April 17-19, 1937. At least one noted daily near camp on the Gila River about one mile south of Cliff by Mellinger and Stewart.

April 29, 1937. One found along Gila River about midway between Cliff and Redrock by Mellinger and Stewart.

May 7-17, 1937. Four nesting pairs found within a mile of camp on the Gila River near Redrock, by Mellinger, Stewart, and Leeman Green of Safford, Arizona. Two males were collected on May 8 and 12, respectively, at the above locality and are now in the Randolph Jenks collection at Tucson, Arizona.

The above data would indicate that the Lucy Warbler is a common summer resident up the Gila Valley at least to Cliff, and at least during one breeding season occurred in abundance in Guadalupe Canyon. It probably occurs during migration in suitable localities along the entire western edge of New Mexico. Further field work will doubtless produce records to extend this bird's regular breeding range farther up the Gila Valley, and also to include the several other river valleys of western New Mexico.

The writers are indebted to Mr. Randolph Jenks for permission to publish the portion of these notes which were made while working under him; and to Messrs. Ralph Todd Kellogg and J. Stokley Ligon for placing their records at our disposal.—E. O. MELLINGER, *North Lima, Ohio,* and PAUL A. STEWART, *Leetonia, Ohio, May 27, 1940.*

A Large Set of the Black Oyster-catcher.—On June 15, 1935, while making observations at Castle Rock, off Crescent City, California, we chanced upon a set of five eggs of the Black Oyster-catcher, *Haematopus bachmani.* It was the usual nest consisting of a slight depression in the gravel beach. It is highly improbable that the eggs had been laid by two birds, as there were only two pairs of oyster-catchers on the whole island and each pair had a set of eggs. The usual number of eggs is two or three (Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 146, 1929, p. 321).—L. ZERLANG and T. FRASER, *Eureka, California, July 12, 1940.*

Notes from the Salton Sea, California.—*Grus canadensis tabida.* Sandhill Crane. Among some specimens of cranes that were collected near the south end of the Salton Sea on March 2, 1940, for a habitat group at the San Diego Natural History Museum one individual was found to be a female Sandhill Crane. This has been preserved for the study collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History (no. 18110). The others were all Little Brown Cranes (*Grus canadensis canadensis*), which were fairly common until they left the region about April 3, according to Luther C. Goldman, federal agent in charge of the Salton Sea Wildlife Refuge.

Rallus obsoletus yumanensis. Yuma Clapper Rail. On May 13, E. E. Sechrist of San Diego presented to the San Diego Society of Natural History the skin of a male Yuma Clapper Rail (no. 18185), which he had captured by hand on May 11 at the Salton Sea. It was undoubtedly sick, for it permitted him to approach and pick it up, while he was searching for nests of the species. At the writer's request, he prepared the following notes on the discovery, by himself and his companion, Harry Heaton, of five occupied nests of this bird, which are believed to be the first on record. The only Yuma Clapper Rail's egg previously known was taken from the oviduct of a female collected on May 27, 1921 (see Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 135, 1926, p. 276).

"After planning for many years to run down the rare Yuma Clapper Rail, Heaton and I finally got around to it in 1940 when we made three trips of two days each to the Salton Sea, on May 4-5, May 11-12, and May 25-26. The marsh consists of thousands of acres of cattails and other growths running around the eastern end of the sea, and our first day and a half of diligent search yielded absolutely nothing, although we heard rails in several localities. However, on the afternoon of May 5, a nest was found containing one egg and a little later a second with two eggs, beside two empty nests. The following week-end we returned and spent the entire day of the 11th looking in another area, but without luck, although birds were heard. The voice of this rail is similar to that of the Light-footed Rail, but of a different tone. On the 12th we returned to nest no. 1 and found that it had been destroyed by some animal, raccoon and coyote tracks being plentiful. No. 2 fortunately contained a set of six eggs and of the two other nests, one was still empty and the other contained a nice fresh set of seven eggs. Before leaving the marsh we discovered a new nest which contained seven slightly incubated eggs, the bird flushing from almost under my nose. Of the five nests found, three were of black sticks with a few dead leaves on them and the other two were made of fine stems with dry blossoms on them. Two of the nests were on small mud hummocks, while the other three were in crotches of small shrubs just above the water in dense cattail and tamarisk associations. The water varied in depth from a few inches to knee deep. The eggs are the size of those of the King Rail, but

are more highly colored, more extensively marked, and generally brighter. As the work was very exhausting, both from the hard traveling in the marsh and from the intense heat, we did not return until May 25 and then only because of some empty nests that had shown good prospects. Some of these turned out to be the nests of Florida Gallinules, but on May 26, after searching all morning, we discovered another rail's nest with six slightly incubated eggs. This was the best built nest so far found."

