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 chrysaëtos*).—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

completely ossified. The fact that they are embedded in stone does not seem to indicate great antiquity, as they still contain much animal matter and are supposed to be comparatively recent in origin. This specimen has been returned to the collections of the University of Kansas.

As these owls ordinarily only frequent those sections of caverns near the entrances it has been interesting to find these remains under circumstances that possibly indicate that the birds had become lost and had been unable to regain the outside world.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., August 24, 1931.*

Records for Several Species of Birds Rare or Local within Costa Rica.—*Spiziastur melanoleucus.* An adult male was taken at El Copey de Dota in the first week of June, 1931. It was perched on a tree at the edge of a forest. The altitude was about 7000 feet. This constitutes the sixth or seventh specimen of which I can find any record. This splendid hawk is apparently entirely a forest dweller, gleaning most of its prey in the tree-tops. The present specimen is now in the Henry O. Havemeyer collection.

Glaucidium jardinii. An adult male of this owl was caught by hand, while perched in a low tree that grew along a trail near Estrella de Cartago, in June, 1931. It was at 4000 feet altitude in the humid Caribbean sub-tropical zone.

Cryptoglaux ridgwayi. Under this name I list a female adult of a small, plain-colored owl, taken in the heavy forest above El Copey de Dota, at an altitude of 7500 feet. The type of the species is a juvenile; and up to now this has seemingly remained unique. My specimen fits the description of the species fairly well, considering the difference in age. El Copey lies only 30 miles southeast of Escazu, the type locality; but the altitude of the first named is considerably greater. This specimen is now in the collection of Henry O. Havemeyer of New York.

Thryorchilus basultoi. A wren of the temperate zone, that has heretofore been known only from the type; an adult female was taken at Las Vueltas, Costa Rica. Las Vueltas is the name of a large ranch lying between the heavy oak forest and the brush covered paramo, forty miles southeast of San José.

On May 7 and 8, 1931, I saw several examples of this wren on a brush covered savanna at an altitude of 10,500 feet. Two were secured, both males, one adult, the other evidently immature; but both in unworn plumage. They were shot from the tops of bushes about eight feet in height; not observed at any time on the ground. Thus, this species differs from its congener, *Thryorchilus browni ridgwayi* of the volcanoes Irazú and Turrialba of the central tableland, which favors terrestrial situations. The male adult of *T. basultoi* is now in the Havemeyer collection.—AUSTIN SMITH, *San José, Costa Rica, July 20, 1931.*

An Unusual Date for the Occurrence of the Young of the California Quail.—Mr. William Lippincott, Captain of Patrol of the California Fish and Game Commission at Eureka, Humboldt County, California, reports the following extraordinary nesting record for the California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*). On January 10, 1931, while patrolling along the Eel River near Scotia, Mr. Lippincott in the company of Deputy Game Warden Feland came upon a pair of adult quail with eight or nine young apparently not more than ten days old. This would mean that the eggs for this brood of young were laid during the first part of December and that, if any conclusions are properly to be drawn from the record, it is probably a late rather than an early one. If such is the case it is again interesting to observe the tenacity with which quail hold to the breeding instinct, making repeated efforts until finally successful in bringing off a brood.

Mr. Lippincott describes the weather during the thirty days prior to the discovery of the quail as having been generally damp and stormy, fog intervening with the storms. The country at this point along the river is composed of small ranches including alfalfa and beet fields with plenty of cover for quail. Among the latter, Mr. Lippincott particularly mentions the wild blackberry. The elevation is approximately 150 feet.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, September 23, 1931.*