

**The White-tailed Kite in Humboldt County, California.**—On about September 10, 1952, Mr. R. S. Hall of Arcata, California, told the writer of a "rare kite" which he had repeatedly observed on Dows Prairie about 7 miles north of Arcata, California. Mr. Hall said he first noted the bird in the spring of 1952. Upon investigating the report on September 15, 1952, the bird was found to be a White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*). It was observed hovering above the grass prairie and also perching in heavy beach pine growth. The writer observed this individual on numerous occasions for several weeks and it then appeared to have moved away.

Because of the rarity of the species and its vulnerability to hunting, the presence of the bird on Dows Prairie was reported to Captain Leslie Lahr of the Bureau of Patrol of the California Department of Fish and Game. When he notified his warden staff it was discovered the species was by no means as rare in Humboldt County as was first believed. Following is a résumé of records for the Humboldt Bay area, Humboldt County, that have come to the writer's attention.

Warden Larry Werder reported that a kite had been killed in September, 1951, by a boy hunting on the Beatrice Flats near Salmon Creek about 8 miles south of Eureka. He also reported a kite near Ryans Slough, on November 12, 1952, and two more that were regularly found on the McBride Ranch near Beatrice.

Warden Herb Christie reported seeing kites regularly on the Occidental Ranch in the Ferndale bottoms west of Port Kenyon and others on the Copenhagen Road west of Loleta. On November 22, 1952, Warden Christie and Captain Lahr noted a kite west of Loleta in the Ferndale bottoms near Grizzly Bluff.

Captain Lahr saw a kite on January 15, 1953, at Table Bluff, and another on March 22, 1953, on the Pleasant Point Road in the Ferndale bottoms near Grizzly Bluff.

The writer observed single individuals on October 6 and October 22, 1952, near Beatrice, on March 2, 1953, west of Loleta near Table Bluff, and on March 4, 1953, at the south end of Humboldt Bay near the mouth of Salmon Creek. These observations indicate that probably a minimum of six kites are resident around Humboldt Bay. No nests have been observed, however.

The report of the White-tailed Kite at Dows Prairie constitutes a northward extension of 75 miles of the known range from Miranda, on the South Fork Eel River, Humboldt County (Clay, Condor, 28, 1926:98). The Miranda record of August 6, 1924, is unusual in that the habitat there is very unlike anything this species usually prefers. It is in the canyon of the Eel River where very steep, dry, oak-covered hills surround some open fields and extensive groves of redwoods in the bottoms. The area of the current records is very similar to typical kite habitat. It consists of extensive open grass prairies with tongues of brush and trees projecting into them along numerous creeks and sloughs. Marsh areas are abundant. These conditions extend more or less regularly along the coast of northern California to above Crescent City. However, no kites were observed or reported by anyone north of Dows Prairie nor were careful observations by the author in the vicinity of Crescent City and Lake Talawa productive.

The extension of the range is of interest but the fact that so many individuals were noted in an area where the bird had not previously been reported is unusual. Although the White-tailed Kite can be confused with several small gulls because of a similarity in general coloration, it is easily identified by its characteristic hunting habits and stance when perched. It is difficult, therefore, to explain why it has not been previously recorded in the Humboldt Bay area unless the assumption is made that it was not present there prior to 1952. Because of rigid protection, this species has been on the increase in California. The occurrence of so many individuals in the Humboldt Bay area may be due to dispersal from southern areas where an increase in population size has been noted. This dispersal is probably of very recent date and the birds may be in the process of reoccupying a portion of their former range from which they were driven by persecution.—J. BRUCE KIMSEY, *California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California, January 10, 1955.*

**A Recent Record of the Pileated Woodpecker in Marin County, California.**—There do not appear to be any recent records of the occurrence of the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) in Marin County. Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:230) in their "Distribution of the Birds of California" cite old records for this species in the counties north of San Francisco Bay and note its occurrence "even, casually, to Larkspur and Lagunitas, Marin County." The writer has