

fied. The species is also included in a list of plants of the Kingston region (Beschel et al. 1970) but the record is based on specimens from the New York side of the St. Lawrence. The species is not included either in Soper's (1949) list of the Vascular Plants of Southern Ontario or in the more recent accounts of the flora of Norfolk County (Landon 1960 and Cruise 1969) or in Boivin's Enumeration of the plants of Canada (1966). Nor does it appear in recent floras for other regions of Canada. Hence the present record is apparently the first authenticated report of the existence of *Trichostema dichotomum* in Canada.

*Trichostema dichotomum* flowers late in the year; it was only in bud in early August. It is an annual species of dry open, usually sandy places, and its distribution in the United States extends northwards to the shores of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. Hence its discovery in an area such as that in Norfolk County is not unexpected. The species extends south and west to Florida, Texas and Michigan.

This record from Norfolk County is supported by the following voucher specimens in the University of Waterloo herbarium: Morton and Venn s.n. and Montgomery 3719.

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## Nesting of the Black Swift at Johnston's Canyon, Alberta

There are few published observations of the nesting of the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*) in Canada. In fact the only published records of nesting in Canada refer to nestings at Clinton and Vernon, British Columbia (Grant, 1966) and an old record for Johnston's Canyon, Alberta (Bent, 1964).

In late September of 1965 the author visited Johnston's Canyon and noticed several swift-like nests at two spots in the canyon. The canyon was revisited by the author and Allen Shoults on June 30 and July 1, 1966. On June 30 a few birds were sitting on nests but those that could be examined were empty. On the morning of July 1 the three nests that could be looked into each contained one egg. On July 1, 1967 the canyon was visited by the author, Jack Shier, and Allen Shoults. Again several swifts were seen sitting on

nests which proved to contain their characteristic complement of one egg each. The author and Harold Pinel checked the canyon in mid-July of 1970 and again several swifts were found sitting on nests. The author visited the canyon on July 29, 1972 and noted four nests with adults sitting on them, a considerable drop in numbers from previous years.

Although the above observations were quite casual and informal the following statements can be made. At least about half a dozen swifts regularly breed at Johnston's Canyon. This is an exceedingly conservative estimate since nests of this species are notoriously difficult to find and most of the canyon was not thoroughly checked due to the difficult terrain.

Laying of eggs occurs in the last few days of June and the first few days of July. This cor-



relates remarkably well with the time of egg laying in as southerly a latitude as California.

Although Chapman (*in* Bent, 1964) spoke of considerable mud being used in nest construction, the nests I observed were constructed entirely of plant material, especially mosses. In addition, all nests exposed to gusts of spray were surrounded by very noticeable green algal growth. The one nest that was not subject to gusts of spray had below it lichen growth (either *Xanthoria elegans* or a *Caloplaca* sp.).

Knorr (1961) listed the following characteristics of Black Swift nesting sites in Colorado: near water, usually falls and within reach of the spray; above surrounding terrain so that birds leaving nests are at feeding height; inaccessibility; darkness; and unobstructed flyways to and from the nesting sites. The nesting areas at Johnston's Canyon and the positions of the individual nests conform well with these characteristics.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the Johnston's Canyon swift nests is that they are

along a major, well used nature trail and can be seen by anyone using the trail. Yet, since the original discovery of nesting swifts here in 1919, no one has reported the nesting of this species here.

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## The Lichen *Cetraria idahoensis* Esslinger from Canada

**Abstract.** The lichen *Cetraria idahoensis* Esslinger is reported for the first time from Canada. The report is based on four collections from the Nelson Range of the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia.

Esslinger (1971) recently described a new lichen species which he called *Cetraria idahoensis*. The species is usually attached to the substrate only near the center, similar to the common genus *Platismatia* W. Culberson and C. Culberson, but is sometimes loosely appressed. The upper surface is ashy-gray and dotted with numerous black pycnidia; the lobes are rounded to sublinear and truncate; and the undersurface is erhizinate. Apothecia are usually very abundant, except in the loosely appressed specimens. Material found at elevations above 4,000 feet is of the latter form. The lichen superficially resembles the common *Platismatia* (formerly *Cetraria*) *glauca* (L.) W. Culberson and C. Culberson except for the lack of soredia and isidia, the usually abundant apothecia and pycnidia, and its more gray color.

The previously known distribution of the species included only the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington (Esslinger, 1971). While conducting research on caribou range in June 1972, I made four collections of the species in the Nelson Range of the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia; these collections represent the first report of the species from Canada.

Two collections, both appressed and without apothecia, were made in the *Abies lasiocarpa* — *Menziesia ferruginea* habitat type (Daubenmire and Daubenmire, 1968) at an altitude of approximately 5,000 feet. The other two collections are from an area, at an elevation of 2,900 feet, which lies between an unlogged stand of *Thuja plicata* and a cutover area now populated with predominantly *Larix occidentalis* and a scattering of *Pinus monticola*.

Thin-layer chromatography, using the three-solution method described by Culberson and Kristinsson (1970), confirmed the presence of atranorin and endocrocin in sample numbers





Kondla, Norbert G. 1973. "Nesting of the Black Swift at Johnson's Canyon Alberta." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 87(1), 64–65.

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