

A Broken Wing Heals.—During banding operations at my Woodacre station on March 1, 1936, a Golden-crowned Sparrow "repeat," number 34161715, managed to snap the humerus of its right wing in trying to escape. A large brush pile is maintained close to where the feed hopper and some of the traps are located, the pile being large enough to form a good hiding place where birds cannot be reached by hawks or stray cats; so the injured bird was gently placed on an inner twig half way up the side of the pile.

On March 15, just two weeks after its accident, this bird reappeared in one of the traps. On being released after its number was read, instead of fluttering back to the brush pile close by, it flew to a thick-set live oak tree some 40 or 50 feet away, and furthermore it flew upward some 20 feet from the ground. It seemed to fly a trifle more slowly than usual, but its action showed that the bone had knit and that the wing was fulfilling its function. Moral: for ground-feeding birds always have a brush pile handy in case of accidents, where the victim can hop down from twig to twig and feed without straining the injured wing. Fortunately such an accident is of rare occurrence.

—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, April 8, 1936.*

Surf Scoter in the Cuyamaca Mountains, California.—On March 24, 1936, I was in the Cuyamaca Mountains near Julian, San Diego County, California. While driving down the grade toward the desert, I saw a male Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) sitting in the road. The bird did not seem to be injured, but rather tired out. It ran along the ground, but we succeeded in capturing him before he was able to take off. We had had a high wind all day, with rain and snow in the mountains. The altitude here is about 4000 feet. There are records of this duck from a number of inland localities; nevertheless, the discovery of this one some 50 miles from salt water seems worthy of record.—ED N. HARRISON, *Encinitas, California, May 5, 1936.*

Some Observations on the Food of the Prairie Falcon.—Pellets were collected and examined at two nesting sites of Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). Subspecific and some specific names of animals represented in them are based on known distribution (at the Kern County eyrie through trapping and shooting) of the forms rather than on direct identification. Questionable identifications are so marked.

Eyrie in southern Kern County: 41 pellets, all exclusively mammal remains:

9 *Citellus mohavensis*

26 *Ammospermophilus leucurus leucurus*

6 *Neotoma lepida lepida*

At the nest site was found a half-eaten and still fresh *Citellus mohavensis*, and just below it old bones (last year's?) of a young but nearly full-sized *Lepus californicus deserticola*, and fresh feathers (but no corresponding pellet) of a Northern Cactus Wren (*Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi*). The old birds were seen 12 or 15 times over a two-weeks period carrying *Ammospermophilus* to their young.

Eyrie in east-central San Luis Obispo County: 30 pellets, 20 containing (17 mainly or exclusively) mammal, 11 (10 mainly or exclusively) bird, 1 exclusively reptile, 6 (2 mainly) insect remains:

Citellus beecheyi (fisheri?) in 8 pellets

Ammospermophilus nelsoni nelsoni in 7 pellets

hair, almost certainly *Ammospermophilus* in 2 pellets

hair (*Onychomys*?) in 2 pellets

Otocoris alpestris, subsp. ? in 6 pellets

feathers, probably *Otocoris*, in 1 pellet

Sturnella neglecta ? in 2 pellets

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis in 2 pellets

lizard (*Sceloporus*) in 1 pellet

grasshoppers (all *Oedipodinae*?) in 5 pellets

large beetle (*Carabidae*?) in 1 pellet

A young decapitated and plucked Horned Lark was in the nest with the young falcons.

At an eyrie in western Kern County a female was flushed from the eggs and was joined in the air by the male. A pair of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*) flew from the same cliff. The female Prairie Falcon broke the wing of the female owl, and the male falcon killed the male owl outright, each with a single stoop. This eyrie was later revisited, and 4 dead young were found—1 in the nest and 3 below it. It is assumed that picnickers shot the parents.

