

bank some ten miles northeast of Maxwell, Colusa County, California. During June the cattails in the canal were occupied by a moderate-sized colony of Tricolored Red-wings (*Agelaius tricolor*), and adjoining the canal was a large rice field which was rather heavily populated by nesting Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra*).

Passing by this den on July 15, 1932, I noted a large quantity of feathers and stopped the car to investigate. The following debris was listed: 64 wings of nestling Black Terns, 16 wings of juvenal Tricolored Red-wings, about 10 inches of the vertebral column of a small snake, 1 pocket gopher skull, 2 giant water beetles (*Hydrous triangularis*), and remains of 1 scorpion (see fig. 57).



Fig. 57. Remains of birds eaten by a family of Burrowing Owls.

It seems quite apparent that this family of owls were opportunists and that much of their food during June was composed of juvenal blackbirds and terns taken from nests within a few yards of the den. Some few young of both species were still in their nests on July 15.

Passing this way fully a month later, I again stopped to inspect the den and found that the current food remains consisted entirely of pellets of beetle fragments, normal food of the species in this area.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado, May 1, 1941.*

**A Record of the Northern Flicker in Butte County, California.**—Mr. Allan Coon of Durham, Butte County, California, shot two flickers which were drilling holes in his house on a farm two miles west of Durham on November 20, 1940. One was a typical Red-shafted Flicker, *Colaptes cafer collaris*; the second bird was slightly smaller, and the shafts and under sides of the wings and tail were bright yellow. The skin of this second bird has been identified by Dr. Alden H. Miller of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology as that of a typical Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus luteus*; it is now in the collection of Chico State College at Chico, California.—E. G. ENGLAND, *Durham, California, January 12, 1941.*

**Foraging Behavior in the Western Bluebird.**—A loose flock of about ten Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana*) and a Say Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) was observed feeding on a south-facing, open, grassy slope opposite (north of) St. Mary's College, Moraga Valley, Contra Costa County, on March 1, 1941. A strong southwest wind was blowing with consequent strong up-drafts passing along slopes and through the open draws. The birds were perched on dried weed stalks and fence posts, generally facing the wind. The Say Phoebe remained in the same vicinity, apparently indifferent to the bluebirds nearby. The bluebirds would fly to a position in the up-draft some 6 to 8 feet above the ground, there hover for a second or two, and then soar for a few seconds. On a number of occasions, one or two of them remained in a soaring position without movement of wings for 6 to 8 seconds (fig. 58).