

nificant difference in the recorded altitudinal range in Panamá: *V. carmioli* from 5300 to 9500 feet, *V. leucophrys* from 3000 to 7000 feet, *V. flavoviridis* from sea level to 5500 feet. In comparing the superspecies *V. olivaceus-flavoviridis* with *V. gilvus-leucophrys* Hamilton (*op. cit.*, 1962:45, 53) states they are distinguished by the montane preference of the latter. This certainly is correct as to the tropical forms, but does not generally hold for the north temperate representatives. In eastern North America *V. gilvus*, although ecologically and geographically more restricted than *V. olivaceus*, is fully as much a lowland species; in fact *V. olivaceus* ranges higher as a breeder. This, I think, reflects not an altitudinal preference, but rather the fact that *V. olivaceus*, while tolerating park-like conditions, favors broadleaf forest and woodland, which in the humid east occur widely from sea level to a considerable elevation. *Vireo gilvus*, on the other hand, requires more open broadleaf habitats, favoring stream borders and tree plantings along roads and in cultivated and suburban areas. In the arid west *V. gilvus* undoubtedly occurs chiefly in the mountains but also along stream borders in the lowlands, because only these places provide the required open deciduous, broadleaf tree habitat (see Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:389-390). It is my impression that *V. leucophrys*, although definitely montane, has increased in Panamá with the clearing of forest. That *V. flavoviridis* differs from *V. olivaceus* in avoiding forest may indicate only that in what is important to a vireo the open deciduous growth of the tropics is more like the northern deciduous forest than is the heavy humid evergreen tropical forest.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, March 11, 1962.*

A Record of a Tree-nesting Gyrfalcon.—Snyder (*Arctic Birds of Canada*, 1957:108), acknowledging insufficient data, states that the nest of the Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) is "probably situated on a ledge or in a pocket of a vertical rock or soil cliff" and that it incorporates a small amount of vegetation if constructed by the falcons or constitutes a bulky structure if the nest is taken over from a Raven or Rough-legged Hawk. Most of the nests of Gyrfalcons discussed in the literature have been in situations similar to those given by Snyder. Cade (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, 63, 1960:168), in discussing the nesting habit of Gyrfalcons in Alaska, states that these large falcons require sea cliffs, river bluffs, or escarpments away from rivers, and he also mentions that no records exist of Gyrfal-



Fig. 1. Nesting site of Gyrfalcon in a tree in the Thelon Valley, MacKenzie District, Northwest Territories.

cons nesting in trees in Alaska although "occasional pairs may nest in trees in limited areas where the forest follows river valleys into the tundra biome."

A record of a pair of Gyrfalcons seen during the nesting season in a high alpine valley west of Atlin, British Columbia, at an altitude of 4000 feet is contained in a publication by Weeden (*Canadian Field Nat.*, 74, 1960:125). On August 27, 1961, on the Alaska highway at Haines Junction, Yukon, less than 75 air miles from Weeden's study area, I examined an adult female Gyrfalcon, caught on the preceding day by a local falconer. It seems probable, then, that an occasional pair of Gyrfalcons may nest in the area, perhaps in an alpine situation, as Weeden indicates.



Fig. 2. Portrait of fully grown young Gyrfalcon from the nest in the Thelon Valley.

Much earlier, MacFarlane (*in* Mair, *Through the MacKenzie Basin*, 1908:361) is reported to have "secured" twenty nests, all but two coming from the tops of tall trees in the valley of the Anderson River, Northwest Territories.

Mr. Bill McDonald, Yellowknife Mining Engineer, in 1949 and 1955 examined a number of Gyrfalcon nests in trees in the same area.

The present record of a tree-nesting Gyrfalcon was made in the summer of 1961. Our field camp was located on the Thelon River, MacKenzie District, Northwest Territories near Lookout Point. On June 23, while making a reconnaissance by canoe, I travelled up a small tributary of the Thelon. The Thelon Valley is wooded, clumps of white spruce (*Picea glauca*) and dense thickets of willow (*Salix*) lining the banks of the river and those of its tributaries almost as far downstream as Beverly Lake. The creek on which the nesting tree was located had 10-foot-high, steep sandy banks, the steepness being a result of continual erosion during spring run-off. The tree was leaning a bit as a result of the washing away of the sandy soil supporting its root system. The nest, a bulky structure of spruce and willow branches, was in a fork near the top of this 30-foot-tall white spruce. The nest contained three young birds, one of which was completely covered by a light grayish down while the other two showed feathers emerging through the down of the breast. The faces of all three young had dark gray feathers which gave the appearance of masks. The nestlings were estimated to be $3\frac{1}{2}$ weeks old, placing the hatching date on or about May 30. One of the young was flying on July 13, about 44 days after hatching.

