

sizes the importance of studying intraspecific variation as illustrated by new data on Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).

During visits to 20 nests at Foster's Island, Seattle, Washington, in May and June 1965, I examined a total of 58 live nestlings from hatching to approximately five days of age. Four young from two of the nests had exceptional natal downs on the interscapular region of the spinal tract (pterylographic terminology of Wetherbee, *op. cit.*, pp. 347). In one of these nests one of the two young possessed more than five interscapular natal downs. At the other nest of four young, two exhibited only one natal down in the interscapular region, while a third had more than five. The other 54 young at Seattle lacked downs in the interscapular region. In addition, Wetherbee (*op. cit.*) examined 10 preserved Red-winged Blackbirds of similar ages from the eastern and central United States and did not find any natal downs on the interscapular region. Indeed, on the basis of Wetherbee's survey it appears that interscapular natal downs have not previously been reported for any species of the family Icteridae.

Furthermore, Wetherbee reported absence of natal downs on the manus in Red-winged Blackbirds, but very small downs were present in this region on each of the three nestlings examined for this purpose in Seattle.

Only a single unattached natal down was seen among all the nestlings at Seattle, but dislodged downs could readily be blown away or overlooked by an observer. Nevertheless, since I could confirm the presence and quantity of interscapular downs as much as five days after initial observation, it appears likely that most of the intraspecific variation of 0-5 days of age was due to differences in normal prehatching development rather than posthatching adventitious loss.

As the nestlings examined for natal pterylosis were also used for ecological studies, collecting specimens for sexing was not practical. However, the infrequent occurrence of the exceptional natal downs of the interscapular region indicates that they are probably not a secondary sexual characteristic.

The exceptional interscapular downs are possibly correlated with hatching relatively early in the season, but additional data are needed to confirm this point. The two nests containing the four exceptional birds were among four nests with young hatching during the first week of a hatching period which exceeded six weeks for the entire 20 nests. Although no accurate counts of total numbers of downs were possible under field conditions, rough counts on three birds hatched in the first week indicated that the one having extra downs in the interscapular region also had a greater number of natal downs on the entire body. It is thus possible that the presence of interscapular natal downs is indicative of a higher total number of natal downs. If the relatively sparse natal downs of such young passerines serve in insulation, birds hatched in cooler weather earlier in the season might gain a potential selective advantage in possessing additional natal downs.

Although natal pterylosis may sometimes serve as a useful taxonomic character in passerine classification, the accumulating data of the present and previously cited studies indicate that in many cases only relatively large samples will reveal the extent of normal variation within a single passerine species. In addition to geographic variation (see Burckhardt, *op. cit.*), there may also be variations within a single locality or even a single nest as exemplified in the interscapular region of the Seattle population. Future studies on intraspecific variation in passerine natal pterylosis should consider possible seasonal variation within local populations.

Gordon H. Orians gave valuable information on the Red-winged Blackbirds at Seattle.—
GEORGE A. CLARK, JR., *Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06268, 12 July 1966.*

Cassin's Kingbird and Plumbeous Solitary Vireo in the White Mountains of California.—The avifauna of the eastern part of California is poorly known compared with that of other parts of the state. The White Mountains in Inyo and Mono counties were, in fact, themselves poorly known until 1954, when a party from the University of California at Berkeley added several species to the list known to breed there (Miller and Russell, *Condor*, 58:75-77, 1956). Our casual observations there indicate that much remains to be learned of the avifauna of this region. The following two species have not previously been reported from the White Mountains.

Tyrannus vociferans. Cassin's Kingbird. We first discovered three individuals of this species, apparently members of a family group, at Deep Springs, Inyo County, on 15 July 1962, after hearing their distinctive vocalizations. McCaskie saw a pair there on 14 July 1963, and we saw at least six individuals, including a pair building a nest, on 10 and 11 June 1964; DeBenedictis saw this pair apparently feeding young and discovered a second pair's nest on 28 June 1964. We saw at least five individuals there on 29 and 30 May 1965. At Oasis, Mono County, Richard Stallcup saw an individual on 24 August 1963, and we saw another bird on 10 and 11 June 1964. DeBenedictis watched an individual in the same area attempting to pull a length of string from a tree top on 28 June 1964, and McCaskie saw two birds on 22 August 1964. In eastern California this species is not otherwise known to breed north of the Providence Mountains, San Bernardino County (Grinnell and Miller, Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 27, p. 250, 1944), 200 miles to the south, but "vagrants" have been reported from Death Valley, Inyo County (Wauer, Condor, 64:231, 1962).

At both Deep Springs and Oasis this species was found in otherwise arid *Artemesia* flats together with the more numerous Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*, in cottonwoods (*Populus* sp.) growing along irrigation ditches near ranch buildings. We were impressed by an apparent spacing of the two species in this linear habitat, particularly pronounced in 1962 and 1964. Cassin's Kingbirds were located in the same section of the ranch plantings in all four years. At Deep Springs in 1962 we saw a Cassin's Kingbird chase a Western Kingbird a short distance; the chase ended when the two birds landed about a foot apart in a small tree. In 1964 the Cassin's Kingbirds were localized in an area not occupied by Western Kingbirds, although the latter had been found there in other years; after two Cassin's Kingbirds apparently disappeared between 11 and 28 June, their favorite perch, a net in a tennis court, was occupied by a pair of Western Kingbirds. In 1965 the two species were much intermixed, and little territorial behavior of any sort was evident. At Oasis, Cassin's Kingbirds were usually seen in the same trees with Western Kingbirds. Hesperheide (Wilson Bull., 76:265-281, 1965) reported that these species are not interspecifically territorial in southeastern Arizona but suggested that intraspecific territoriality may be confined to the vicinity of the nest. Our casual observations also give us this impression but suggest that in some areas, perhaps where nest sites are at a premium, these two species may be as interspecifically territorial as they are intraspecifically territorial.

Vireo solitarius plumbeus. Solitary Vireo. We discovered a singing male Solitary Vireo in piñon-juniper woodland near Westgard Pass, Inyo County, on 14 July 1962. McCaskie collected the bird (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology specimen no. 148200), and it was identified as this race by Ned K. Johnson. McCaskie heard a Solitary Vireo singing from similar habitat near this locality on 13 July 1963, and we heard two widely separated birds at about 6500-foot elevation in piñon-juniper along Wyman Creek in Inyo County on 10 June 1964. DeBenedictis and three others found a singing bird near Westgard Pass on 30 May 1965 and noted its gray back and flanks from distances as close as 10 feet. Solitary Vireos are not known to breed in the White Mountains. As the avifauna of the White Mountains has clear affinities with that of the Great Basin (Miller and Russell, *op. cit.*), the eventual discovery that *V. s. plumbeus* breeds there would not be at all surprising. The only other report of this race from California is of a migrant taken on 26 November 1960 near Needles, San Bernardino County (Cardiff, Condor, 61:534, 1963).—PAUL DEBENEDICTIS, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*, and R. GUY MCCASKIE, *San Diego, California*.

Turkey Vulture Migration in Veracruz, México.—At 0900 hours, 27 March 1966, we observed a large migrating flock of Turkey Vultures, *Cathartes aura*, 30 miles south of Tecolutla, Veracruz, México, on highway 125. The flock was estimated to consist of several thousand individuals including several unidentified hawks. The flock, about three miles in length, was linearly oriented in a broad band with the birds spiraling and constantly drifting north. A photograph taken of a segment of the flock passing overhead shows 160 vultures. Other flocks, with up to 200 birds, were seen on the horizon. This major flight seemed to be part of a general migration