

April 22, both eggs taken from the nest, addled.

April 26, the eleventh egg was laid, and on the 27th the twelfth egg.

May 2, the nest was deserted during slightly stormy weather.

May 13, at a new location, the thirteenth egg was laid; May 15, the fourteenth egg.

May 27, both eggs were removed on account of being addled.

June 1 and 3, the fifteenth and sixteenth eggs were laid at the first site.

June 10, the nest was deserted for no apparent reason. One egg was addled, the other incubated.

In a new location the seventeenth and eighteenth eggs were laid June 13 and 15.

June 22, the nest was deserted on account of the addition of two tree squirrels to the family. Both eggs were fertile.

June 27 and 29, the nineteenth and twentieth eggs were laid at original location.

July 4, squirrels celebrated by raiding the nest.

July 9, the twenty-first egg was laid in a squirrel-proof nest. The twenty-second egg was laid on the 12th. On July 25, one egg hatched, the young remaining in the nest until August 6.

August 8, the twenty-third egg was laid, on the 10th the twenty-fourth egg.

August 25, the nest was deserted, one egg being addled and the other incubated but apparently chilled.

August 28, the twenty-fifth egg was laid, and August 30, the twenty-sixth egg.

September 14, both eggs hatched. September 28, the young left the nest, and family cares for 1928 were almost ended.

For a little over eight months these two birds were continuously engrossed with their nesting activities, and it is interesting to note that they were capable of raising a total of eight broods of young within that period. Actually they laid a total of thirteen sets of eggs, but succeeded in raising a grand total of only four young. They have now decided to "call it a day", and surely they are deserving of a good long dove vacation.—C. H. WOODWARD, *San Diego, California, December 18, 1928.*

Economic Status of the Pine Siskin.—In his "Birds of Western Canada" (1926), Taverner says of the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*): "As it is usually only a winter visitor to cultivated sections, . . . it is a neutral species, perhaps doing no great good but certainly no harm". The qualifying phrase is less true today than it might have been twenty, or even ten, years ago, for the agricultural front in that period has developed bold northern salients. The following local notes merely reopen the question and call for more widespread information.

In this comparatively warm and humid pocket in the fringe of the Cariboo Range several of us possess what we are pleased to call ranches, though the district is not agricultural in character, or likely to become so. Further west, as one descends slowly for some eighty miles into the valley of the Fraser, legitimate farming gradually appears. At Cottonwood, twenty-one miles east of Quesnel, general farming is successfully practiced as an exclusive occupation.

None of us who have vegetable gardens has been spared by the siskins. Our own case is the most extreme, as we have attracted the species by means of amazingly effective salt and clay baits for banding purposes. It is now impossible to raise most vegetables except under wire. In rather long experience of gardens and their pests we have seen nothing to rival the instantaneous devastation which an unobtrusive flock of siskins can inflict, often before their presence in a garden has been noticed. Not once, but season after season, and time after time within the same season, we have seen long rows of seedling beets, chard, lettuce, radishes, and onions, cut neatly to the ground. Beets are the favorite, and the toughest mature leaves are devoured as eagerly as the tenderest seedlings. When the beets are protected by wire the birds cover it, and struggle for the chance leaves which can be reached through the mesh. Peas and cole crops, as far as we know, are not taken, but we hear of the destruction of turnips. All scarecrows are useless, and profanity and gunpowder of precisely equal value. As already stated we find a cumbersome but efficient protection in small-mesh wire, and console ourselves with the reflection that ornithology, too, has its martyrs.

The farmers nearer the Fraser suffer as much as we do, and, in spite of being further from the mountains, more than most of our nearer neighbors. We know of one ranch where for years a barn door has been used as a deadfall, and the birds fed to hogs by bucketfuls. In another case great numbers are shot, and as many as thirty-five birds have been picked up as the result of enflaming a row of vegetables with a single charge of shot. As the typical associations of the Canadian Zone are left behind, and the greater drouth and summer heat of the river flats approached, the nuisance decreases. From the immediate vicinity of Quesnel we hear a few scattered complaints of moderate losses, but a short distance southward, within touch of the long arm of Transition Zone conditions, which stretches so far up the valley, all knowledge of the trouble seems to disappear, though we do not know where it may recur.

What of the "Peace River Block," a successful agricultural venture on latitude 56° N., and the immense new agricultural northlands of Ontario?

These visits of the siskins are by no means sporadic, like the well-known "cross-bill-years", of ancient record, but, nowadays at least, are as regular as the recurring seasons themselves. Mr. Harry Boyd, of Cottonwood, to whom we are indebted for much interesting material on the siskins, recalls their descents as long ago as 1884, though they seem to have been less regular in the early years. It may be that the habit of seeking cultivated districts will prove a cumulative adaptation, as many, more welcome adjustments of avian and human economy have proved to be.

Methods which depend upon destruction will always be useless. One must live in typical Canadian and Hudsonian surroundings, and learn to be conscious of the continual, unobtrusive presence of the siskins in the tree-tops, to realize how immense their numbers must be. Most of their great breeding ground will never be invaded. No war of extermination will thin their ranks perceptibly.—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR BOLLES MCCABE, *Indianpoint Lake, British Columbia, January 6, 1929.*

Hooded Merganser at Salton Sea, California.—On November 27, 1928, I was hunting along the north end of Salton Sea near Mecca, Riverside County. A Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), in female plumage, was found dead on the shore. The bird had evidently been dead some time and in its poor condition could not be preserved. There seem to be few records for this species in southern California.—J. STEVENSON, *Los Angeles, California, February 15, 1929.*

Slate-colored Fox Sparrow at Alameda, California.—On November 15, 1928, I found a dead fox sparrow on a street in Alameda, California. Later the specimen was submitted to Mr. H. S. Swarth who pronounced it *Passerella iliaca schistacea*. This appears to be the only record for the occurrence of this race in middle-western California.—FRANK N. BASSETT, *San Francisco, California, March 27, 1929.*

Golden Eagle in Death Valley.—On December 27, 1928, while passing through Death Valley, the writer saw a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) perched in a dead tree by Bennett's Well. The bird rose and flew away when we were still a hundred yards from it, but identification was unquestionable.

A flock of some fifteen Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*) was noted on one of two small ponds at this oasis, as well as a group of unidentified ducks, while along the grassy margins was an assemblage of five or six Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) which disported themselves in customary noisy fashion. These might have accounted for the presence of the eagle.

Bennett's Well lies some 250 feet below sea level near the south end of the valley, and appears in no way unsuited to the needs of this eagle. However, there seem to be no previous records of its occurrence there.—E. L. SUMNER, JR., *Pomona College, Claremont, California, February 12, 1929.*

The Pasadena Screech Owl near Victorville, San Bernardino County, California.—On April 22, 1928, the same day on which the Sage Thrasher was found nesting in the near vicinity of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California, I collected a