

(*Leucophyllum*) in a dry wash at the mouth of Pine Canyon, 3700 feet elevation. On October 18, a male was collected from a dead willow near a water tank at Glenn Spring, elevation 2606 feet. One or two birds of this species were observed about a tule pond one mile northwest of Boquillas every day from October 24 to 28, 1937.

Eastern Winter Wren. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*. A male was collected on October 22, 1937, at Hot Springs on the Rio Grande. Another winter wren foraged near-by in a pile of drift wood and beneath heavy brush.

Nevada Shrike. *Lanius ludovicianus nevadensis*. A shrike collected near the east base of Burro Mesa, elevation 3500 feet, on March 26, 1937, has been identified by Dr. Oberholser as *nevadensis*. The skin is in the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey collection, Washington, D. C.

Swamp Sparrow. *Melospiza georgiana*. On October 24, 1937, a male was captured in a mouse trap which had been set among the cattails at the edge of a small pond one mile southwest of Boquillas and one-fourth mile from the Rio Grande.—ADREY E. BORELL, *Wildlife Division, National Park Service, January 27, 1938*.

Early Nesting Record of the Coast Bush-tit.—The earliest nesting date that I have for the Coast Bush-tit (*Psaltriparus minimus minimus*) is March 6, 1938. The nest, containing five incubated eggs, was four feet from the ground in a chamise bush on a brush-covered hillside in Reche Canyon, a few miles southeast of Colton, California. The eggs were slightly larger than normal, the weights in grams being 0.88, 0.85, 0.81, 0.79, and 0.78.

My earliest record prior to this one was a set of seven fresh eggs found in Potrero Canyon, near Banning, California, on March 14, 1920. My latest record is June 25, 1929, near Colton, where I found a nest of five eggs along with an egg of the Dwarf Cowbird. This last mentioned nest was badly torn by the cowbird and two of the eggs of the bush-tit had been broken.

My notes concerning thirty-three nests of this form of Bush-tit in San Bernardino and Riverside counties show that usually five to seven eggs are in complete sets and the average is 5.7. The average weight of 188 eggs is 0.75 gram, the largest being 0.94 gram in a set of six eggs and the smallest 0.50 gram in a set of five eggs.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, April 12, 1938*.

Red Phalarope at Benicia, California.—On November 2, 1937, Burton Kuntz, a student of the Benicia High School, found a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) on a street near the shore of Carquinez Straits, in Benicia, Solano County, California. The bird was in a dazed condition and died shortly after it was found. It was brought to me and I have preserved it as a skin. It proved to be a female. The stomach was empty with the exception of a single, small lead shot; there being no indication of bodily injury, this may have caused lead poisoning. Verification of the identification of this skin as that of a Red Phalarope was made by Mr. J. Grinnell at the University of California.

Four days later, November 6, I observed several phalaropes which appeared to be of this species in the waters of Carquinez Straits near the Martinez wharf. The Red Phalarope being a pelagic species, it is possible that the severe storms at the end of October blew a flock of these birds inland. Benicia is a little over forty miles directly east from the seacoast, or, in a northeasterly direction, twenty-five miles from the Golden Gate.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, February 9, 1938*.

Nesting Dates from the Humboldt Bay Region.—Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). On May 23, 1923, a nest was found in a lowland fir, sixteen feet up. The nest, nicely cupped and made of dry spruce and fir twigs, contained a very young squab. Found in mixed woods, south of Eureka limits. On June 3, 1924, a nest of the same species was found in a lowland fir eight feet up. The nest was a mat of dry spruce twigs and contained a single egg, incubation about a week. Found in woods north of Eureka. On May 23, 1925, another nest was found in a lowland fir, fourteen feet up. The nest was a mat of spruce and fir twigs and contained one egg, incubation about one week. Found in woods north of Eureka. On June 14, 1925, a nest was found in a lowland fir sixteen feet up. This nest was a dirty mat of dry twigs containing a quill-covered squab. Found in woods north of Eureka. Yet another nest was found on July 7, 1925, in a lowland fir, eight feet up. This nest, made of a few dry twigs, contained one egg, incubation about one week. Found in woods north of Eureka. Finally, on June 12, 1926, a Band-tailed Pigeon's nest was found ten feet up in a lowland fir, a dirty mat of spruce and fir twigs containing a feathered squab. Found in woods north of Eureka. An adult pigeon was flushed from each of the above described nests.

