

Since there was considerable snow in the mountains when the swifts were staying over, it is assumed that the unfavorable weather barrier caused them to accumulate here until warmer days and better feeding conditions called them farther north.—S. A. WATSON, *Whittier College, Whittier, California, May 24, 1933.*

Some Subsistence Items of Western Burrowing Owls.—Some interesting items of food found in a few nesting cavities used by Western Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) excavated near Benicia, California, by H. W. Carriger, William Douglas and the writer on April 23, 1933, were the following. A male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*) in full spring plumage, a San Joaquin Valley Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus inornatus*) identified by Dr. Seth B. Benson of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, a meadow mouse (*Microtus*), a small frog and a large blue centipede. In addition, there were the segments of Jerusalem Crickets (*Stenopelmatus*) and black ground beetles nearly always found about the entrances and in the cavities of this owl.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, May 28, 1933.*

European Widgeon Recorded from Lower California.—The San Diego Society of Natural History has come into possession of a mounted male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) taken on January 13, 1933, at Descanso, Lower California, Mexico, which is about 30 miles south of the international border.

It appears that Alfred Crosthwaite, who lives at a small rancheria at Descanso shot "a pair" of these birds in a slough close to the ocean. One he sold for food at Tijuana; the other, in the belief that it was a "cross," he brought to show his friend W. Y. Wetzel, an employee of Muehleisen & Company, sporting goods house in San Diego. Wetzel had the bird mounted by Ted Huff, San Diego taxidermist, for Muehleisen's exhibit of game birds. Due to the generosity of all these persons, the specimen has now been donated to the San Diego Society of Natural History and will be placed on exhibition at the Society's museum in the case devoted to local ducks. It constitutes, I believe, a first record for Lower California.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, June 5, 1933.*

Electrocution of Purple Martins.—During the latter part of May and the first part of June, 1933, hundreds of Purple Martins (*Progne subis subis*) gathered every night upon the electric wires near Bingham's pond, an irrigation reservoir about one-fifth of a mile in length, six miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. On the evening of May 31, I estimated the number at 1500. One span of bare 2300 volt wires is rather long and in the center the separation can hardly be more than eight or ten inches. Below this point I found a dead male Purple Martin and wing feathers of several more.

I was puzzled to account for these deaths until, on the morning of June 3, the matter was solved. A female martin was found hanging head downward, its claws grasping the wire tightly. Evidently when the wires were crowded with birds, the wind or the movement of the birds as they sometimes left in large groups, was sufficient to swing the wires dangerously close together. The moment two birds on different wires touched they would, of course, be electrocuted. Stray cats probably accounted for the feathers on the ground.—A. H. ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, June 5, 1933.*

White Mountain Fox Sparrow in Arizona.—Records of *Passerella* from Arizona are somewhat scanty, and but four records of a single form were included in Swarth's Distributional List of the birds of that State published in 1914. It is therefore a matter of interest that a specimen taken 53 years ago by the veteran collector, Frank Stephens, has hitherto remained unrecorded. The specimen is no. 1149, collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History, and was taken at Big Sandy Creek, Mojave County, Arizona, February 9, 1880, by F. Stephens. This bird, now considerably faded by age, was submitted to Mr. H. S. Swarth, who identified it as *Passerella iliaca canescens*.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, June 8, 1933.*