At an eyrie in southwestern San Luis Obispo County was found a fresh half-eaten wild cat (*Lynx rufus californicus*) kitten, the estimated live weight of which was slightly over 2 pounds, or

about the load limit of a female Prairie Falcon. There is no proof that the kitten was killed by a falcon (it was on a ledge about 30 feet from the nest), but a rather extensive exploration of the cliff disclosed no signs of other large birds of prey.—RICHARD M. BOND, *Oakland, California, December 3, 1935.*

A Note on the Nesting of the Bush-tit.—On May 22, 1935, when on a short trip to the Argus Mountains in Inyo County, California, a nest of the Lead-colored Bush-tit was found about dusk in a dense atriplex bush near the road in Mountain Springs Cañon. When I shook the bush preparatory to investigating the nest, a brood of young (estimated at 7 or 8) swarmed out and escaped to near-by brush. I did not further investigate at the time, but the following morning four young, just able to fly, left the nest as I approached. Thinking the nest to be now useless to the family I removed it with the object of investigating the "species content" of the feathers which entered into the nest's construction.

Much to my surprise there were five perfectly fresh, unsoiled eggs, which without question represented a second laying for the season. The first of these must have been laid for some days prior to the time the first brood was ready to leave. Such "overlapping" of broods, with the young of one brood acting as temporary incubating agents for the eggs of the second, was entirely new to my experience. When, recently, I mentioned the circumstance to Mrs. Joseph Grinnell, she said she believed that similar occurrences might be the answer to the extremely short time intervals which had elapsed between the first and second broods of certain pairs of bush-tits observed by her in the San Francisco Bay region.

The systematic status of the Argus Mountain bush-tits cannot be stated definitely at this time, since no specimens were taken. However, the birds observed were unquestionably of the "lead-colored" type, and probably (see van Rossem, *Auk*, vol. 53, 1936, p. 85) belong to the subspecies *Psaltriparus minimus cecaumenorum*.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, April 3, 1936.*

Hummingbirds of Southwestern Saskatchewan.—Hummingbirds are not seen frequently in this section of Saskatchewan. But during the last 20 years, with increased settlement and with great extension of flower-growing everywhere, these little birds have either increased in numbers, or there are more people to see them.

Formerly it was believed that the only species of hummingbird occurring on the plains was the Ruby-throated (*Archilochus colubris*); but recent discoveries show that at least three members of the family may be found here. A hummingbird was found by a neighbor on his farm near Eastend in August, 1925. It was in an exhausted state and died next day. Sent to the Provincial Museum at Regina the bird was identified as a Ruby-throated.

After a heavy rainstorm, a hummingbird was picked up dead in Eastend on August 11, 1929. At Regina this was found to be a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), previously unknown to occur east of the Alberta foothills. Another hummingbird, dead and badly decomposed, was found in Eastend on August 18, 1932. This specimen is preserved in the local Museum at Shaunavon, 25 miles east of Eastend, and is believed to be a Rufous. Mr. C. F. Holmes, a naturalist friend near Shaunavon, found a dead hummingbird on his farm on July 31, 1933. We are satisfied that this also is of the same species.

A hummingbird taken in a Shaunavon garden on August 22, 1935, was forwarded by Mr. Holmes to the National Museum, Ottawa. The specimen was identified by Taverner as a Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) and becomes the first record of the third species to be found in the Province.

It will be noted that with one exception, all the records extant are for birds found dead or dying, in or close to August, and it is not unlikely that inclement weather at that time of year may prove fatal to numbers of these tiny creatures. Nearly all definite dates of live hummingbirds seen are for August or September. Mr. Steve Mann, whose farm lies 30 miles north, on the northern slope of the Cypress Hills, tells me he has seen hummingbirds in his garden on May 12 and 13, 1932, and June 3, 1933. He states that he has never seen more than one bird at any time, and has seen no evidence of nesting.

The discovery of these two new species, both mountain dwellers, is less surprising when it is pointed out that our Cypress Hills rise to a level of 3600 to 4000 feet. In Montana, which is less than 40 miles to the south, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is believed not to occur, whereas four other species, which include the Rufous and Calliope, are to be found in the State (Pac. Coast Avifauna No. 14, 1921, pp. 82-84). Further collecting, therefore, may prove these two, and not the Ruby-throated, to be the prevalent species in this locality.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Gower Ranch, Eastend, Saskatchewan, April 14, 1936.*