On May 7, 1916, a nest of the Coast Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma grinnelli*) was found in a flicker's excavation in a dead spruce, sixteen feet up. It contained five eggs, incubation about a week. Found in woods north of Eureka.

On May 5, 1904, a nest of the Oregon Jay (*Perisoreus obscurus*) was found in a spruce tree, ten feet up. It was made of green moss and dry spruce twigs, damp earth and dead alder strips, thickly

lined with coarse dry grass. It contained three fresh eggs. Found in a small spruce grove one mile south of Arcata.

Another Oregon Jay's nest was found on May 17, 1915, in a lowland fir, thirty-six feet up. It was made of green moss, dry spruce twigs, damp earth, and dead alder chips, lined with coarse dry grass. It contained four eggs, incubation almost complete. Found in the woods south of Eureka.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, March 17, 1938.*

Reddish Egret Again Seen near San Diego.—While I was driving across the bridge between North Island and Coronado, in San Diego County, California, at about one o'clock on the afternoon of September 25, 1937, I saw a strange egret-like bird at the southeast end of the bridge. It was in company with several Snowy Egrets on the salicornia flats. After the car stopped, at a distance of about 150 feet from the bird, its reddish head and neck were observed. When it flew five minutes later, the light-colored undersurface of the wings and body was displayed.

Because I had just spent a year in Florida, the immediate thought was Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*); and this was confirmed when I visited the San Diego Museum and examined a mounted group of this species on exhibition there. The one previous report of this species in California was also from the vicinity of San Diego (Huey, Condor, vol. 33, 1931, p. 125).—R. R. DELAREUELLE, *Aviation Cadet, Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, April 15, 1938.*

White-throated Sparrow Killed by Copperhead.—A striking demonstration of one of the hazards to which birds are exposed, namely, attack by snakes, was witnessed about 2:30 p.m. on February 27, 1938, at Alum Creek in the Bastrop State Park, near Bastrop, Texas. I had just killed a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) which, with five or six others, had been scratching for food in the leaf litter under a yaupon bush (*Ilex vomitoria*) at the edge of a clearing. When I went over to retrieve the bird, my attention was attracted to a second bird of the same species that was thrashing about among the dead leaves. At first I thought I had wounded it; but when I reached over to pick it up I discovered that it was struggling to escape from a copperhead snake (*Agkistrodon mokasen*). The snake had the bird by the back of the head, holding on tenaciously, and periodically clamping its jaws tighter as if trying to sink its fangs and teeth deeper.

Approximately three minutes elapsed from the time the struggle first was observed until the bird relaxed, apparently dead. The snake, still holding to its intended prey, then attempted to drag it kill farther back into the pile of litter. Curious to see what would happen if I interfered, I took a stick and attempted to drag the snake into the open. Evidently the instinct of self preservation overcame that of hunger; for the snake released its kill immediately and attempted to escape by burrowing into the pile of leaves. Finally it was captured.

An autopsy revealed that the sparrow had not been wounded by my gun-shot and that apparently it had been captured while in sound condition. The fangs of the snake had penetrated the cranium and pierced the brain, causing a slight hemorrhagic condition. Death, of course, doubtless resulted from the poison injected.

The fact that the copperhead captured and killed an apparently normal bird leads one to wonder how severe this type of predation is on small birds which habitually scratch among leaf litter for food. The copperhead is so colored that it is discernible when motionless among dead leaves only by close scrutiny; hence it is admirably adapted, as far as color is concerned, to feed upon birds with such habits. Also, the tendency the snake exhibited to conceal itself under the leaves leads me to suspect that it may have lain in hiding and "pounced" upon the unsuspecting bird.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas, March 14, 1938.*

American Scoter in the San Francisco Bay Region.—Grinnell and Wythe (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 18, 1927, p. 55) list the American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) as a "very rare mid-winter visitant" in the San Francisco Bay region. The species has, in fact, been recorded but relatively few times from the entire coast of California. It therefore appears worth while to record the collecting of an adult female American Scoter by Leonard Penhale of the Department of Exhibits, California Academy of Sciences, on March 10, 1938, at Drakes Bay, Marin County, California.

On the same day that the above specimen was secured at least six adult males of the same species, all readily distinguishable from the numerous White-winged and Surf scoters by the bright lemon yellow on their bills, were likewise seen on this bay. The observer stated that a male and several female Old-squaw Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*) were also noted at the same time but were too wary to allow close approach.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 29, 1938.*

A Migratory Flock of Ibises in Utah.—The White-faced Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis guarauna*, is a fairly common summer resident on the east side of Great Salt Lake, particularly along the fresh-