

Shortly after daybreak on April 1 the Horned Larks flushed in obvious alarm, whirled back and forth a few seconds, then dove back into the thicket. We first thought a fox had startled the birds, but further observation showed a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) harrying them. On the third or fourth flight of the flock, the shrike caught a lark and the two birds fluttered to the ground where they struggled violently about half a minute.

The shrike killed the Horned Lark, laboriously carried it approximately twenty feet, and impaled it on two spiny branchlets of the *Lycium* shrub. The shrike abandoned its prey when approached closely but perched about twenty feet away while I examined the dead lark.

The top of the Horned Lark's head had been stripped of feathers and the skull torn open half way across from its left eye. Nearly half of the brain had been eaten, although not over two minutes had elapsed after the shrike lodged the carcass in the shrub.

Although the Loggerhead Shrike is a stronger, heavier bird than the Horned Lark, it seems remarkable that it should be able to overtake and kill a full grown, agile Horned Lark that was presumably in normal health before the attack. The panic exhibited during the violent flight of the flock each time the shrike made its approach, and the rapidity with which the smaller birds returned to the shrubby cover, indicated familiarity with the danger presented by the hunting shrike.

The field work of our party was supported by a grant from the Belvedere Scientific Fund. We are grateful to its Trustees and to its President, Mr. K. K. Bechtel, for the financial aid that made the trip possible.—IRA L. WIGGINS, *Natural History Museum, Stanford University, Stanford, California, July 27, 1961.*

Black Swift Breeds in Utah.—A ten-year study of the geographical and ecological distribution of the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*) in Colorado (Knorr, Wilson Bull., 73, 1961:155–170) resulted in the discovery of 27 active breeding colonies.

The Black Swift is not known to occur in the vast area between the Colorado Rockies and western Nevada, so it seemed desirable to search this area for the purpose of adding to the meager knowledge of the species. I chose to begin in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah because the precipitous nature of these mountains and my experience with the bird led me to believe that it should breed there.

Bridal Veil Falls in the Provo area seemed a likely spot to begin since the term "Bridal Veil" as applied to waterfalls is descriptive of the Black Swift's nesting environment. I went first to the Aspen Grove Recreational Area east of Mt. Timpanogos and immediately upon arrival I saw Black Swifts sailing around in the air above Aspen Grove in the company of White-throated Swifts (*Aëronautes saxatalis*). Here behind a thin cascading falls two Black Swift nests were discovered, each containing a feathered young bird. The size of the colony is unknown.

Four more sites were located farther down Provo Canyon. One was located at Upper Falls and one each at the two cascades between Upper Falls and Bridal Veil Falls. A nest in the colony at Bridal Veil Falls was visible from the tourist parking area on Highway 189 below the falls.

All the nests were found on August 22, 1959, and nests were observed again during the summers of 1960 and 1961. Everything about the sites seemed typical except that the nests appeared to have more fern incorporated with the moss than nests in Colorado. I do not believe this discovery constitutes a breeding range extension because Black Swift breeding sites are ancestral by virtue of their unique and narrow ecological requirements. Unless one knows how and where to search, the bird can be entirely overlooked.—OWEN A. KNORR, *Department of Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, July 1, 1961.*

Nesting of the Hooded Oriole in Sacramento, California.—Since early April of 1961 Hooded Orioles (*Icterus cucullatus*) have been observed in Capitol Park, Sacramento. On July 21 a nest was found in a California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*) on N Street near Tenth Street. Young were heard at that time, and an adult male was seen near the nest. The writer is very familiar with the nests of this species, having observed a number of them in southern California. Records known to the author of the nesting of the Hooded Oriole as far north as Solano County are found in the American Ornithologists' Union (Check-list of North American Birds, Fifth Edition, 1957:532) but the occurrence of breeding orioles of this species in Sacramento represents a further northward extension of range.—MILTON MOORE, *Sacramento, California, July 28, 1961.*