

ing the known breeding attempt. I have no records of the same nest being used in successive years, but in 1974 a pair of Merlins nested 1.8 km from an unsuccessful 1973 nest site. In 1972 I observed an adult male calling and circling at the same location where in 1973 the adult female was found dead by the nest.

In eight breeding attempts (table 1), at least 20 young hatched and 15 fledged. Three nests failed altogether. These productivity figures are relatively low when compared with pre-pesticide estimates for Great Plains Merlins (Fox 1971) and recent data from Newfoundland (Temple 1972b), but they resemble recent data from the Canadian prairies (Fox 1971, pers. comm.).

Three eggs that failed to hatch from a clutch which fledged one young were submitted to the Denver Wildlife Research Center for determination of organochlorine residues. The mean residue levels (wet weight basis) were DDE 9.40 ppm, dieldrin 0.80 ppm, and heptachlorepoxyde 0.56 ppm. Polychlorinated biphenyls and toxaphene were not detected at a 0.05 ppm level of sensitivity. These residues represent moderate contamination and are sufficient to induce significant shell thinning and reduced hatching success (Fox pers. comm.). Fox (1971) and Temple (1972b) reported that Merlins currently lay thinner-shelled eggs, hatch fewer young, and produce fewer fledglings than in the pre-pesticide era.

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THE MISSISSIPPI KITE IN ARIZONA: A SECOND RECORD

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Although the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) is generally considered a resident of the south-central and southeastern United States, there have been two recent records of this species from the Southwest—a casual record for New Mexico (Hubbard, *New Mexico Ornithol. Soc. Publ. No. 3*, 1970) and a breeding locality in Arizona (Levy, *Condor* 73:476, 1971). Levy's record of an estimated 10 nesting pairs in riparian habitat in southeastern Arizona on the San Pedro River, near Winkelman, was the first for the species in Arizona.

On 15 June 1970, along the Verde River near Camp Verde, Yavapai County, Arizona, Bill Burbridge, a ranger at Coconino National Forest, confiscated an adult female kite from a boy who had been shooting. The specimen was deposited in the collection of the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff (Z8.2949). Dissection indicated that the bird was breeding, for a fully developed egg was found in the lower portion (shell gland) of the oviduct. The ovaries were massive, with the largest single ovum measuring 5 × 5 mm. Total length of the bird was 364 mm and the wing chord was 302 mm. The weight was 307.3 g.

On 21 June 1973, Becky Daltroff and Peggy Whit-

man observed two more adult kites less than 200 m from where the above specimen was confiscated. Again, on 3 July 1973, in the same area, Chris Norman saw one adult kite.

The specimen and the other two sightings were from an area that contains dense stands of cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*). Previous studies (Carothers and Johnson, A summary of the Verde Valley breeding bird survey, 1971. Arizona Game and Fish Dept. Land and Water Project Invest., Verde River, 1972) have shown that the cottonwood stand within which the breeding female was taken contained 95 trees/acre, with an average tree height of 20 ft. The specimen and the sight records reported here suggest the possibility of two pairs of kites nesting in this portion of the Verde River.

Levy (1971) questioned whether kites had always been resident in Arizona but in such low densities as to be overlooked, or whether they were relatively recent immigrants to the State. We believe they are recent immigrant but might become more numerous if there is no further loss of riparian habitat. Since 1968, we have been studying avian populations along the major river drainages in the central and northern portions of Arizona (see Carothers et al., *Am. Zool.* 14:97-108, 1974). We have no records of kites prior to the observations reported here, and although we searched for them during 1974, we saw none in the Verde Valley.

Levy (1971) expressed concern for the survival of the species in Arizona because its preferred nesting habitat along the San Pedro River would have been eliminated by a scheduled phreatophyte control project. Much of the riparian vegetation in the Verde

Valley had been subjected to the bulldozers of water salvage and flood control agencies as early as 1967. However, the recent records show that sufficient habitat remains in some areas of the Verde Valley to attract breeding kites. Whether or not the valley will become a regular breeding area for the Mississippi Kite, only time and future investigations will tell.

EXTENSION OF THE BREEDING RANGE OF THE BLACK OYSTER-CATCHER IN ALASKA

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Black Oystercatchers (*Haematopus bachmani*) breed along the Pacific coast of Alaska from the Aleutians, around the Gulf of Alaska, south into Baja California, Mexico (A.O.U. 1957, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). Hanna (1920) reported the taking of an adult Black Oystercatcher during January, 1917 on St. George Island, Pribilof Islands. Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) stated that this was the only record north of the Aleutians. Subsequent workers on the Pribilof Islands (Kenyon and Phillips 1965, Sladen 1966), on St. Lawrence Island (Fay and Cade 1959, Sealy et al. 1971, Johnson 1974), and in Bristol Bay (Brina Kessel pers. comm.) reported no additional observations of Black Oystercatchers.

On 15 July 1974, during a boat census of the Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) on Round Island, Bristol Bay, Alaska (58°36'N, 159°54'W), I saw two adult Black Oystercatchers on the intertidal rocks of the eastern portion of the Island. I visited the same place by foot two days later and found two adult Black Oystercatchers feeding two flightless young. One adult stayed with the chicks while the other foraged among the intertidal rocks, up to 50 m away. The foraging adult periodically returned to the young and fed them snails, apparently of the genus *Littorina*. Comparison of this feeding behavior and the plumage characters of the young with the descriptions of Webster (1941) indicated that the young were less than 5 days old.

I again visited this site on 20 and 21 July 1974 and each time I found the two adults and the two chicks together within 75 m of the original location. At these times the young were following the adults among the intertidal rocks.

These observations of flightless young extend the breeding range of Black Oystercatchers in Alaska approximately 350 km north into Bristol Bay.

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Helix during its Bering Sea 1974 cruise under the leadership of Francis H. Fay. These observations were made while conducting walrus research supported by the Office of Naval Research Grant N00014 67 A 01630010 to G. Carleton Ray and Douglas Wartok. I thank Caryn Fitch-Eley, Karl W. Kenyon, Brina Kessel, and W. J. L. Sladen for their comments and suggestions on the manuscript, and Mary Mix for typing assistance.

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