

nests, I was able to locate only this one on the water company's land, even though several different days were spent afield in this quest.

In company with Dr. Ralph A. Woods of Los Angeles, a day was spent in the vicinity of Calabasas, Los Angeles County, chiefly looking for nests of raptors. In a grove of small scrubby live oaks, a nest containing one pipped egg of a Band-tailed Pigeon was found. The nest was typically constructed, being placed about fifteen feet up on a horizontal limb. The female flushed from the nest and was not seen or heard again while we remained at the site. Mr. W. J. Sheffler of Los Angeles informs me that several years ago while hunting in this vicinity in the autumn, he noted old pigeon nests. Incidentally, a ranchman with whom Dr. Woods and I talked on March 19, 1934 (the date of discovery of this nest) declared that "several" years ago there were a number of birds on his place throughout the year, but that he had not seen any since that time. Had this female not noisily flushed from her nest, I would not have known a pigeon was in the canyon, for no sign of another individual was seen or heard.

A comparison of breeding dates seems of interest. In contrast with the early nesting at Calabasas, in March, and the June date from San Mateo County, I have other dates in my notes from the Sierra Nevada, notably from Lopez Flat on the Tejon Ranch, Kern County, in the Tehachapi Range (one egg fresh, on May 27, 1928), and from the upper Tule Canyon, Tulare County (one well-fledged young in nest on July 28, 1926).—J. STUART ROWLEY, *Athambra, California, June 14, 1934.*

Magpie Spends Second Winter at Florence Lake.—On December 3, 1933, the first of our partly tame coyotes returned for the winter. This was Tom, who had been with us the two previous winters. And with him on the feeding ground that very first morning was Skäta, a Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) (see Condor, 35, 1933, p. 198)—if not Skäta, at least one of her kind. From its actions we felt sure it was the same individual that had spent the previous winter with us, sharing this same coyote's food.

The winter of 1933-34 was quite the mildest we have seen at Florence Lake, and the coyotes (Tom, Nelly and Lobo, a new one—Dick failed to return) did not find it necessary to depend so much upon the food we furnished for them. However, they came every day or so and Skäta was always with them when they came, and left when they left. Not once did this magpie feed with the birds on the side of the house opposite from the pups' feeding ground.

Nelly and Lobo were mates and while they made no attempt to kill this bird they showed quite plainly they did not care to share food with it. However, Tom was, as usual, hospitable, and throughout the winter the coyote and the magpie dined side by side. But again when March arrived, Skäta left the coyote companion, probably to join her fellow-magpies on the "east-side" somewhere.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Big Creek, California, April 25, 1934.*

Miscellaneous Notes on Birds of the Sacramento Valley.—During many field trips of the past three seasons I have entered in my notebooks several records that appear to warrant publication. No extensive search of the literature concerning the species mentioned has been made, but these observations appear to add to the picture of each of these birds.

Gallinula chloropus cachinnans. Florida Gallinule. Listed both by Hoffmann and in the more recent A. O. U. Check-list as wintering "from southern California southward". Florida Gallinules are really regular winter residents of all parts of the Sacramento Valley rice-growing area. I have definite dates of their occurrence covering each of the winter months in Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Yuba, Sutter, and Yolo counties. They do not appear to winter in large numbers, but one or more individuals can be located practically any day during the winter by a few minutes scouting along the canals or sloughs. My most recent record was that of a pair noted by Warden Black and the writer on the St. Germain Gun Club, Suisun marshes, December 18, 1933.

Dendrocygna bicolor helva. Fulvous Tree-duck. Two specimens of the Fulvous Tree-duck were killed on the Spalding Ranch Gun Club, near Willows, California, by H. Joseph. The last of the two, killed about November 21, 1933, was mounted and is

on display at Hotel Barton, Willows. Other mounted specimens of this species were noted in several duck club lodges. It appears that this species may not be so rare in the Sacramento Valley area as the dearth of literature concerning its occurrence indicates.

