bird life around one of the many small prairie lakes in Albany County, Wyoming. Our attention was attracted by a pair of Western Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis*). Their actions were those of breeding birds but there was not a tree or bush within sight, and within a radius of ten miles there seemed to be no possible nesting sites available except bushes which were not over five or six feet high. The crows' interest in the immediate vicinity persisted until finally I was convinced that they were nesting nearby. A careful search through the low sage and greasewood produced nothing, but the nest was found at last, located on the ground. (See fig. 30.) It was in the short grass, on flat, open prairie.

The nest was placed in a depression which at one time might have been the entrance of a badger hole. This depression was such that the rim of the nest was just level with the surface of the ground, and it was well filled with grass, weeds and small pieces of sage and willow. The nest had an outside rim of weeds, sage and willow twigs and a few small sticks and was lined with strips from weeds and with cow's hair. The general construction and bulk of the nest was about the same as any tree nest of the species. A few larger sticks and twigs were scattered around on the ground surrounding the nest. This nest contained seven eggs which appeared to be well incubated.—CAPTAIN L. R. WOLFE, *Fort Warren, Wyoming, February 1, 1931.*

The Reddish Egret, a Bird New to the Avifauna of California.—On February 12, 1931, while making a census of Black Sea Brant in this region for the California Fish and Game Comission, the writer and his companion, Frank F. Gander, observed a lone Lower California Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens dickeyi*) on the tidal flats at the south end of San Diego Bay near Coronado Heights. The bird was just beyond the positive killing range of a shot-gun and it flew before the distance could be shortened. It was closely scrutinized through 6-power Zeiss binoculars by both observers and positively identified, the writer having had previous experience with Reddish Egrets in their haunts farther south, where he collected a number of specimens. A renewed effort was made the following day to locate and collect the bird but this was not successful.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, February 14, 1931.*

A Seasonal Feast of the Willow Goldfinch.—The principal roadway of the University Farm at Davis, California, is bordered on either side by a row of elm trees (*Ulmus pumila* var. *arborea*) planted about twenty-two years ago, which have grown to goodly size and now provide grateful shade for man during the warm days of summer. The slender bare branches in winter and the foliage of summer are occasionally visited by birds in those seasons, but the principal ornithological interest is for a brief period each spring when the trees are the rendezvous of a large flock of Willow Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis salicamans*). The elms here put forth their diminutive blossoms in late February or early March, quickly followed by a dense clothing of "samaras", which grow, ripen, and fall as the leaves appear.

Goldfinches appear scatteringly in these trees at various times during the year, but the annual gathering comes just as the seed crop is "in the milk". In four years for which I have definite record the birds began or were at work on March 16 (1931), March 19 (1926), March 20 (1930), and March 25 (1929). Fully a hundred goldfinches were present in 1931.

The samara of this elm is a soft thin oval plate of tissue about ⅝ by ¾ of an inch in surface dimensions, with a single seed at the center. These samaras are borne in dense clusters, often fairly clothing the branchlets. The goldfinches work in small companies, with seldom more than a dozen birds in any one tree, and the whole group is usually in a few adjacent trees. The birds seem to have decided preferences, as they pass by for a time some trees which are a little behind others in blossom time, and in any one tree they pick and choose among the seeds, taking one here, and another there. I could not see much if any difference in adjacent seeds on twigs taken at random. Early and late the birds are at their feeding, with little if any let-up during the midday hours, and there is a continuous chorus of small chipperings, with an occasional song, or flight notes as an individual leaves