

Falco sparverius phalaena. DESERT SPARROW HAWK.—Often seen during the spring, summer and autumn in the valley and cañon. During a snow-storm late in May I saw a Sparrow Hawk fly from a tree carrying a small bird and closely pursued by an excited Robin.

Bubo virginianus pallescens. WESTERN HORNED OWL.—December 31 I found a Horned Owl in the trap on the post (on the Ivie farm). I took it to Salina and kept it in a vacant granary for five months. Several frozen Jackrabbits thrown in to it were found decapitated on the following mornings. In March I put in the granary an immature bird also trapped on the same post. A week later I found it torn to pieces.

Sometime during the winter of 1928-29 the No. 0 steel trap disappeared from the post and was replaced by another trap. Early in April, Mr. Ivie found a dead Horned Owl hanging in the No. 0 trap which had caught on a branch of a juniper about one half mile from the post.—J. S. STANFORD, U. S. A. C., Logan, Utah.

Notes on two Birds from San Diego County, California.—*Elanus leucurus majusculus*. WHITE-TAILED KITE.—The presence of White-tailed Kites in the most southern coastal county of California has been known to the writer from but a single nesting record—Lakeside, San Diego County, California,¹ March 24 and April 25, 1890. On these two dates the venerable oologist, Albert M. Ingersoll of San Diego, collected 2 and 4 eggs from two nests built and occupied by the same pair of birds. This marks the southernmost breeding station for the species in California and, added to two observations by Anthony (Grinnell's 'A Distributional Summation of the Ornithology of Lower California,' Univ. of Calif. Pub. in Zool., Vol. 32, No. 1, p. 106) from Lower California, at about the same time, completes our meager knowledge of the occurrence of this bird in the southern reaches of its range.

With this brief history of an exceedingly rare bird in mind, the writer was not a little surprised when, on January 15, 1930, a local hunter unrolled from a blood stained newspaper a freshly killed White-tailed Kite. Information gleaned from the man revealed the fact that a pair of these beautiful birds had been couring about the precincts of a gun club, situated on the brackish waters of the Tia Juana marsh, in southern San Diego County, during most of the winter. Numerous attempts had been made by different members of the club, on shooting days, to kill the Hawks, as they all believed, unfortunately, that "dead hawks are the only good hawks." However, it was not until the above date that either of the pair had come within gun range.

Due, perhaps, to the writer's stressing the bird's rarity and his severe condemnation of its slaughter, the hunter would not part with his kill.

¹ These two sets were erroneously recorded by Willett, "Pacific Coast Avifauna," No. 7, p. 46, as being taken at National City. The writer took occasion to check the facts with Mr. Ingersoll and found that Lakeside should have been stated as the locality where the sets were obtained.

Later, the bird was seized by the local representative of the California State Fish and Game Commission and eventually, after nearly a year in cold storage, found its way into the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History, where it is now No. 14134.

Upon dissection, the specimen was found to be an adult female with fairly well developed ovaries, the largest of the ova being about three millimeters in diameter. From this evidence it seems reasonable to assume that at least one pair of White-tailed Kites had again attempted to establish themselves in San Diego County and would no doubt have succeeded had they not been prevented through wanton ignorance. The region, according to descriptions of their habitat by other writers, is unusually well adapted as a haunt for this bird, consisting as it does of brackish open marshes, farm lands and river bottoms, bordered with a heavy willow growth.

That still another attempt had been made within recent years by White-tailed Kites to nest in this county was brought to light when the writer was discussing with Mr. Ingersoll the incident recorded above. At this late date it was the writer's pleasure to learn that during the first week of March, 1920, Mr. Ingersoll had discovered a pair of Kites and their newly constructed nest five miles east of Del Mar, San Diego County. The nest was visited again after several days' absence but was found to have been deserted. The close proximity to farms led him to believe that the birds had been shot.

Junco mearnsi. PINK-SIDED JUNCO.—An adult female of this species was collected at Monte Robles, 4 miles southwest of Ramona, San Diego County, on December 18, 1930, by Frank F. Gander. It was taken from a loose flock of about 50 Juncos feeding under several huge live oaks. The specimen is now No. 14117, collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History, making the third recorded instance of this species being collected within the boundaries of the State of California.—LAURENCE M. HUBY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California*.

Unusual Nesting Concentration in a Single Tree.—During the spring of 1931, an instance of remarkable nesting concentration was made known to the writer by Mr. Thomas Rutledge, Jr., of Charleston, S. C. Having occasion to visit the town of Beaufort, some eighty miles south of Charleston, on May 9, Mr. Rutledge noted, in the yard of his hostess, Mrs. J. B. Salley, a pride of India tree which held the homes of five pairs of cavity-nesting birds, representing four species. These were two pairs of Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*); and a pair each of Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Florida Screech Owl (*Megascops asio floridanus*), and Southern Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates p. pubescens*).

The tree measured but twenty feet in height and forked sharply about ten feet from the ground. Another fork occurred in the right branch a short distance from the main division, and in the left leg of this V were the Flycatcher and Woodpecker, while the right leg held the Owl and one of the Flickers. The other Flicker's hole occupied the left branch of the main