

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Biological Sciences

♦ ♦

NOTES ON THE FURTHER EXTENSION IN RANGE OF THE AMERICAN MAGPIE IN THE OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE

R. C. Tate, Kenton, Oklahoma

Since my report in Volume XXIX, Number 5, pages 244-45 of *The Condor* for September-October, 1927, on the American Magpie In The Oklahoma Panhandle, I have devoted considerable time and attention to the study of these interesting birds and it has lately been suggested to me that something further might be said, at this time, regarding the increase in numbers of the colonies of northwest Cimarron county.

At the time of my report in *The Condor* there was one colony of the birds, numbering twenty-two or twenty-three members located on the A. L. Brookhart ranch in Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 3 E. C. M., Cimarron county, and approximately twenty miles east of the Oklahoma-New Mexico line and three miles south of the Colorado-Oklahoma boundary. Other colonies were encountered two years ago in Section 31, Township 5 North, Range 2 E. C. M., where nine or ten individuals were counted and four nests observed; another was found in Section 5, Township 4 North, Range 2 E. C. M., with fourteen individuals and six nests. Then this season, 1932, still another colony numbering seven individuals and two nests was found in Section 26, Township 5 North, Range 1 E. C. M., and another of seventeen birds, both adult and young, and five nests in Section 12, Township 5 North, Range 1 E. C. M., and on October 2, 1932, the writer in company with Dr. George Sutton of Pebble Heaths, West Virginia, and Mr. J. Bertram Semple of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, who were making a collection of birds in the Kenton area of Cimarron county for the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh, visited Sections 9 and 10 in Township 5 North, Range 2 E. C. M., and Dr. Sutton collected a specimen of this bird from a flock of twenty-five or six and observed some seven or eight nests in a grove of large cottonwood trees. The writer counted twenty-two besides the one collected by Dr. Sutton, which was a female in beautiful winter plumage and there were two or three others which were seen by Dr. Sutton that escaped the writer's observation.

In addition to the colonies above mentioned another has been added to my list within the past ten days by discovering a small group of eleven individuals and two nests in a clump of pinyons one mile southeast of Kenton in Section 15, Township 5 North, Range 1 E. C. M., and from this location three of the birds have visited the yards of dwellings along the south edge of the town twice within the past week, November 22, 1932.

When we stop to consider that in 1927 only one colony of these birds, that of twenty-two or three individuals was known to be in all of Cimarron county, the increase in numbers and extension of the boundaries of their range in the area, is a matter of considerable interest to all students of western bird life.