

numerous, the rising waters trapped hundreds of small rodents, as extensive necks of land became tiny islands. Here the herons gathered in large numbers and literally patrolled the area. Catching the rodents was a relatively simple matter. The heron would simply wade past a bush with its load of mice and kangaroo rats and leisurely pick them off one by one. The procedure used in catching the rodent was the same each time. There would be a swift strike of the head, the rodent would be tossed into the air and in a second it would disappear head first down the bird's throat. As the waters of Lake Mead continue to rise in the spring of 1939, similar scenes will no doubt be reenacted.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Boulder Dam Recreational Area, Nevada, September 1, 1938.*

**Audubon Warbler Nesting in Solano County, California.**—On May 29, 1938, J. Duncan Graham and I were searching for gnatcatcher nests in the hills near an artificial lake two miles north of Cordelia, Solano County, California. While we were watching an adult robin which was scolding us vociferously from the close proximity of its nest, we noted another nest in the background in an adjacent tree. Mr. Graham climbed to it and a female Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*) left the nest which held five young birds. These we judged were approximately five days old. The male, in full plumage, came to the nest repeatedly while we watched this interesting family.

The nest tree was a tall slender white oak, and the nest was about twenty-five feet up in a crotch formed by a limb branching from the main trunk. The nest was of very similar construction to those I have taken in the Sierra Nevada. It was composed of weed stems, and was plentifully lined with horse hairs and bird feathers. The young were gone on our next visit (June 5) and the nest was taken and placed in my collection. I believe this is the first record of this species nesting in the San Francisco Bay region.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, August 26, 1938.*

**Nesting of an Eastern Kingbird in a Deserted Oriole Nest.**—That certain birds appropriate deserted nests of other species is not particularly uncommon. However, the successful occupancy by an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) of a deserted hanging nest of a Bullock Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) is unusual.

Such an occurrence was observed by the writer, in company with E. R. Kalmbach and Clarence Sooter, at the Buena Vista Station, Malheur Migratory Bird Refuge in eastern Oregon on July 15, 1938. It was reported that the oriole had successfully reared its brood in its characteristic hanging nest. The nest was made of string, horsehair, and plant fiber, and was attached about 12 feet above the ground to some terminal and partly drooping branches of a cottonwood tree.

Shortly after the nest had been deserted by the oriole family, it was appropriated by a pair of Eastern Kingbirds. When observed by our party the nest had its full complement of four hungry pin-feathered young. Even though the nestlings were not much more than half grown, they appeared to fill the cup of the nest completely. Although eastern Oregon is just within the western limit of the range of the Eastern Kingbird, this species is rather common at the Malheur Migratory Bird Refuge.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D.C., September 2, 1938.*

**Inyo Screech Owl at Fallon, Nevada.**—On August 14, 1938, Mrs. Anna Bailey Mills, at her home 4 miles west of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada, showed me two mounted screech owls and consented to my taking them to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology for comparison. Mrs. Mills described these owls as fairly common on her ranch, and particularly in evidence in spring when they most often attract attention to themselves by their calls.

Both specimens were taken 4 miles west of Fallon, the male on December 8, 1937, and the other, judged by its larger size to be a female, at some earlier date. Measurements of these are, respectively, as follows: wing, 163 mm., 173; tail, 84, 88; culmen from cere, 13.4, 15.2. Comparisons with specimens of races from adjoining areas revealed greatest similarity to the type and three other winter-taken specimens of *Otus asio inyoensis* from Owens Valley, California. The birds from near Fallon, so far as I can see, differ importantly only in having more brownish color on the ruff and breast; they have, however, less brownish color than average individuals at hand of *O. a. macfarlanei* and *O. a. quercinus*, and of course much less prominent black markings.

The race *Otus asio inyoensis* seems not before to have been definitely recorded from Nevada, although Oberholser's (Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., vol. 27, 1937, p. 356) statement that "Specimens from Vernon and Jensen, northern Utah . . . referable to *Otus asio inyoensis* . . . indicate that the . . . subspecies extends over Nevada as far north as Fallon and east to northeastern Utah" suggests that he at least knew of the occurrence of screech owls near Fallon.—E. RAYMOND HALL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 25, 1938.*