

In addition to the specimen collected along the Colorado River there are three other records from there. Monson noted an immature Reddish Egret on the Imperial Refuge between October 1, 1954, and March 3, 1955 (Audubon Field Notes, 9, 1955:275); on November 19, 1955, Mr. H. Irby reported seeing an immature on the Imperial Refuge (*ibid.*, 10, 1956:45); and on September 2, 1960, Monson saw another immature on the same refuge (*ibid.*, 15, 1961:63).

It appears as if the Reddish Egret is becoming more regular in southern California, and recently records of this species have almost equalled those of the Louisiana Heron. Most records are of immature birds during the fall, with some individuals remaining through the winter and on into the spring. There is also evidence of some northward movement in the spring. Every time that I have seen this species it has been in areas of open mud-flats and shallow water, and here the birds "stagger" around with open wings catching food.

On November 3, 1962, while looking at birds with John Bishop, we saw an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the marsh at Imperial Beach. The bird did not associate with the Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) that were also present; it was exceedingly wary and it was not seen after this date, although I searched the area thoroughly. On October 22, 1963, I again saw an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Imperial Beach, and with the help of Jay M. Sheppard I managed to collect the bird on October 25. The specimen is now in the San Diego Natural History Museum, and according to Dr. Banks, who prepared the specimen, the bird was an adult (unsexed) of the race *bancrofti*. This appears to be the first time that this race has been collected north of the Mexican border; the specimen is the first from California. A bird that was most probably an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron remained with Black-crowned Night Herons at Solana Beach, San Diego County, from November 1 to 11, 1963. The bird was independently identified by three separate observers including myself during this time; I based my identification on the fact that the legs extended well beyond the end of the tail when the bird was in flight.

In addition to these records an individual is reported to have been photographed near Venice, Los Angeles County, in late June of 1951 (Audubon Field Notes, 5, 1951:308). An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron remained in the Claremont District, Los Angeles County, between March 27 and April 6, 1963 (*ibid.*, 17, 1963:434); this bird was clearly photographed by Mr. L. A. Shelton on April 3, 1963, and a color slide is now in the San Diego Natural History Museum. What may have been the same bird was seen by many observers at Harbor Park, Los Angeles County, during late May of 1963 (*ibid.*, 17, 1963:434).

The Reddish Egret and the Louisiana Heron are easily identified in the adult and immature plumages, and these birds are not likely to be confused with any of the herons occurring commonly along the California coast. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron is only readily identified in the adult plumage, the immature being almost identical to the immature Black-crowned Night Heron in appearance. Most of the records of the Louisiana Heron and the Reddish Egret are of immature birds, which indicates that it is the immature birds that are most prone to wandering; if this is also the case with the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, the immature birds would be mostly overlooked, and it is therefore likely that the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is also a regular vagrant to southern California, since four adult birds have so far been detected.—R. G. McCASKIE, *Tahoe City, California, December 31, 1963.*

Status of the Harris Hawk in Kansas.—The Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) has long been considered a vagrant in the central United States. The finding of a nest in 1963 in southwestern Kansas, however, definitely establishes it as breeding there. A recent observation elsewhere in Kansas suggests that it may be more than a casual breeder.

The earliest known Kansas record of the species dates back to 1918 when Snyder (Auk, 36, 1919:567) found a male that had been "shot" near the Little Arkansas River in Wichita, Sedgwick County. The specimen was mounted and placed in the Snyder collection. On December 25 of that same year, a female was shot near Lawrence, Douglas County, and the specimen was placed in the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History at Lawrence. Apparently there have been additional sight records but none of them has been published.

During the first week of January in 1962, an adult female Harris Hawk was caught in a pole trap near the state pheasant pens within Meade County State Park, about 14 miles southwest of

Meade, Kansas. The bird, badly crippled, died about January 10, and the specimen was later given to us by Mr. Marvin Schwilling of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. Mr. Harry Smith, former superintendent of Meade County State Park, had trapped the bird which, fortunately, he recognized as highly unusual. The specimen (wing chord, 357 mm.; tail, 240; culmen from cere, 25.5; tarsus, 96; middle toe without claw, 46.5) is best referred to the race *Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*. It is in the collection of Kansas State Teachers College.

Mr. Smith continued to note the Harris Hawk, and during the fall of 1962 he caught another at the pheasant pens. This bird was released unharmed. We saw Harris Hawks there on December 21, 1962 (three birds) and again on February 8, 1963 (two birds). The species remained in the park area throughout the winter. Mr. Smith reported that his park personnel had seen a pair copulating on the ground on March 29 and again on March 30. More significantly, one bird was seen flying with nesting material. The surprisingly small, unpretentious nest was finally located near the upper branches of a cottonwood at the edge of a small grove, not far from the pheasant pens, within a restricted area of the park.

We first visited the nesting grove on April 13 and found the bird on the nest. It was not until April 21 that we actually climbed to the nest, at which time it held three eggs. These had been covered over with strips of inner bark, presumably by the parent bird which was not incubating at the time.



