

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Water Ouzel Raises Brood under Difficulties.—Late in April, 1940, the nest of a Water Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus*) was noted in the process of construction a short distance above the surface of the Merced River on a small ledge on one of the piers of Sentinel Bridge in Yosemite Valley, California. The location of this nest was peculiar in that it was on a section of the Merced River which is deep and very calm. When the nest was first noticed, several of the observers in the valley remarked on the possibility that it might be washed off the pier in the period of high water which was sure to come when the snows began to melt.

In May, when the Merced River began rising every evening, I went to see how the nest was faring and at 9:30 p.m. on May 10 found that it was completely covered by the river. On May 13, also at 9:30 p.m., the nest was about half covered by the water. As the highest point of the water usually occurs about 11:00 p.m., it seems probable that the nest was completely covered by the water after I had left on May 13. Despite these two soakings, and there probably were more, the female ouzel managed to brood the eggs successfully and the four young birds were seen by several people on the day that they left the nest. Presumably there was an air pocket in or about the nest during periods of submergence.—VINCENT MOWBRAY, *Oakland, California, October 31, 1940.*

Extension of the Known Range of the Flammulated Screech Owl in California.—On the night of July 8 and the morning of July 9, 1940, Mr. Joe T. Marshall, Jr., and I climbed over the northeast slope of Mount Hanna, Lake County, California, looking for Flammulated Screech Owls (*Otus flammeolus*). As a consequence of Mr. Marshall's excellent vocal efforts, two of these elusive little owls were enticed close enough to be seen with the aid of a flash light. One of these two individuals, an adult male, was taken, and is now number 79271 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The reaction of these owls to an imitation of their note would indicate that they were on their breeding grounds. This is apparently the first record of this species in the west-central part of the state.—NED W. STONE, *Berkeley, California, November 11, 1940.*

Water-Thrush at Zion National Park, Utah.—On September 22, 1940, a Water-Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) was observed along the Virgin River near the Narrows in Zion Canyon, Utah. For almost a week this bird was watched daily by hiking parties going up the Narrows Trail and was a source of great interest. This constitutes the third record of this species from southern Utah, and the first from Zion National Park.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Zion National Park, Utah, October 28, 1940.*

Notes on the Feeding Habits of Two Species of Hawks.—In the late afternoon of July 21, 1938, two Pigeon Hawks (*Falco columbarius*), probably a mated pair, were seen on the edge of a pond-like embayment on the shore of Quesnel Lake, British Columbia. They were very dark in color and heavily marked ventrally, suggesting the subspecies *suckleyi*. The birds were apparently hunting insects, as they would fly out rather leisurely, flutter, and return to perch. Twice after doing this one of them was observed to go through all the motions of eating something. The whole performance was very much like that of the "hawking" habits of many fly-catching birds.

Several times one or the other of the birds would pass over the embayment, causing a violent splashing of fish, which evidently feared an attack. Most probably the fish were not in danger from the Pigeon Hawks, but were unable to distinguish between them and the Ospreys which also hunted this water.

Although we camped by this pond for five days, Pigeon Hawks were seen only on the one afternoon. Possibly they had been driven from their normal hunting grounds by a forest fire then burning in near-by mountains.

An Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus*) spent most of the morning of July 23 at the small embayment mentioned above. Sometimes it would fly about calling, but it spent most of the morning watching the water. After some time we heard a splash and saw the Osprey leave the water and fly off with an eight-inch fish of a kind locally known as "squaw fish" and not considered as game. The hawk returned in the afternoon and perched in a high tree, thirty feet off the ground. It appeared to watch a particular part of the pond intently, often moving its head backward and forward as though for a better view. Once it launched itself but did not strike, returning to its perch. Finally after going through the usual "seeing motions," it adjusted its position and suddenly dropped to the water, going under until only its back showed. Instantly, it was in the air again, carrying a "squaw fish" in each foot. After flying a little way the bird dropped one of the fish, but made no effort to retrieve it.