Gelochelidon nilotica aranea. Gull-billed Tern. These birds were found by the museum's representatives to be common in April and were observed feeding over fields as far west as Westmorland, south to Brawley and east to Calipatria. Those collected were taken in late afternoon on April 11 and 12, 1940, as they were returning from their feeding grounds to the Salton Sea. Their stomachs were filled with grasshoppers. Bernard Bailey, of the museum staff, reported: "On April 11, I discovered a 'pass' where these birds were flying toward Salton Sea. I arrived at this point at 5 p.m. when the birds were already passing by. On the 12th, I arrived at 4:50, but no birds were seen until 5:12. From then until 6:20, birds passed over at frequent intervals, after which none were seen. A total of 194 birds flew during this time over a 'pass' not over 300 yards wide. On this night the birds did not seem to me to be nearly as numerous as on the previous evening, when the flight ended at 6:45 p.m. I believe the numbers on April 11 would have been between 450 and 500, had they been counted as they were on the 12th."

Hydroprogne caspia imperator. Caspian Tern. One of these birds was seen by Bailey on April 13, 1940, and one by Lewis W. Walker, also of the museum staff, on April 18. Five or six pairs were said by Luther Goldman to nest on one of the islands in Salton Sea.

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii hueyi. Desert Poor-will. A nest believed to be of this form, with newly hatched young, was found on May 11, 1940, by Messrs. Sechrist and Heaton. It was on a bare spot under a small bush, in very rocky ground near the eastern end of the Salton Sea. It was discovered by flushing the parent bird, and is apparently the first recorded nesting of the Desert Poor-will.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, July 19, 1940.*

Lark Bunting in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California.—Records of the occurrence of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in this vicinity are so few that it was with great interest that I examined at close range a flock of fully thirty on February 25, 1940, between Winchester and Elsinore in Riverside County. Males and females were present in about equal numbers. On March 3, 1940, Lark Buntings were abundant between Amboy and Ludlow in San Bernardino County and the females seemed to outnumber the males.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, March 11, 1940.*

An Observation on the Feeding of the Southern Bald Eagle.—That bald eagles feed on waterfowl and seabirds is well known. A note entitled "More about Hawks" by A. Brazier Howell (Condor, vol. 32, 1930, p. 157) presents the author's conviction that raptorial birds usually capture more sick than healthy birds. In the light of this statement, the following note may be of interest.

On March 1, 1939, in company with Henry Isham, I spent about two hours watching the activities of a family of Southern Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*) on and around the partially ice-covered surface of Baldwin Lake, at an altitude of 6,674 feet in the San Bernardino Mountains, California. We watched the birds from the road with powerful binoculars. The lake is perhaps a mile long by half a mile wide and the portion nearest to us comprised an ice-locked patch of open water several hundred square yards in area, where there were about twenty ducks and approximately twice that number of Coots (*Fulica americana americana*).

Our attention was first attracted to an adult eagle sitting on the snow-covered ice. Examining the bird through the binoculars, we found that it was eating a coot. It continued to feed for some minutes, then flew to a dead tree across the lake where two immature eagles were perched. One took off and glided toward a flock of coots that had left the open water and were meandering about on the ice. As the young eagle approached, the coots scattered wildly. One of these the eagle chose and as the luckless bird taxied for a takeoff, the talons of the eagle reached down, clutching it near the middle of the back. The coot raised its head, stretching its neck to full length in a last convulsion, then its feebly waving feet and head hung down limply. The eagle soared on for perhaps fifty yards, then alighted gracefully on the ice. For approximately five minutes it sat over its kill, appearing simply to inspect it without eating. It then flew back to the tree, without its prey, and alighted near the other two birds.

Flying toward the open water five minutes later, the adult eagle was followed at two-minute intervals by the young birds. They all circled between twenty and fifty feet above the ducks and coots