Egretta thula. Snowy Egret. Several records of the occurrence of the Snowy Egret in the Sacramento Valley are at hand, and will be listed briefly. May 29, 1931, one, Plumas Lake, Yuba County; December 22, 1932, two, 3 miles east of Maxwell; March 2, 1933, one, 4 miles southeast of Willows; April 18, 1933, one, close to the last named place; June 6, 1933, two, in flooded rice-field 9 miles west of Gridley; November 27, 1933, one, on a gun club near Maxwell; December 26, 1933, five, feeding within a short distance of one another along a canal 4 miles north of Williams. Of these observations, that of December 22, 1932, was of especial interest, since it was just a few days after the end of a bitterly cold period. In every case listed these birds were in company with the larger American Egret and with other herons, so they could easily be compared in detail.

Elanus leucurus majusculus. White-tailed Kite. In 1932, I published a record of this species noted on Conoway Ranch, some miles west of Sacramento (Condor, 34, 1932, p. 259). New information is of interest. On November 16, 1933, Inspector W. G. Duncan, Agricultural Commissioner's office, Woodland, California, had occasion to traverse parts of this same ranch property. Under a willow tree about 1½ miles west of the place where the species was previously observed he found the well-preserved body of a White-tailed Kite, evidently shot the day before by pheasant hunters; its mate flew about overhead for some minutes before disappearing over the trees. The dead bird was delivered to Professor Hopkins, of the Esparto High School, for verification of the identification. Because of the proximity of the two localities, it does not seem at all impossible that the same pair of kites remained on and around that identical area for the period covered by the two records.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Sacramento, California, April 1, 1934.*

The Race of Cowbird in the San Francisco Bay Region.—In increasing numbers have the eggs of cowbirds been found in the San Francisco Bay region since their initial discovery in 1922 near Irvington, Alameda County (La Jeunesse, Condor, 25, 1923, p. 31; see also Grinnell and Wythe, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 18, 1927, p. 104). It is quite possible, too, that cowbirds were present in the region prior to 1922. For there are earlier reports, though not as authentic as could be desired; for example, of "Sagebrush Cowbird" from "Gilroy, California" in 1912 (Oberholser, *Bird-Lore*, 22, 1920, pp. 343, 344). At any rate, save for a vagrant of the race *artemisiae* taken on the Farallon Islands (Dawson, Condor, 13, 1911, p. 181) no adult specimen has been available from which to determine subspecific status.

Just now, through the vigorous and successful efforts of Mr. Henry W. Carriger, who of late years has collected many of the eggs of *Molothrus* in the Bay region, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology has come into the possession of an adult pair of the birds. They were taken on May 26 and 27, 1934, within the eastern city limits of Oakland, Alameda County, and are preserved under Mus. Vert. Zool. nos. 64963-64. They show measurements, respectively, as follows: ♂, wing 106.3 mm., tail 73.5, tarsus 24.7, culmen 16.6, depth of bill at base 9.3, weight 39.2 grams; ♀, wing 90.5, tail 60.2, tarsus 22.3, culmen 13.3, depth of bill at base 8.3, weight 27.8 grams.

Molothrus ater californicus Dickey and van Rossem (Condor, 24, 1922, p. 208) was named from specimens from the southern (upper) end of the San Joaquin Valley. From the date of that description up to the present occasion I have been of the opinion that *californicus* is a fairly recognizable race, upon basis of the characterization given by its describers. However, doubts have lately been expressed by other persons. Friedmann (*Auk*, 44, 1927, pp. 504, 505) synonymizes *californicus* under *obscurus*; and the same author only this year (*Wilson Bull.*, 46, 1934, p. 28) reiterates his belief that it [*californicus*] is "the same as the Dwarf Cowbird." Willett (*Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 21, 1933, p. 156) expresses the same view, in part in the following words: "*Californicus* is apparently an intergrade between *obscurus* and *artemisiae*, somewhat nearer the former. The naming of intergrades is a practice that may be continued indefinitely and cannot but lead toward nomenclatural chaos. With this in mind, *californicus* is here included with *obscurus*, from which it differs very slightly."