

stated that the temperature during the preceding night had been relatively low for the area, varying from 37° to 38° F. and that the entire flock of swifts was on the wing within two hours after sunrise.

Unfortunately, Mr. Dragicevich was not equipped to take any body temperatures of the roosting swifts, nor were any specimens saved. He did, however, take several excellent photographs of the roosting swifts, thus providing proof that migrant swifts will resort to arboreal roosts of this type.—KENNETH E. STAGER, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, May 29, 1964.*

Galápagos Finch Captured in Flight by Laughing Gull.—At about 8 a.m. on March 2, 1964, the California Maritime Academy's Training Ship, the "Golden Bear," carrying the members of the Galápagos International Scientific Project, entered the mouth of the Río Guayas, Ecuador, en route to the port of Guayaquil. At 8:30 a.m., George A. Bartholomew and I were watching the shores, the floating debris on the river, and the birds flying astern and around the ship. Most of the birds in the immediate vicinity of the ship were Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*); perhaps fifty of them were within 100 feet of the stern of the vessel.

Several dozen living Galápagos finches were in cages on the deck just above us, part of a group being taken to the United States by Robert I. Bowman for continuation of his studies of their vocal behavior. As we stood at the port rail slightly astern of mid-ship on the boat deck, we saw a Darwin finch fly away from the ship from above our heads. The bird flew as though ill or greatly fatigued toward the northern shore about a quarter of a mile away. Simultaneously with sighting the finch, we saw three Laughing Gulls swoop from a higher level and give chase to the small bird. Their pursuit was deliberate and relentless. They forced the finch lower and lower, with first one gull and then another dashing directly at it from above or from one side. On the fourth or fifth attack, the leading gull grasped the finch, gave it a quick, snapping shake, and within four or five seconds had swallowed it!

The predatory gulls swung back toward the ship, the one that had swallowed the finch slightly trailing the others and giving several shakes of its head. The entire episode occupied no more than thirty or forty seconds, during which time the finch had been forced from a height of approximately thirty feet to about two feet above the water.

Dr. Bartholomew and I at once inquired of Dr. Bowman about the security of his cages and within a few minutes learned that Stephen Billeb, one of Bowman's assistants, had tried to transfer the bird from one cage to another because it seemed ill. The finch (*Camarhynchus parvulus*) had unexpectedly struggled when removed from the cage and slipped from Billeb's grasp. Its evasive maneuvers were sluggish, so it may have been hampered by its illness, thus making capture by the gull easier than normal, although all members of this group of finches fly weakly.—IRA L. WIGGINS, *Division of Systematic Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, California, May 1, 1964.*

Black Hawk Nesting in Utah.—On May 4, 1962, the senior author flushed a black hawk from a dead mammal on the highway southwest of Springdale, Washington County, Utah. The hawk flew to a cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) along the North Fork of the Virgin River, east of the highway. It allowed a close approach, and a careful study showed it to be a Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*); the distinctive shape, broad white band on the tail, and the white spots near the ends of the wings were noted when it flew. The tree in which the hawk alighted contained a large nest, and the hawk was seen again in the vicinity of this nest on May 8. On May 24, Carter observed a Black Hawk perched on a pole near the North Fork of the Virgin River, about two miles southwest of Springdale. Another Black Hawk flew in and alighted on the back of the first individual; it maintained this position for about two minutes, and then both birds flew away. A Black Hawk was seen in the Springdale area on May 28. No records were obtained during June, but on July 12, two Black Hawks were flushed from a cottonwood on the west side of the river and in the same locality where they had been observed on May 24; the cottonwood contained a large nest. The last record of the Black Hawk in the Springdale area in 1962 was one seen in a

stand of cottonwoods in Parunuweap Canyon, opposite the pioneer settlement of Shunesburg, on July 26. Although Black Hawks were seen in the vicinity of two nests in 1962, it was not determined whether these nests were being used.

The weather during March, 1963, was cool with a mean temperature of 47.7° in Zion Canyon; temperatures were also below normal in April with a mean of 54.2°. Although the cottonwoods had started to leaf out by late March, snow fell in the area on April 17. In 1963, Carter first saw a Black Hawk on April 9 at the "Fish Pond" on the south side of Springdale. In the morning of April 15, Wauer flushed a single Black Hawk from cottonwoods near the south boundary of Zion National Park; it flew up Zion Canyon and was also observed by Carl E. Jepson. In the afternoon, two Black Hawks were seen by the authors south of Springdale. It is assumed that the single bird found in the morning was one of the two seen in the afternoon. On April 18, Wauer photographed two Black Hawks south of Springdale. These photographs, submitted to the editorial office of *The Condor*, verify the identification. Carter found a Black Hawk sitting on a nest (the same one that was located on July 12, 1962) in a cottonwood along the North Fork of the Virgin River, about two miles southwest of Springdale, on May 13. The nest consisted of cottonwood twigs and was in a crotch near the top of the tree, about 40 feet above the ground. A Black Hawk was again seen on the nest on June 4. On June 14, Allegra Collister, Nancy Hurley, Lois Webster, and Carter observed one Black Hawk in the nesting locality. The last Black Hawk record for 1963 was of a bird seen in the vicinity of the nest on June 24. The nest appeared to be deserted at that time, and its contents were not determined. When first seen in April, the hawks allowed a fairly close approach by observers, but they became increasingly wary.

Mr. George K. Lewis, who lives across the river from where the active nest was located, noted the Black Hawks during the spring and summer of both 1962 and 1963 and correctly identified them. Mr. Lewis believes that the Black Hawk was also in the Springdale area in 1961.

According to the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (5th ed., 1957:112), the Black Hawk breeds from central Arizona south. Monson and Phillips (*A Checklist of the Birds of Arizona*, 1964:16) state that the Black Hawk is a regular summer resident as far northwest as the Big Sandy drainage (about 160 air line miles from Springdale); they also list sight records from Cataract Canyon (Havasupai) and near Parker.

In the Springdale area, the North Fork of the Virgin River is bordered with cottonwoods. Desert shrubs, primarily sand sagebrush (*Artemisia filifolia*) and black-brush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*) occur on the dry hillsides, back from the river. The locality resembles cottonwood-bordered streams where the Black Hawk has been found nesting in southern Arizona, as at Patagonia. Several species of birds reach the northern edge of their breeding range at Springdale and Zion National Park. They include Costa Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), Lucy Warbler (*Vermivora luciae*) and Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*).

The records of the Black Hawk obtained at Springdale in 1962 and 1963 are the only known records of this species for Utah. This species should be looked for along cottonwood-bordered streams in other localities north of its Arizona range.—DENNIS L. CARTER and ROLAND H. WAUER, *Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah, March 30, 1964.*

Heermann Gull in Nevada.—On June 19, 1961, an adult Heermann Gull (*Larus heermanni*) was observed on Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge, Pyramid Lake, Washoe County, Nevada. The bird was watched closely and photographed (fig. 1) over a period of several hours by the authors.

The presence of this species in an area so far removed from its normal haunts is remarkable, but in addition the bird was seen defending a territory. It was found in the midst of a large colony of California Gulls (*Larus californicus*) and returned to the same spot each time it was disturbed. Approaching California Gulls were driven off in determined fashion. There was no evidence of a second bird, but it seems highly probable that nesting would have occurred had a suitable mate been available.

There was no mistaking the bird with its blood-red bill and white head shading to dark gray on the back and wings. Its tail and legs were black.