

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The White-tailed Kite in Marin County, California.—A note in the *Condor* (XXXI, 1929, p. 36), contributed by E. L. Bickford of Napa, records the breeding of the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) in Napa Valley, California. This stimulates me to remark that during recent years I have several times seen individual kites of this species in Marin County, usually over the marshes bordering the north shore of San Francisco Bay.

The first one noted was hovering over the flat below Mill Valley just east of the school house on the morning of October 11, 1920. About a month later (November 14, 1920) J. Eugene Law saw one on the flat between San Rafael and Point San Quentin. On May 21, 1925, while Dr. F. V. Coville and I were driving north on our way to the Redwood highway we saw one near Ignacio station, seven miles north of San Rafael.

The last kite seen by me was on November 2, 1928, when returning from a field trip by way of Black Point Cut-off. Approaching the Petaluma Creek drawbridge I was delighted to see one of these beautiful kites gracefully circling and darting about over the open meadows. Just before arriving at the draw it dropped to a post close by and remained there while I passed. This is the only time I have seen one alight. Usually they are on the wing.

Mr. Bickford's breeding record is of much interest, being so far as I am aware the first one for many years for the north side of San Francisco Bay.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Lagunitas, California, August 7, 1930.*

House Finches Eating Watermelon.—The house finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) of the San Joaquin Valley are certainly developing a great fondness for watermelon. On July 7 and 8, 1930, I watched them at a feeding station thirty miles north of Bakersfield. During the morning hours, and still more during the afternoon hours, there was a steady stream of these birds to some watermelon rinds for the ripe watermelon pulp still present. Most of these feasting birds were young of the year, but there was also a fair number of both adult males and adult females. At first I thought the birds were attracted because of thirstiness; but soon after that, I noted that pulp that was almost dry was taken as well.—M. P. SKINNER, *Long Beach, California, July 16, 1930.*

The Cardinal in Oregon.—During midday, July 22, 1930, on a field trip in Douglas County, Oregon, a stop was made for lunch along a small mountain stream beside the highway. Much to my surprise, two Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis* subsp.), a male and female, were seen chasing each other through the scattered small trees and bushes bordering the stream. A few moments later, another male was seen up-stream.

These birds were observed at a distance of thirty feet and there is not a shadow of doubt about their being Cardinals; but as to their subspecific identity and as to when and where they came from into the state of Oregon, I have not the slightest idea.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, August 4, 1930.*

The Common Mynah Breeding in Los Angeles.—Early in July, 1930, Dr. Hildegarde Howard Wyld, of the Los Angeles Museum, received a message from Dr. Calla E. Starbuck, of 1363 Lucile Avenue, Los Angeles, stating that some strange birds had appeared in that neighborhood and had bred there. On July 22 Dr. Wyld and the writer called on Dr. Starbuck and saw one of the birds which proved to be a Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*).

Dr. Starbuck informed us that a pair of the birds had appeared early in May and soon thereafter had built a nest in a drain-pipe near the top of a two-story building across the street from her residence. Three young were raised, one of which was later killed by an automobile. At the time of our visit the birds were apparently nesting a second time. The male was seen to enter the nesting cavity, where it remained for some time before emerging. Also, according to Dr. Starbuck,