This large falcon's nest may have been taken over from a Rough-legged Hawk. It is likely that

a pair of these hawks was nesting nearby, as one of the birds was calling several times in the period when the falcon's nest was under observation.

No disgorged pellets were found underneath the nest tree. However, a large number of bleached ptarmigan bones were scattered below the nest. One ptarmigan sternum was partly covered by a thin crust of lichens, possibly indicating a long period of use of the nest site.

It is interesting to speculate on the reason why the Gyrfalcon, customarily a cliff nester, would use the stick nest in the tree. Gyrfalcons in Alaska (Cade, *loc. cit.*) typically make use of old stick nests of other birds, especially Ravens' nests on cliffs. In the Lookout Point area and westward to Hornby's Bend, Ravens are not common. I know of only one breeding pair near Hornby's Bend and the nest is located on a cliff. Only a few potential nesting sites on cliffs are available to the Gyrfalcon in the middle Thelon area. I know of only one short stretch of the Thelon where the river cuts through steep sandstone banks. Rough-legged Hawks and Peregrine Falcons, both of which nest on cliffs, are known to nest here and Gyrfalcons may also be found nesting on rock ledges of the steep banks.

The tree nest under discussion was revisited on June 23, 1962. The nest was not occupied but a pair of gray Gyrfalcons had three young in a partly hollowed out witches' broom in a white spruce nearby. This tree, only about 100 yards from the 1961 nesting tree, may have been the one occupied by the Rough-legged Hawks in 1961. The young were about 4 weeks old and one of them was flying on July 10, 45 days after the estimated date of hatching.

The small number of nesting sites in the area under discussion no doubt is a factor contributing to the low density of Gyrfalcons. This scarcity of nesting sites in the area may also influence other birds of prey. In 1960, an artificial nesting platform was constructed in a spruce near Hornby's Bend by members of the National Film Board party working in that area. The following spring the nest was occupied by a pair of Pigeon Hawks (*Falco columbarius*) and four young were successfully raised.—E. KUYT, *Canadian Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, March 6, 1962*.

Frequency of Occurrence of Some Seabirds in Uruguay.—The status of certain seabirds is little known for Uruguay and the eastern coast of South America. The following records which I have obtained may therefore have value in showing the frequency of occurrence of such birds in this country. Where the collector's or observer's name is not mentioned, the records are those of the author.

Diomedea melanophrys. Black-browed Albatross. Numbers of these birds spend the winter on the Atlantic coast of Uruguay. At Punta Ballena, Departamento de Maldonado, on July 22, 1959, a dead bird was on the beach and on August 21, another was on the shore. At Punta del Este, Departamento de Maldonado, these albatrosses were seen flying and sitting on the water within 50 to 400 meters of the coast on the following dates: May 21, 1961, 1 bird; July 5, 1; July 7, 7; July 8, 12; July 12, 25; July 17, 3.

Procellaria aequinoctialis. White-chinned Petrel. On each date mentioned above for *Diomedea melanophrys* at Punta del Este I could see birds of this species gliding low near the waves. Greater concentrations were recorded along 10 kilometers of the coast west of the mouth of Arroyo Carrasco, Departamento de Canelones, on July 20, 1958; groups of 4 to 6 petrels were sitting on the water every 100 meters along the shore and 200 meters off the coast. Some of them took flight, scaling swiftly and flapping with quick wing strokes over the waves. Temperatures were unusually high (30° instead of 13° C.), and there was a soft warm wind from the north; the water was clear. At the same locality on May 21, 1961, a female was collected; the skin is in my personal collection.

Puffinus gravis. Greater Shearwater. At Punta del Este on July 13, 1961, a bird was sitting on clear and still water, 40 meters off the rocky coast. This is the second record of the species for Uruguay. The first one was reported by Wetmore for January, 1921 (U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 133, 1926:51) on the basis of a dried specimen collected on the beach.

Daption capensis. Cape Pigeon. At Punta Ballena on July 22, 1959, a dead specimen was taken on the beach. Measurements: Wing 275 mm., tail 120, culmen 32, tarsus 45, middle toe without claw 53.

Fregata magnificens. Magnificent Frigate-bird. At Cabo Polonio, Departamento de Rocha, on May 1, 1955, a male frigate-bird was seen on the wing. At Punta del Este on January 20, 1959, a male and two females were seen sailing high over the rocks and houses. I could detect the black throats and white bellies that are the female's typical field marks. This bird must be considered as a regular