

resolved themselves into the feathers of a Short-eared Owl. The close correspondence between the localities where the wing-feathers, and the dead Horned Owl, respectively, were found, immediately linked up in a suggestive manner two events hitherto not guessed to be related. Thereupon, Mr. Swarth, who skinned the Horned Owl, testified that it had already been dead from two to four days when found, and thereby proved a correspondence between the two circumstances in *date* as well. From these facts and clues, from other evidence (such as the finding by Mr. Swarth of shot in the body of the owl), and from a study of the canyon and an elimination of certain events that probably did not happen, has been constructed the story of what well might have and probably *did* happen.

This much at least is positive: A Short-eared Owl has occurred on or near the Campus—which is interesting because this owl has not previously been recorded as a Campus bird.—RICHARD HUNT, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 5, 1918.*

Nesting Notes from the San Bernardino Valley.—A nest with five eggs of the Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) was taken in Colton, California, on March 15, 1917. The weather was unusually cold in January, February and March, 1917; yet this is the earliest instance that I have noticed.

On July 4, 1917, I found a Pasadena Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum pasadenense*) incubating three eggs. Apparently incubation was advanced. Several days later when I visited the nest I was sorry to find that the eggs had been destroyed. These birds nest early and this is, by far, the latest record that I have.—W. C. HANNA, *Colton, California, February 15, 1918.*

The Salton Sink Song Sparrow at Oro Grande, California.—I spent two days, February 17 and 18, 1918, collecting at Oro Grande, near Victorville on the Mohave Desert, San Bernardino County, California. Nine Song Sparrows were taken, six of which were the San Diego (*Melospiza melodia cooperi*), two were the Modoc (*Melospiza melodia fisherella*), and one was the Salton Sink (*Melospiza melodia saltonis*). To quote Mr. J. Grinnell, who has examined the specimens, "the *saltonis* is of particular interest as it seems to be our first known occurrence of this species north of the Colorado desert, probably a winter straggler. Only *cooperi* has been known to breed along the Mohave River." —WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, March 4, 1918.*

A Surprising Trait in the Black-necked Stilt.—One who has observed the Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) in the field or who has considered its extreme specialization as a wader would scarcely suspect it of much ability as a diver, yet it has such ability to no little degree. While collecting at Nigger Slough, in the vicinity of Los Angeles, this spring, I brought down a male Stilt from a flock overhead. The bird, with the tip of one wing injured, came down into open water some eighteen inches in depth. It repeatedly tried to escape by diving. These efforts were watched with much interest on my part, and a fairly good view of the performance was obtained. The wings were used in making progress but the position of the feet was not learned. The injured wing tip was an apparent handicap and the bird did not remain below very well. A distance of some four or five feet was the longest dive made. The adult bird must have practically no use for such an accomplishment in a state of nature. Is it a diver when in its infancy? Is this a juvenal character persisting in the adult but coming to the surface only under unusual stress?—LOYE MILLER, *State Normal School, Los Angeles, California, May 9, 1918.*

Wood Ibis at San Diego.—A pair of Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*), male and female presumably, which I first observed on March 17, 1918, were here for over one month, and, if they have not been shot, may still be in the vicinity. I never before saw an Ibis here so early. These birds apparently were mated, as they always remained close together when feeding or flying. I have not seen them myself since April 17, but have heard of one being seen lately. My previous earliest record for the species was June 29, 1915, when six appeared and were promptly shot by local gunners, to be left where they fell. It is a pity that the game laws are not recognized to any extent in San Diego city and county by such a large percentage of gunners.—HENRY GREY, *San Diego, California, May 1, 1918.*

Evidence on the Food of Hawks and Owls in California.—Most questions as to the food of hawks and owls can be answered by reference to A. K. Fisher's "The Hawks and Owls of the United States in their Relation to Agriculture" (U. S. Dept. Agric., Div. Ornithology and Mammology, Bull. 3, 1893). In this volume are to be found 210 pages of

information, and reports on the contents of 2690 stomachs of hawks and owls. Unfortunately, as was inevitable at the time, few of the birds examined as a basis of this work were secured in California or even in western states. Such widely different conditions exist in the eastern and western portions of the United States that the use of eastern data does not allow of more than an inference as to the food habits of western birds. In that no actual evidence as to the food of the Marsh Hawk, Ferruginous Rough-leg, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Pigmy Owl in California is contained in the above cited standard work and but slight evidence of the California food of other hawks and owls, the following results of stomach examinations are worth while recording. Additional reports of this kind would more clearly establish the economic value of many of the raptors. Our skeptical ranchers are more interested in what a bird eats in California than in what is consumed by the same species in the eastern states.

