

the summer for many years; there they were associating with the Black-crowned Night Herons and we have felt reasonably sure that a few pairs were nesting.

Our belief was verified on July 8 of this year when we visited Barr, accompanied by Fred G. Brandenburg. A nest with three large young and an addled egg was found in a cottonwood in a Black-crowned Night Heron colony, the nest being twenty-five feet from the ground and similar in construction to the nests of the night herons. It was not composed of fine twigs as is often the case in the nests of egrets breeding in Utah. We returned to the nest on July 10 and found that only two birds remained. Inasmuch as we desire to have the egrets increase in numbers, and young of unknown age would be useless to determine their race, we did not collect them, but took the addled egg (C. M. N. H., no. 6369) and photographs of one of the young to substantiate the record. As there are several large night heron communities around Barr, and as we have often observed more than a dozen egrets flying over the colonies, we feel certain that other pairs were nesting.—ALFRED M. BAILEY and ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, September 10, 1937.*

Fork-tailed Petrel in San Francisco Bay Region.—On August 31, 1937, a live Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) was brought to me by Mr. W. Vernon Bernard. It had been obtained at his residence, 227 San Carlos Avenue, El Cerrito, Contra Costa County, California. This place is at the base of the hills a mile and a half distant from the bay shore. The bird first came to notice when it struggled free from a hawk perched on a telephone wire. Apparently the hawk was of accipitrine type. The petrel flew along the ground coming to rest several times, and finally was captured by hand. It seemed uninjured when I examined it a half hour later (6:15 p.m.), but it was exceedingly thin and some feathers were missing from the side of the head. The bird died during the night. Upon skinning it, no lesions could be found; the breast muscles were, however, greatly atrophied.

It seems unlikely that this petrel was carried any distance by the hawk; for surely had this been the case, it would have been killed or obviously injured. Probably the bird, in a weakened condition, had just been captured. The petrel was a male, in good plumage (no. 72288, Mus. Vert. Zool.); it showed no evidence of immaturity. The causes of its inland wandering are obscure. On the day of its capture there was only the customary, moderate, inshore wind of the summer season. Heretofore, Fork-tailed Petrels have been known from the vicinity of San Francisco Bay at off-shore localities, about the Farallon Islands and off Point Reyes.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 3, 1937.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in Fresno, with the bird students of that section of central California serving as hosts. The dates of the sessions are tentatively set for Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16. Field trips are planned for Sunday, the 17th. The Board of Governors will hold its Seventeenth Annual Meeting on the evening of the 15th. This will be the first general meeting of the Club "north of Tehachapi" in other than the immediate San Francisco Bay region. Thus centrally located, it should draw large attendance from both north and south. Members planning to contribute to the program will need to begin preparing their papers at once, so as to be ready to submit titles when called for by postal notice about March 1.—GEORGE WILLET.

There can be no question now but that *water* is far and away the most valuable natural resource of the arid Southwest. And with the huge increase of the human population concentrating in the lowlands, needing to be sustained there, inevitably the water-producing uplands will be more and more conserved for that one value—as against grazing in any degree, lumbering, wood-cutting, and hunting (this practice eliminated because of the fire-hazard in the long dry season). A recent tour of southern California was convincing of the trend: Many mountain ranges, small as well as large, are already closed to grazing and hunting. The watersheds, with their essential cover of chaparral and woods, are being set aside and guarded for that function alone—of water supply to the valleys and plains below.