

During this same period I saw a pair of Ground Doves fly over the highway between Fullerton and Anaheim, and another individual was accurately described from an orange grove in another part of Anaheim. Residents in the nesting area say they have seen as many as five birds, so it is possible there are other nesting pairs.—J. H. COMBY, *Whittier, California, March 11, 1953.*

**Record of the Water-thrush in Oakland, California.**—On September 6, 1953, while walking through Dimond Canyon, Oakland, California, I observed a Water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) feeding along the edge of the creek. The bird seemed quite unconcerned until approached to within twenty feet. It then flew to a nearby Bay Tree. Only once, while in the tree, did it utter an alarm note. It returned to the ground almost immediately and continued feeding in the company of a Song Sparrow. After several minutes, it became rather nervous and flew into a thicket. I did not see the bird again, nor was it seen again on a subsequent visit.—KENNETH SCHULZ, *Oakland, California, September 11, 1953.*

**A Census of Populations of the Wilson Snipe and Sora Rail in the Yampa River Valley, Colorado.**—During the spring and summer of 1953, breeding populations of the Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*) and the Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) were censused by the writer in conjunction with a waterfowl production study in the Yampa River Valley of Colorado. The Yampa Valley is a long narrow floodplain and canyon extending from headwaters on the White River Plateau to its confluence with the Green River in northwest Colorado. The valley varies from one-fourth mile in width in the canyons to about 10 miles in width shortly after its emergence onto the floodplain proper just southeast of Steamboat Springs. The water table along the entire non-canyon portion of the valley is high, and development of sedge and cattail marsh is extensive. This habitat, plus the oxbow and meandering stream areas, constitutes the waterfowl, snipe, and rail breeding grounds found in the region. The principal snipe and rail breeding grounds are situated at altitudes ranging from 6000 to 8000 feet.

Wilson Snipe were most frequently seen around flooded meadows, bogs, and willow swamps, apparently preferring the boglike areas containing dense growths of sedge (*Carex* sp.). Sora Rails were invariably found in the vicinity of small marshy areas vegetated with cattails (*Typha*) and bulrushes (*Scirpus*).

Table 1  
Territorial Snipe and Rails Observed on Study Areas

Area	Approximate elevation	Snipe		Rail breeding territories
		Breeding territories	Winnowing areas	
Stillwaters	9500	....	....	....
Phippsburg	7800	13	8	5
Steamboat Springs	6800	10	6	1
Tow Creek	6600	....	....	....
Carey Ranch	6400	8	4	5
Big Bottoms	6100	....	....	....
Duffey Mountain	5800	....	....	....
Juniper Springs	5700	....	....	1
Maybell	5600	1	2	....
Lily Park	5400	....	....	....
Total		32	20	12

Snipe were first observed in the valley in mid-April, but the greatest influx of birds was recorded in the first week of May. The first rails were seen on May 18, with the peak flight occurring early in June.

Winnowing flights of snipe were observed during May, June and July, the peak of activity being in June. Those winnowing flights during the early mornings were recorded in conjunction with waterfowl brood-counts. Territorial snipe and rails listed in table 1 were flushed as the observer walked through the study areas in search of waterfowl. Snipe or rails seen repeatedly in particular locations were recorded as territorial birds.

A snipe nest was found on June 5, and considerable numbers of young birds were seen during the breeding season. In August and early September snipe from individual breeding areas assembled in flocks of 20 to 60 birds in preparation for the fall migration.

Breeding populations of 20 snipe and 12 rails (table 1) were observed on the 10 study areas which constituted a randomized 10 per cent sample of the Yampa River Valley. Projection of these figures indicates total breeding populations of 200 snipe and 120 rails in the valley.—HAL M. BOEKER, *Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Colorado Agriculture and Mechanics College, Fort Collins, Colorado, September 9, 1953.*

**Notes on the Nesting of the Kestrel in Japan.**—On April 12, 1952, through the courtesy of Mr. Keisuke Kobayashi of Kobe and Mr. Yoshishiro Hosono of Nakano, Mr. Tokuzo Kojima and I were granted the privilege of visiting the only known nesting site in Japan of the Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus japonensis*). Since very little information has been recorded, either in Japanese or English, on the nesting of this species in Japan, I take this opportunity to present the data obtained from observations made by Mr. Hosono, and personal observations made at the nesting site by Mr. Kojima and myself.

A previous nesting record for Japan of this species is listed in the Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum (vol. 2, 1902:310) by Eugene W. Oates, as follows: "4 eggs, Yokohama, Japan (H. Pryer) Seebohm Collection." Seebohm, in his *Birds of the Japanese Empire* (1890:195), referring, apparently, to this same set, says "Eggs in the Pryer collection resemble those of the common form."

Mr. Kobayashi has in his personal collection three skins of nestlings taken on June 3, 1934, in Yamagata Prefecture, Honshu. According to him the collector is unknown, although advice gained from a friend of the collector indicated that the specimens were taken from a nest situated in a tree.

Kenji Shimomura of Tokyo is credited with having found a nest containing six eggs on April 9, 1942; it was located in an old nesting hole of the Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle lugubris*) excavated in clay cliffs along a river valley near Kyoboku-mura, Ina-gun, Nagano Prefecture, Honshu. The entrance of the nesting hole measured 15 centimeters in diameter and the hole was approximately 100 centimeters in depth.

These earlier breeding records, as far as I am aware, are the only ones that exist for Japan.

The nesting site which we visited on April 12, 1952, consists of a series of natural cavities and ledges worn in steep, conglomerate cliffs, locally referred to as Ju-san-gake (Thirteen Cliffs), along the Yamase River, approximately one mile northwest of Shinano-mura, Shimotakai-gun, Nagano Prefecture, on the main island of Honshu at an elevation of 1575 feet. The cliffs extend along the river for approximately one mile and average approximately 85 feet in height with a maximum height of 110 feet. Their summit supports a fairly heavy growth of small and medium-sized deciduous trees and vines, which in places overhang the vertical faces and appear to provide temporary perching spots for the Kestrels. The cliffs in some places rise directly from the water's edge, whereas at other points they are located approximately 1000 feet distant, dependent upon the course of the stream within its broad bed. In many places the base of the cliffs is concealed by fairly large talus slopes, sparsely covered by small deciduous trees and brush, and extending up the sides of the vertical face of the cliffs to a height of approximately 50 feet. The face of the cliffs is composed of a very loose conglomerate which breaks away easily upon pressure of any sort. Rope climbing is, therefore, impracticable and all examination of nesting cavities was confined to those that could be reached with the aid of improvised extension ladders.

The Yamase River is a fairly small, shallow stream, which meanders through a wide, gravelly bed and occupies the center of a broad valley; the valley in turn is enclosed in the distance by lesser ranges of the North Japanese Alps. The valley is devoted principally to agriculture and consists of large, open, cultivated fields interspersed with small groves of pine trees and weed fields.

Nesting cavities and ledges within reach and examined, as well as those located at inaccessible heights, were well marked in most instances with deposits of white excrement directly below the cavity or ledge. The majority were clustered within approximately a half-mile stretch of the highest and most central portion of the cliffs and ranged from twelve feet above the top of the basal talus slopes to within a few feet below the vegetation overhanging the summits. A total of nearly 50 such excre-