

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.