

may be a potent factor in gallinaceous well-being. Drinking from surface water, as pools, may be a secondary, learned source of supply.

The problem of water supply, especially in the young, is one of the most important to birds. Animal food, the staple food for the young of seed-eaters, may be more than a source of concentrated nutrition. It may be fed the young, not because of its superior food value, but as a source of moisture. Dew and water of exudation may serve to furnish the remainder of the necessary water for precocial birds and as such be a vital determinant of the success of the family.—LEONARD WILLIAM WING, *University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, March 28, 1935.*

A Whistling Swan Visits Death Valley.—On December 5, 1934, Adrey Borell, Donald Curry, and the writer found a lone Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) at the old Eagle Borax Works, which is below sea level in Death Valley, California. By remaining flat on my stomach, I crawled up gradually until I was within fifty feet of the swan. It fed with its head down, in a small brackish pool, digging into the black mud with vigorous strokes for the underwater stems of a water weed.



Fig. 41. Whistling Swan in flight over ruins of old Eagle Borax Works, Telescope Peak in background, Death Valley, California.

Wildlife Division negative no. 4136.

The swan, which was clearly an immature bird, spied me as I arose slowly to a sitting position in order that I might obtain a photograph. It then flew a short distance out into the center of the pond. Upon being approached, the swan took off easily against a stiff north wind and circled over the ruins of the old Eagle Borax Works, giving me a chance to secure a photograph (fig. 41) which not only serves to identify the bird as a swan but also identifies the locality.—JOSEPH S. DIXON, *Wildlife Division, National Park Service, Berkeley, California, February 11, 1935.*

The Man-o'-war-bird off the Oregon Coast.—On the morning of February 18, 1935, a strange bird was seen soaring over the east end of Tillamook Rock, an isolated islet

one and one-quarter miles off the Clatsop County, Oregon, shore line. On this rock is located an important lighthouse with a permanent crew maintained by the U. S. Lighthouse Service. Hugo Hanson and Werner Storm, assistant keepers of the light, told me this interesting story.

"From the time we first discovered the bird until nearly sundown, he had never alighted on land or sea, but swung slowly back and forth and from side to side without ever moving his enormous wings. About 5:30 in the afternoon the bird started to look for a roost but had some difficulty in selecting a place to his liking as he would almost settle, then as if reconsidering he would rise and cast about for a more suitable perch among the jagged rocks comprising the lower level. Finally he came to rest on a small iron tripod, part of the derrick that was carried away during the recent storm, and after much folding and refolding of those amazing pinions he settled down for the night. Something caused him to leave his low roost during the night, as one of the keepers while on night watch noticed him tottering in the breeze asleep on the large cable from the top of the derrick mast to the end of the boom far above the rock. Upon looking for him next morning we scanned the sky in vain and decided that he had departed in search of his home or of more comfortable surroundings; but when Mr. Hanson went down to do some work on the steam hoist he discovered our friend huddled at the base of the derrick fast asleep in the everlasting rest."

After the bird died, as described above, Mr. Hanson skinned the specimen and it was presented to me, proving to be of the species *Fregata magnificens*. The sex was not determined. This is the first reported occurrence of this southern species as far north as the Oregon coast, and it constitutes the first authentic record of a *Fregata* for the state of Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, March 12, 1935.*

The Rosy Finch in Saskatchewan.—The Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) is a somewhat irregular winter visitant to Saskatchewan, appearing generally about the beginning of November and staying until the end of March. Breeding as it does in the Rocky Mountains at an altitude of 7000 feet, and descending to the plains in winter, it furnishes an interesting example of altitudinal migration.

The species was first recorded by the writer on November 8, 1912, when two birds were seen. For some years no more were noted, except at rare intervals in very cold stormy weather, or when no collecting was possible, and it was not until November 27, 1921, that the first specimen was taken. This was a male bird, feeding in company with some redpolls around a flax strawpile on this ranch. On January 19, 1922, two other birds were secured at a near-by ranch; and on March 18 two more, evidently a pair, were shot here. Although the taking of these specimens was considered necessary in order to establish the Rosy Finch as a Saskatchewan bird, it is interesting to note that a specimen was taken near the forks of the Saskatchewan River, in what is now central Saskatchewan, in May, 1827, which is prior to the writer's record by nearly one hundred years; also that there are two or three records from Manitoba, one at Birtle in 1891 (Macoun, J., and Macoun, J. M., Catalogue of Canadian Birds, 1909, p. 465). Doubtless it is merely owing to lack of observers that the Rosy Finch was not recorded in southern Saskatchewan long ago.

All the foregoing records refer to the type race (*L. t. tephrocotis*) which, as Taverner (Birds of Western Canada, 1926, p. 279) states, is the bird to be expected on the plains. But according to Aretas Saunders (Pac. Coast Avifauna No. 14, 1921, p. 110) the Hepburn Rosy Finch (*L. t. littoralis*) also is to be found in that state; and for several years the writer has endeavored to establish the presence of that subspecies in this section. It is also worthy of note in this connection that the one record of a Rosy Finch in Minnesota is for *littoralis*, not *tephrocotis*.

In 1933 Mr. Spencer Pearse, a neighboring rancher, informed me that he had observed in his yard on February 3 about a dozen unfamiliar birds which he identified as Hepburn Rosy Finches, but not realizing the importance of his discovery he failed to secure a specimen; however, later on, on March 1, he shot a male, sending it to the Provincial Museum.

The winter of 1933-34 proved to be a good rosy finch winter, several flocks