Nov., 1932

White-tailed Kites near Sacramento.—The writer is gratified to report the presence of a pair of White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) in Yolo County close to Sacramento, California, on June 7, 1932. The specific location was in jungles of willows and cottonwoods along the east side of the Yolo By-pass about two miles to the northward of the east end of the Yolo Causeway, or about one and one-half miles north of west from Lovdal Station. The latter point is not over four miles from the capitol building in Sacramento.

The birds flew out of the jungle of willows and cottonwood as I approached, and circled silently about and close above me for a period of fully ten minutes. They were closely observed with 6x binoculars, and every characteristic point of identification was carefully noted. After the period of aerial evolutions they glided off over the tall trees, and were lost to sight. The topography of the surrounding area is closely similar to typical kite nesting-habitats as described in many of the bird publications. I could not ascertain whether these birds were nesting, or were merely casual visitors.

Reference to the files of the Condor fails to show any records in recent years for this species anywhere in this general vicinity, so this record is thought worthy of publication.—Johnson A. NEFF, Bureau of Biological Survey, Sacramento, California, July 10, 1932.

Slight Extension of Breeding Range of Barn Swallow in Orange County.—The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*), formerly nesting only in certain places along the beaches in this section of California, has been gradually extending its breeding range inland during the last few years, using, for the most part, small bridges over drainage ditches as nesting sites.

On July 28, 1932, a brood of four young Barn Swallows left a nest built under a small road bridge about one mile northwest of Cypress, this location being about nine miles airline from the nearest point on the beach and in territory where the species has not nested before to my knowledge. The floor timbers of this bridge were only about two feet above the stagnant water, and the bridge is only about ten feet long. Neither the adults nor the young have been seen since the day the young left the nest, and a canvass of the other bridges within a radius of two miles failed to show any other birds of the same species.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, Buena Park, California, August 3, 1932.

Status of the Baikal Teal in California.—Mr. James Moffitt has recently recorded the capture of a specimen of the Baikal Teal (*Nettion formosum*) in California, with expression of his belief that it was a wild bird (see Condor, XXXIV, 1932, p. 193). He may be right in his assumption, but the following facts suggest otherwise.

The species is frequently handled by San Francisco dealers in live birds. I first became familiar with it when I began to inspect imported wild birds for the United States Biological Survey in 1910; next to the Mandarin Duck it is the commonest water fowl in the live-bird market. To satisfy my curiosity I have checked up recent records of inspection and find that between January 1, 1928, and June 30, 1932, Mrs. Davidson and myself have recorded 527 Baikal Teal entered at San Francisco, as many as 136 birds being shipped in one lot. Of course the species had been coming in steadily for years prior to the dates given. Under the circumstances it is surprising that it has not turned up in the marshes before now.

Next to the Baikal Teal ranks the Falcate Teal (*Eunetta falcata*) in point of numbers, another Asiatic species whose capture here should not be misinterpreted as the result of a wild bird's volitional movements. I have examined altogether 32 species of foreign wild ducks that have been brought here alive, some in considerable numbers. Any of these, shot in a wild state, I would certainly regard as escaped or released from captivity unless there was absolute proof to the contrary.—H. S. SWARTH, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, July 19, 1932.

Nesting of the Western Tanager in Solano County, California.—While following a footpath along Green Valley Creek in a shaded cañon five miles northwest of Cordelia, Solano County, California, on May 30, 1932, H. W. Carriger and I passed almost directly below a nest twelve feet up, near the tip of the first horizontal limb of an

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