TABLE SHOWING STOMACH CONTENTS

| No. Sex | Locality | Collector | Stomach contents |
|--|---|--|---|
| Numbers in first column are the serial numbers of the stomachs as preserved in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. | | | |
| 1 ♂ | Torrance, Los Angeles Co., Calif. | Marsh Hawk: A. E. Colburn | <i>Circus hudsonius</i> pts. (mostly hair) San Diego cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus auduboni sanctidiegii</i>). |
| 1 ♂ | Near Corona, Riverside Co. | Ferruginous Rough-leg: W. M. Pierce | <i>Archibuteo ferrugineus</i> pts. 1 skink (<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus</i>). |
| 2 ? | Los Angeles | A. E. Colburn | pts. 1 beetle (<i>Eledusa</i> sp.). |
| 1 ♀ | Chino, San Bernardino Co. | Prairie Falcon: W. M. Pierce | <i>Falco mexicanus</i> pts. 1 pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys bottae pallacens</i>). |
| 1 ♂ | Laytonville, Mendocino Co. | Cooper Hawk: F. C. Clarke | <i>Accipiter cooperi</i> wings and feathers of meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>). |
| 1 ♀ | Laytonville, Mendocino Co. | Sharp-shinned Hawk: F. C. Clarke | <i>Accipiter velox</i> pts. of wing and flesh of sparrow (probably <i>Zonotrichia</i>). |
| 1 ? | Los Angeles Co. | Sparrow Hawk: A. E. Colburn | <i>Falco sparverius sparverius</i> 15 black crickets (<i>Gryllus</i> sp.); pts. of same. |
| 2 ♀ | La Grange, Stanislaus Co. | J. Dixon | 1 white-footed mouse (<i>Peromyscus maniculatus gambeli</i>); pts. 3 Jerusalem crickets (<i>Steno-<i>phelmus irregularis</i></i>); 1 cricket (<i>Gryllus</i> sp.); pts. 5 grasshoppers (<i>Melanoplus devastator</i>). |
| 3 ♂ juv. | Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa Co. | T. I. Storer | Western Red-tailed Hawk: <i>Buteo borealis calurus</i> 1 pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys bottae</i>). |
| 2 ♀ | Los Angeles | A. E. Colburn | pts. 1 brush rabbit (<i>Sylvilagus bachmani cinereus</i>). |
| 3 ? | Los Angeles | A. E. Colburn | pts. (few bones, mostly flesh) 1 brush rabbit (<i>Sylvilagus bachmani cinereus</i>). |
| 4 ♀ | Los Angeles Co. | A. E. Colburn | pts. (vertebrae and hair) Jackrabbit (<i>Lepus californicus bennetti</i>). |
| 5 ♀ | Los Angeles Co. | A. E. Colburn | pts. 1 brush rabbit (<i>Sylvilagus bachmani cinereus</i>). |
| 1 ♂ | Santa Ana River, near Corona, Riverside Co. | Long-eared Owl: W. M. Pierce | <i>Asio wilsonianus</i> bones and hair of 1 field mouse (<i>Microtus californicus</i>). |
| 1 ♂ | Walnut Creek, Contra Costa Co. | California Screech Owl: W. P. Taylor | <i>Otus asio bendirei</i> 1 Jerusalem cricket (<i>Stenopelmatus irregularis</i>). |
| 2 ♀ | Kings River Canyon, Fresno Co. | Southern California Screech Owl: H. G. White | <i>Otus asio quercinus</i> pts. 4 long-legged Grasshoppers (<i>Cimaphora melanoptera</i>); also eggs of same. |
| 1 ♀ | Berkeley, Alameda Co. | Pacific Horned Owl: E. Van E. Ferguson | <i>Bubo virginianus pacificus</i> feathers and bones of short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>). |
| 1 ♂ | Kings River Canyon, Fresno Co. | Pigmy Owl: J. Dixon | <i>Glaucidium gnoma californicum</i> 1 Grasshopper (<i>Melanoplus devastator</i> ?). |

—HAROLD C. BRYANT, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, February 5, 1918.