12° 37' N and longitude 92° 31' W, about 33 kilometers southeast of our position at 11 a.m.

During the first part of the hour, the warbler hopped about the foredeck and along cables so near me that I almost caught it in my cap. I noted that it wagged its tail in the manner typical of the species as it pecked at tiny objects. Later it perched on the cables amidships, where it was photographed by another passenger, Mr. Harry Grossman of Pomona, California. Mr. Grossman has kindly provided color prints which show clearly the field marks I had noted at close range.

Since this warbler normally winters in Florida and the Caribbean area, this individual was far out of range. The only other record for the Pacific side of Middle America to my knowledge is that of a single bird taken on the Volcán de San Miguel, El Salvador, on March 15, 1926 (Dickey and van Rossem, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser. 23, Publ. 406, 1938:1-609*).

Shortly after the rains, several other land birds flew past. That storms bring down migrants aboard ships has been noted several times, particularly for the Gulf of Mexico.—EDWIN WILLIS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 3, 1961.*

Turkey Vulture Nesting in Pima County, Arizona.—While attending the annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society in Tucson, in 1961, some of the local ornithologists remarked that there was no published record of the nesting of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) in the state of Arizona. This leads me to supply two records of sets of two eggs collected by me on Picacho de la Caleria, about 20 miles northwest of Tucson on May 17, 1923, and April 28, 1924. The first nest was near the top of the peak and in a cave under rocks, back about 15 feet from the main entrance. I reached the eggs by lying down and inching my way back five or six feet over trash carried there by pack rats. Fear of rattlesnakes would keep me from going into such a place again. The second set was on bare sand under a large rock high on the hillside.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, April 15, 1961.*

The Amur Barn Swallow off British Columbia.—On July 15, 1960, while one of us (G.M.C.) was engaged in oceanographic studies from the motor vessel Key West II at a point 90 miles west of Tasu Sound, Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia, an adult male swallow came aboard in a weakened condition. It died the following day and was preserved as a specimen for the Museum of Zoology of the University of British Columbia. Dr. H. G. Deignan of the United States National Museum has compared the specimen with series of Asiatic swallows in their collections and determined it as unmistakably of the subspecies *Hirundo rustica gutturalis* Scopoli. This subspecies normally breeds northeastward through Asia as far as Amurland and Japan. There are two previous specimen records from this continent; both were taken on St. Lawrence Island, one in 1934, and the other in 1938 (Friedmann, *Condor*, 41, 1939:37).

This occurrence marks a new southward and eastward record for the race and reflects a rather remarkable oversea crossing, even if the bird came by way of the Aleutian Island chain. Its emaciated condition suggests that it was not a vagrant from the closely adjacent coast of British Columbia.—I. MCT. COWAN and GARRY MCT. COWAN, *Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, February 23, 1961.*