

146, 1929). The adult that was flushed from the nest ran away while performing a "broken wing" display. The nest and the birds were in flat to slightly rolling terrain, with sparse, overgrazed, shrubby vegetation interspersed with bare areas. The nearest water was over 4.5 km away. Since each of the 3 sightings of adult plovers were over 1 km apart, it is possible that 3 different nesting birds were observed. This is especially likely, since only one adult attends each nest (Graul, *Living Bird* 12:69-94, 1973). Photographs of the nest and associated bird are in the National Photoduplicate File, Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, MD 20810 (numbers 281-1Ta and 281-1Tb, respectively).

The only record that I can find that might suggest breeding by the Mountain Plover in a similar biocation is a bird seen in northwestern Utah in Box Elder Co., on 27-28 June 1929 (Bent, op. cit.). In addition, Bent reports breeding records for Fort Bridger, Wyoming, and the Pahsimeroi Valley, Idaho. Authoritative sources that I have read or contacted show no recent summer records in these areas, or in adjacent parts of Colorado. In Arizona, the only summer record is of several flocks seen in August near Springerville (Phillips et al., *The birds of Arizona*, Univ. Arizona Press, 1964), but these may well have been migrants, since Walter D. Graul (pers. comm.) found that fall flocks sometimes form in mid-July on his Colorado study area.

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The nesting site of the Northern Oriole in Amherst, Massachusetts.—During the winter of 1965-66, we collected quantitative and qualitative data on the nest sites selected by the Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) in Amherst, Massachusetts (Graf, Senior Honors thesis, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1966). Data on nest tree species, ground cover beneath the nest, and the nest height are reported in this note.

An intensive effort was made to locate all oriole nests visible from roads within the town boundaries. After leaf-fall (during October and November 1965) an open convertible automobile was used to survey roadsides for oriole nests. Species of tree used for nesting and the nature of the ground beneath the nest were recorded at each nest. Height of the nest tree, and nest height were recorded at a random sample of 70 nest locations taken from 143 nests initially located (6 more nests were found later). A Haga altimeter and 12 × 50 binoculars were used to gather most of the data.

Most of the 149 nests found were in elm (*Ulmus americanus*, 66%) or sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*, 23%). There was a significant difference in frequency of species of trees selected for nesting (χ^2 , $p \leq .05$, 1 df). Nests were also found in red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), apple (*Malus* spp.), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), weeping willow (*Salix* spp.), black willow (*Salix nigra*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) and lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* var. *italica*). One elm included 3 nests and 8 elms had 2 nests. In an extension of this study in 1966 and 1967 Pank (M.S. thesis, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1974) found similar distribution of species of nest trees and a statistically significant difference between the frequency of species selected for nesting and the frequency of occurrence of roadside tree species. American elm was selected more frequently, and sugar maple and other species, less frequently than expected.

The height of oriole nests above the ground ranged from 4.5 to 22 m in the random sample of 70 nest sites. In elms, the nest height ranged from 4.5 to 21 m (mean = 10.6 ± 0.5 m) while in sugar maple, nest height ranged from 8.5 to 22 m (mean = 13.0 ± 1 m). The difference in nest height between the elms and sugar maples was not significant (χ^2 , $p < .05$). Nest tree height varied from 12.7 to 29 m in the random sample of 70 nest sites. The height of elms varied from 15 to 27 m (mean = 20.1 ± 0.5 m) while sugar maple height ranged from 12.7 to 29 m (mean = 19.4 ± 1.2 m).

The ground cover beneath the nest (based on the 70 random sample nest locations) included: 34% lawns, but nests occurred over paved road-surface almost as often (28%). Nests were built over grazed pastures, road shoulders and uncut grass less frequently. Among the miscellaneous habitats found below nests were a dirt road, a road shoulder adjoining a cornfield, a cultivated field, a lightly grazed pasture with shrubs, and a secondary forest stand of red maple (12–15 m tall).

Results of our studies confirm that Northern Orioles tend to select elms to nest in more frequently than other species of trees in which they were seen to nest. It did not appear that Northern Orioles had selected nesting sites on the basis of the surface below them although any nests in a roadside sample of this kind would have a high probability of occurring over rather open surfaces such as road surfaces and lawns.—RUDOLPH L. GRAF, Box 450, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Madison, 53701; and FREDERICK GREELEY, Dept. of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, 01002. Accepted 9 Feb. 1976. Page costs paid.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

ALEXANDER WETMORE RESEARCH FUND

The American Ornithologists' Union has announced the formation of an Alexander Wetmore Research Fund for the support of research in avian systematics, zoogeography, and palaeornithology to which all who have known Dr. Wetmore or admired his great contribution to ornithology are invited to contribute. All money received will be handled as endowment and the income distributed annually in the form of grants-in-aid to applicants in these fields by our Committee on Research Awards, which also administers the Van Tyne awards. This is a great opportunity to join in honoring Dr. Wetmore and to contribute to one of the A.O.U.'s most worthy activities. Please send your checks, marked "Wetmore Fund," to Dr. John A. Wiens, Treasurer, Department of Zoology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.