Fig. 1. Downy young of the Harris Hawk photographed on May 28, 1963, in Meade County State Park, near Meade, Kansas.

We next returned to the site on May 28, accompanied by George M. Sutton. There was but one downy chick (fig. 1) on this date and no sign of the other two eggs or young. As usual, the parent hawks were wheeling nearby, not flying in very close, however. They were harassed by Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) and one of the pair was struck hard by a diving Swainson Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). A nesting Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) several hundred yards away tolerated them. The nest of the Harris Hawks was completely demolished during a severe storm of June 6.

Since the previously known breeding range of the Harris Hawk did not include areas north of the southern parts of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas (see A.O.U. Check-list, 1957), we searched for other possible nesting areas in Meade and adjacent counties. We also looked for the species in adjacent Oklahoma to the south. But it was soon apparent that Meade County State Park was unusual with its many groves of high trees. It was virtually an oasis in an otherwise dry and nearly treeless terrain. Noteworthy is the fact that the only known Kansas specimen of the

Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*), another species of the far southwest, has been collected in Meade County State Park.

Also in 1963, on January 7, a Harris Hawk was found dead near Hunter, Lincoln County, in north-central Kansas, many miles from Meade County. According to Mr. J. R. Zuvanich (personal communication) the specimen was later turned over to Fort Hays Kansas State College at Hays, Kansas, by Mr. Gary Heskett.

These observations were made under joint research studies being conducted by the University of Oklahoma and Kansas State Teachers College and financed by the National Institutes of Health (Project AI 05232-01). — DAVID F. PARMELEE, *Biology Department, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas*, and H. A. STEPHENS, *University of Oklahoma Medical Center, Oklahoma City, November 26, 1963*.

An Early Specimen of the Indigo Bunting from California.—There have been several recent reports of Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) collected in California (Cardiff, Condor, 53, 1951:100; Bleitz, Condor, 60, 1958:408; Williams, Condor, 63, 1961:341-342) as well as earlier sight records of the species for the state (Linsdale, Bird-Lore, 41, suppl. October, 1939:12; Seibert, Condor, 44, 1942:68-72). A record which has been overlooked is a specimen collected by Walter P. Taylor on April 11, 1908, at Mecca, Riverside County, and placed in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley (MVZ no. 811). The specimen, a male, was originally misidentified as a Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). Taylor also collected a Lazuli Bunting in the same general area on April 22 but apparently did not realize the significance of the plumage differences. The specimen of the Indigo Bunting shows the characteristic winter plumage of the species and comparison with other specimens of *Passerina cyanea* in the collection of the University of Michigan taken at about the same season reveals no indication of hybridization with *Passerina amoena*.

This specimen antedates the first record of the species for Arizona (Swarth, Condor, 20, 1918:20-24), which at the time it was collected was considered to be the most western record of the species. A later specimen taken in Arizona in 1930 was reported by Huey (Condor, 33, 1931:129) as a new species for Arizona, but this distinction belongs to the Swarth specimen.

I wish to thank Ned K. Johnson of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley and Harrison B. Tordoff of the Museum of Zoology in Ann Arbor for making the *Passerina* collections in their respective institutions available to me. — WILLIAM L. THOMPSON, *Department of Biology, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, October 30, 1963*.

Ringed Parakeets Nesting in Los Angeles, California.—Ringed Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) have seemingly nested since about 1956 in a deserted woodpecker nest cavity in a utility pole near the corner of Armadale Avenue and Charters Avenue in Los Angeles, California. The species, according to Peters (Check-list of Birds of the World, vol. 3, 1937:242-243), ranges naturally from Africa to China, five races being recognized. Subspecific identity of the birds here in question was not determined. Since the species is popular with aviculturists, I believe that the birds in the Los Angeles area are escapes. The breeding attempt in spring, 1963, was abortive and the eight eggs that were collected proved infertile. They are now in the collection of the Moore Laboratory of Zoology.

The parakeets were first reported to me by Mr. Benjamin Rose, an employee at Occidental College. Mr. Rose's sister had noticed the birds in the spring and summer of 1962 and was interested in their identity and status in the avifauna. I visited the locality, three blocks from Occidental College, in October of 1963, a season when the birds were not present. The pole containing the nest cavity is located about 150 feet up a steep incline of Charters Avenue east of Armadale Avenue and is about 50 feet tall. The deserted nest cavity, probably that of a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*), is located near the top of the pole about 18 inches below the entrance, and it is about six inches in diameter.

Mrs. P. P. Becker of 4773 Baltimore Street informed me that she had been observing the parakeets at this location for eight years, that there had been in past years as many as six to eight birds in a flock, and that a pair of them regularly raised young birds in the utility pole. Without knowledge of the size of the clutch that I had removed from the cavity in 1963, she informed me that she had once noted eight young birds being fed by the parents on a wire cable attached to the