

Twining's observations (MS) at the nests of Sierra Nevada Rosy Finches (*L. t. dawsoni*) show how the feeding routine is adjusted in relation to carrying ability. He found that throughout the day each parent comes to the nest on the average of once every 45 minutes during the period of greatest growth of the young. This is a long interval between feedings for young passerine birds that are supplied insects primarily (compare the Song Sparrow; Nice, Trans. Linn. Soc. New York, 4, 1937:130). Concomitantly, the food delivered to young leucostictes at one feeding is great and the situation is remindful of the copious feeding at a single visit of young of species where the nestling food consists of vegetable material held for a time in the crop or oesophagus of the adult. Twining noted that as many as twenty-five deliveries of food to the group of young might be made by a leucosticte on one visit to the nest.

The question may be raised whether the gular sacs are any better suited than an enlargement of the oesophagus would be for carrying insects to the young. It is possible that they are not. Leucostictes may have evolved the sacs correlative with a tendency to crowd large numbers of insects into the mouth. It probably is instinctive in rosy finches to hold most of the insects intended for the young in the mouth rather than to pass them down the gullet. This seems generally to be the case in passerine birds which I have observed. In the presence of such an instinct a gular sac might more readily evolve through selection than would a true crop, provided the necessary mutations occurred.

In the matter of the relation of the genus *Leucosticte* to other snow finches of the Old World, particularly *Montifringilla*, Sushkin (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 45, 1924:36-39) has shown that important differences exist in the palatal structure which argue for the inclusion of *Montifringilla* with the weaver-finches (Ploceidae) and retention of the leucostictes with the true finches. Mayr's demonstration (Jour. für Orn., 75, 1927:596-601) of differences in the completeness of the postjuvinal molt further emphasizes the distinctness of these two groups of snow finches. Had Sushkin known of the peculiar gular pouches of *Leucosticte*, it seems unlikely that he would have failed to use this anatomical evidence one way or another in working out the relationships of these genera. Considerable interest attends, therefore, the result of search for gular sacs in other alpine finches supposedly related to *Leucosticte*. In fact much of importance remains to be learned about the situation in the rosy finches themselves with regard to seasonal occurrence of the sacs, their histology, and their presence in the male.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 15, 1940.*

Colorado Nesting Records.—On June 3, 1940, we found nests of Western Grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) and White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*) on Trites Lake, Saguache County, Colorado. Sclater (Hist. Birds Colorado, 1912, p. 77) reported that Aiken had found the glossy ibis nesting on San Luis Lakes on July 1, 1875, but gave no authority for the statement, and we have failed to find anything in the literature regarding Aiken's observation. W. W. Cooke had access to Aiken's notes and he states specifically (The Birds of Colorado, 1897, p. 60) that he did not know of nests of this species having been taken in Colorado. San Luis Lakes are in a dry alkaline area and are not bordered with aquatic vegetation necessary for such birds at the present time. Judging from the appearance of the country, we doubt that conditions in the past seventy-five years would have been favorable.

If Aiken actually found nests, it was probably on some of the smaller ponds of San Luis Valley. There are many early records for the ibis from the valley, but it has only been in recent years, comparatively, that conditions have been favorable for nesting water birds.

This broad valley has long been known for its fertility, wherever water was available for agricultural purposes. Flowing wells dot the landscape in many sections, forming ponds in an otherwise arid country; these have become bordered with marsh growths. The entire region reminds us of the area surrounding Great Salt Lake, with extensive alkali flats grown with spiny shrub (*Coleogyne ramossima*) and rabbit-brush (*Chrysothamnus patens*).

Trites Lake is the property of the Saguache Gun Club, a few miles south of the village of Saguache. The lake has the finest nesting cover we have seen in Colorado. The western edge is grown with a thick tangle of cattails and tules in which we found many nests of Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) and Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*). Nowhere have we found the Western Marsh Wren (*Telmatoodytes palustris plesius*) so common. Literally hundreds of males were heard singing, and dozens of nests, many with eggs, were found. With the wren so common in this place, it seems strange that no nests have been found along the many fine marshes of eastern Colorado or in any other section outside the San Luis Valley.

The Western Grebe was a common form on the lake. Fifteen or twenty birds were observed when we first reached the shores, and after a casual investigation, we found nine nests with eggs ranging from three to seven in number. Nesting had been going on for some time, for several sets were badly incubated.

