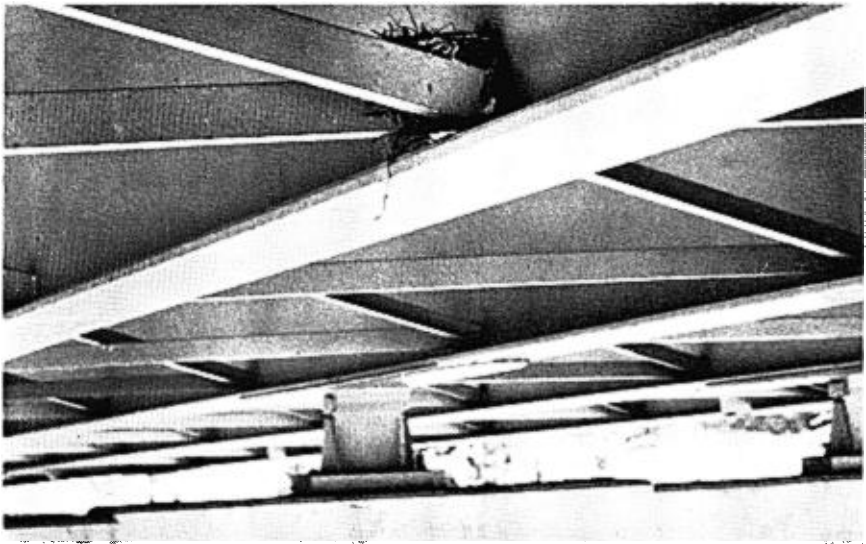


confusion. As a result they try to alight in the street. In attempting to alight on the concrete pavement, they fly into the adjacent buildings, nearby bluffs, telephone poles and wires, trees, or other obstructions. Many ducks are stunned or killed. I estimated that of the ducks killed during the storm of October 25 about 75 per cent were Red-heads (*Aythya americana*), 10 per cent Mallards, and the remainder Scaups (*Aythya* sp.), Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*), and Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*).—A. W. SCHORGER., *Department of Wildlife Management, University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 29, 1951.*

Mourning Dove nests in unusual site.—On July 14, 1950, Charles C. Carpenter, David E. Delzell, John D. Goodman, and I observed an adult Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) on a nest which appeared unusually large for this species. After flushing the



bird I noticed that the nest containing two eggs was built on top of an empty Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) nest which apparently was at least a year old.

The nest was partly between and partly on top of two steel bracing beams, one horizontal and one upward diagonal, where they met the vertical side of a main steel support beam under a concrete highway bridge across Alvin Creek about five miles southeast of Delaware, Ohio.

Reports of Mourning Doves building nests near or over water and their use of old Robin nests as supports are frequent in the literature, but this Phoebe-like situation appears unusual to me.—H. LEWIS BATTIS, JR., *Biology Department, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan, September 6, 1951.*

Breeding status of the White-necked Raven in Kansas.—Although the White-necked Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*) was alleged to have disappeared from Kansas many years ago (see A.O.U. Check-List, 1931, p. 226; Long, 1940. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 43:448; and Goodrich, 1946. *Rpt. Kansas State Bd. Agric.*, 44, No. 267:247) this bird is

now a fairly common nesting resident on the high wheatland plains of western Kansas. Richard and Jean Graber (1950. *Wilson Bulletin*, 62:207) reported these birds in Hamilton and Kearny counties in the spring of 1950.

During the nesting season of 1951, I observed forty-six nests of this species in 14 western Kansas counties and was told that they nested in still another county. The number of nests observed in each county is as follows: Cheyenne, 3; Ford, ?; Finney, 12; Greeley, 1; Hamilton, 4; Haskell, 3; Hodgeman, 4; Kearny, 2; Rawlins, 1; Scott, 6; Sherman, 5; Stanton, 1; Thomas, 2; Wallace, 1; Wichita, 1.

In this area the nest is distinctive in that it is made almost entirely of wire mixed with a few coarse weed stems and lined with sheep wool. This nest almost invariably is placed in the open away from streams, wooded areas, and human dwellings. Twenty-one of the nests observed were in windmill towers, five were on highline or telephone poles, and the remaining twenty were in isolated trees. They varied from six to fifty feet in height above the ground. The first nest containing eggs was observed March 31; it contained four eggs.

Because White-necked Ravens closely resemble crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) in many of their habits and actions, they are called crows by the local inhabitants. The differences between the two birds can be detected in the field by close observation. The ravens are somewhat larger than crows and their wingbeat is slower. The call is a hoarse *kraak* instead of a high-pitched *caw*. In the hand, White-necked Ravens are easily distinguished from crows by the white basal portions of the feathers of the neck, lower throat, and breast in the former. Further, the raven's bill is more massive and wider at the base.

Young White-necked Ravens, when nearly fledged, sit conspicuously on the edge of the nest and are often shot by gunners.—MARVIN D. SCHWILLING, *Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission*, 310 Washington St., Garden City, Kansas, October 19, 1951.

***Pendulinus* a prior name for nectar-adapted orioles.**—Both Melvyn A. Traylor, Jr. and Kenneth C. Parkes have called my attention to an error on my part in designating *Bananivorus* Bonaparte, 1853 (type, by orig. desig., *Oriolus bonana* Linn.), as the first available generic name for the nectar-adapted orioles (Beecher, *Wilson Bull.*, 62:51-86). *Pendulinus* Vieillot, 1816 (type, by subsequent desig., *Oriolus spurius* Linn.), is clearly a prior name. It was not until long after I had fixed upon the availability of *Bananivorus* for the nectar-adapted line of orioles that I realized *spurius* belonged in it. The shift was made without focusing attention on the fact that it called for a change in the generic name.—WILLIAM J. BEECHER, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois, December 11, 1951.*