

In view of the statements above quoted, it seems most probable that I, a boy of fifteen at the time, was the first collector to have the good fortune to come across a nest containing the eggs of the Townsend Solitaire.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, September 1, 1931.*

The Status of the Blue-winged Teal in California.—Grinnell, Bryant and Storer (The Game Birds of California, Berkeley, 1918, p. 121) considered the Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) a rare transient and winter visitant on fresh water in California. These authors list twenty records distributed as follows: 3 in January, 1 in February, 8 from March to May, and 8 from August to October. Most of these occurrences were from south of the Tehachapi. Note the absence of records for the summer months of June and July.

Lamb (Condor, xxiv, 1922, p. 28) recorded the first Blue-winged Teal suspected of breeding in the state. He secured the male of a pair noted on Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, May 21, 1921. Dissection of the specimen revealed fully developed testes, indicating the probability that the birds were nesting there.

Dawson (Birds of California, De Luxe Edition, iv, 1923, p. 1770) records a pair of these birds observed at Laws, northern Inyo County, May 21, 1919, and states they were "unquestionably breeding."

Phillips (A Natural History of the Ducks, II, 1923, p. 376) considers this species an extremely rare breeder west of the Rocky Mountains and records but one breeding record for Washington and three for eastern Oregon. He states, "there is no evidence of its ever having nested in California, although it has been seen there in summer."

It is gratifying now to be able to add a number of summer records of the Blue-winged Teal's occurrence in California as a result of my field work in 1931 for the Division of Fish and Game. Although no nests were found or females with young positively identified, the circumstances and dates upon which the birds were seen seem to leave no doubt that the species breeds in the state.

June 12, 1931, a male and female of this species were observed through 8X binoculars, 75 yards distant on a small artificial pond, 4 miles northeast of Lancaster, Los Angeles County. A pair of Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) was close by and afforded an excellent opportunity to contrast the species. Both pairs of birds were apparently nesting near this pond, as they would not leave it although driven to flight several times. Later the same day, three adult male Blue-winged Teal were noted on a small pond 7 miles north of Lancaster. One of them was collected and dissection disclosed well developed testes measuring 29 x 10 millimeters. Molt into eclipse plumage was just commencing on the neck and chest of this specimen.

June 22, 1931, two adult male Blue-winged Teal were noted on a small overflowed area at the northern edge of Honey Lake, Lassen County, 7 miles southwest of Wendel.

Eight adult male Blue-winged Teal were found on a small tule bordered pond three-quarters of a mile west of Amedee, Lassen County, June 24, 1931. It is possible some females of this species were also present, for in addition to the male blue-wings, four male Cinnamon Teal, four females of one or the other species and a single male Green-winged Teal made up a flock. It was indeed a rare sight to see all three species of North American teal on a pond less than an acre in extent.

July 1, 1931, a three-hour census was made of the waterfowl at the southwestern end of Tule Lake, Siskiyou County. Four pairs and two lone male Blue-winged Teal were definitely recorded, and a lone female examined through glasses at short range was judged to be this species on account of her small bill. One pair of these teal was collected. The female appeared to be a breeding bird, as down and feathers had evidently been plucked from her breast. However, her small ova, the largest measuring 7 mm. in diameter, and the fact that she was consorting with a male, made it somewhat doubtful if she was actually incubating. Perhaps she had an earlier nest destroyed and was preparing to lay again. The male was in breeding condition. His testes measured 21 x 9 mm. and molt had barely commenced on the neck and breast. During this census, 119 Cinnamon Teal were counted, including three broods of 11, 9 and 3 young.

The writer spent April 19 to 21 on the marshes in Honey Lake valley without noting a single Blue-winged Teal. A census was made at Tule Lake, April 26, 1931, covering the same ground as the July 1 count, when no individual of this species was seen. However, Cinnamon Teal were numerous at both places in April. These facts tend to indicate that Blue-winged Teal, known to be late nesters, are late arrivals on their California breeding grounds, though this premise is contradicted by Grinnell, Bryant and Storer's early spring records.

Hunters in Honey Lake valley state Blue-winged Teal are not rare in their bags; but like Cinnamon Teal, most specimens are obtained in early October and both species appear to have left the region by the end of that month.

In view of the data enumerated above, the present status of the Blue-winged Teal in California should be stated as follows: Fairly common breeding species east and south of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at least from the Mohave Desert north through the Great Basin region to Tule Lake; probably a rare breeder in the extreme southern San Joaquin Valley, formerly, at least. Apparently a late (that is, May) arrival on its breeding grounds. Rare in migration west of the Sierra Nevada and north of the Tehachapi, when it is not uncommon in suitable localities from Santa Barbara and Owens Valley south to the Mexican border. Probably entirely absent from the state in November and December; but early migrants may appear in the south in January.—JAMES MOFFITT, 510 Russ Building, San Francisco, California, July 30, 1931.

Golden Eagle Kills a Cat.—On July 18, of this year, while I was in San Felipe Valley in San Diego County, California, about fifteen miles southeast of Warner Hot Springs, I discovered the dead body of a full-grown domestic cat which had evidently been killed by an eagle. The cat was lying under an oak tree, and had been rather recently killed. Around it were signs of a life-and-death struggle—patches of fur and bunches of feathers. Among the last was a primary, the quill of which had apparently been split down. The cat's mouth was full of feathers. Also her viscera were torn out, and some substantial steaks removed from her hind quarters. I sent the leg feathers and the primary to Dr. Joseph Grinnell, at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, who identified the latter as a primary off the left wing of an adult female Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).—F. B. SUMNER, *Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, July 22, 1931.*

Bones of the Great Horned Owl from the Carlsbad Caverns.—In making a survey of the natural history of the Carlsbad Cavern area Mr. Vernon Bailey of the Biological Survey, on April 26, 1924, obtained the skeleton of a Great Horned Owl under interesting circumstances. The bones, according to a note by Mr. Bailey that accompanied the specimens, were found on the first slope of the Devil's Den about two hundred feet below the surface and approximately half a mile from the west entrance of the cave, being so far from the outer opening as to be beyond all trace of light. The skeleton is disarticulated, and is nearly complete. It represents an adult individual that has the size of *Bubo virginianus pallescens*, and has been identified as of that race. The specimen has no particular antiquity, being identical in appearance with fresh skeletons. This skeleton is now in the collection of the United States National Museum (cat. no. 289431).

In work in this same area in 1930, Mr. Charles D. Bunker, Assistant Curator in charge of the Museum of Birds and Mammals at the University of Kansas, secured another partial skeleton of the Great Horned Owl under still more peculiar conditions. These bones were obtained in a hole about seventy-five feet below the floor of the bat room and about 250 feet below the surface where they were scattered over an area that had been subject to the drip of water impregnated with mineral so that they were encased in a covering of mineral matter from one and one-half to two millimeters thick. Possibly the bird had been dragged to this level by some predatory animal, as Mr. Bunker states that it would have been difficult for it to arrive there unaided. The greater part of this skeleton was found. The bones come from an immature individual that while fully grown did not have the skeleton