The ibis were nesting in a colony with about one hundred and fifty Brewster Egrets (*Egretta thula brewsteri*) and possibly one hundred Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*); many nests of both the egrets and night herons were found, containing eggs, or small or large young. The only nests of the Brewster Egret in Colorado of which we know prior to this time were those recorded from Barr Lake (Bailey and Niedrach, Condor, 40, 1938:44-45).—ALFRED M. BAILEY and FRED G. BRANDENBURG, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, August 14, 1940.*

A Note on the Food of the Western Burrowing Owl.—The literature on the food habits of the Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) has been well summarized by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 170, pt. 2, 1938:389-390). On a recent trip to Colorado I made some observations which add to our knowledge of the diet of this owl.

Within the city limits of Denver, and close to the new army airport, is a sizable colony of prairie dogs. Within this colony at least two pairs of Burrowing Owls were utilizing the deserted burrows of the prairie dogs. On June 25, 26, 27, 1940, I visited this colony and collected several hatfuls of the pellets and refuse from the nesting sites of these owls. At that time the young owls, numbering 7 and 8 in the two broods, were well developed but could not yet fly. They would cluster about the mound at the entrance to the burrow, watching eagerly for the parents, both of which engaged in the feeding activities. About the mound lay quantities of crayfish, feathers, insect fragments and other detritus, and the mounds could be recognized at some distance by the white splashes of excrement.

Crayfish were the most conspicuous and bulky food items about the dens. The nearest source of this food was well over a mile distant, and it is probable that the owls flew considerably farther in order to secure such food. A list of the determined food items follows:

Crustaceans: Numerous fragments of *Cambarus* sp.

Insects: Spiny-legged camel cricket (Rhaphidophorinae), many fragments; *Calosoma*, numerous; *Pasimachus*, very numerous; *Harpalina*, very numerous; 7 other carabids, several scarabaeids, a few tenebrionids and weevils, several cydnids, 3 caterpillars and 2 hymenopterans.

Amphibian: Leg bone of *Rana*.

Birds: Numerous feathers of the Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*.

Mammals: Several jaw bones and fur of *Microtus*; bones of *Cynomys*. The latter were probably not killed by the owls, but rather were individuals which had died in the burrows and had subsequently been removed by the birds.

I am indebted to Charles C. Sperry of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, who made the majority of the determinations.—W. J. HAMILTON, JR., *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, November 5, 1940.*

A New Race of Bush-tit from Southeastern California.—Previously it has been shown by van Rossem (Auk, 53, 1936:85-86) that the bush-tits from the southeastern corner of California were distinct from others in the Great Basin region. It was suggested by him that birds from the Providence Mountains of southern California and other ranges in the vicinity represented a north-westward extension of the range of the race *Psaltriparus minimus cecaumenorum* from central Sonora, Mexico. The similarity in the birds was supposedly in their coloration. Examination of the type series of *cecaumenorum*, kindly loaned to me for study by the Museum of Comparative Zoology through Mr. James L. Peters, shows that the birds are either juveniles or adults in very worn plumage, and that they are undoubtedly not representative of the true colors occurring in the population.

Upon comparison of a series of 44 adult birds taken in the Providence Mountains, the type series of *cecaumenorum*, and representative birds taken from the range of *P. m. plumbeus*, it was readily seen that we were dealing with three distinct races. Accordingly, there follows a description of a new race, *providentialis*.

Psaltriparus minimus providentialis, new subspecies.

Type.—Adult female no. 72812 Mus. Vert. Zool.; collected 5 miles NE Granite Well, 5400 feet, Providence Mountains, San Bernardino County, California, December 28, 1938, by J. T. Marshall, Jr.; orig. no. 231.

Subspecific characters.—Pileum concolor with dorsum, whole back being olivaceous; flanks without the conspicuous vinaceous seen in *plumbeus*, hence more uniformly buffy; throat and belly usually concolor, instead of throat lighter as in *plumbeus*; auriculars generally browner than in *plumbeus*; dimensions greater than in any other race.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 51.8 mm.; tail, 60.7; bill length from nostril, 6.3.

Range.—Providence Mountains of southeastern California and Charleston Mountains of southern Nevada; in less extreme form in White and Inyo mountains of California.