Food of the Burrowing Owl in Western Nevada.—On June 8, 1939, A. C. Hawbecker and I picked up approximately a dozen pellets (some broken material) around an occupied Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) nest, about three miles northeast of Yerington, Nevada. These were subsequently analyzed by Mr. Charles Miller, with a small amount of help from me.

The following items of prey were found, each named as completely as the identifications were carried:

Mammalia	
Thomomys	1
Reithrodontomys megalotis	3
Peromyscus maniculatus	4
Sylvilagus (very young)	1
Reptilia	
Pituophis (young)	1
Amphibia	
Scaphiopus	30
Arachnida	
Scorpion	1
Insecta	
Odonata	
Agrionidae (?)	1
Orthoptera	
Locustidae	1
Heteroptera	
Pentatomidae	1
Coleoptera	
Unidentified	3
Carabidae	2
Silphidae	11
Elateridae	16
Buprestidae	1
Tenebrionidae	7
Lucanidae	1
Curculionidae	2
Hymenoptera	
Formicidae (?)	8

Of the seven whole pellets, four contained spadefoot toad remains. No remains of birds were found. It thus appears that these owls had appetites like those reported by Sperry (Wilson Bull., 53, 1941:45) rather than those observed by Neff (Condor, 43, 1941:197-198).—R. M. Bond, *Piedmont, California, February 11, 1942.*

Water Birds Influenced by Irrigation Projects in the Lower Colorado River Valley.—Perhaps few regions in the United States offer greater inducements to the ornithologist than does the lower Colorado River Valley near Yuma, Arizona. Because of various water developments in the past and the continued expansion of such operations, the original arid desert constantly is being converted into productive farm land. To effect this change have come the necessary lakes, canals, sloughs and drainage ditches of which the Laguna Diversion Dam and Imperial Canal, the Imperial Diversion Dam and All-American Canal, and the proposed opening of the several-thousand-acre Gila Project are outstanding examples.

Because of the lack of continued bird study in the Yuma area in the past, the effect that these changes may have had on the ornithology of the region is difficult to ascertain, but it is felt that it has been considerable. Although there probably has been a decrease in populations of certain species, the presence of abundant water in so arid a region has undoubtedly caused increases in those dependent on this factor.

During the winter and spring of 1940-41, the writer had occasion to make a series of visits to most of the areas near Yuma which have been influenced by this development. Although no specimens were collected, recent records are so few that it is felt notation should be made concerning significant observations of positively identified species. Special thanks are due to Mr. Allan R. Phillips for his aid in furnishing information on the status of various species.

Gavia arctica. Pacific Loon. On April 19, 1941, an adult was observed at close range on Mittry Lake (Laguna Dam), Yuma County, Arizona. This is apparently the first record for this species in this state.

Podilymbus podiceps. Pied-billed Grebe. Winter records were obtained on December 1, 1940, December 22, 1940, and February 9, 1941. On April 6, 1941, an adult with two very small young was seen on a small lake approximately three miles northwest of Somerton, Arizona, and on May 11, several two-thirds grown young were seen on Mittry Lake.

Egretta thula. Snowy Egret. Several seen on December 1, 1940, three recorded on December 22, 1940, and eight observed February 8, 1941, show this bird to be a not uncommon winter resident although previous published records for the area have not been found.

Ixobrychus exilis. Least Bittern. Two were seen at Lake Haughtelin, a small lake approximately three miles south of Bard, Imperial County, California, on October 5, 1940. There is a specimen in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology taken 2½ miles northeast of Fort Yuma, California, on December 29, 1940. One was observed on the small lake northwest of Somerton on April 6, 1941, and still

another was recorded from approximately three miles east of Yuma on May 11, 1941. The actions of those observed in April and May would lead one to suspect that they are breeding locally.

Mycteria americana. Wood Ibis. A flock of 91 was seen in a field being flooded by irrigation water approximately two miles southwest of Somerton, Yuma County, Arizona, on September 22, 1940. This species is evidently a common but irregular summer visitant.

Dendrocygna bicolor. Fulvous Tree Duck. One was seen on October 5, 1940, at Lake Haughtelin near Bard, California.

Erismatura jamaicensis. Ruddy Duck. That the Ruddy Duck is present throughout the winter months is shown by the fact that 21 were seen on December 22, 1940, 10 on January 9, 1941, and one on February 9, 1941. On April 19, 1941, an adult female with two very young ducklings was seen on Mittry Lake, Arizona. A pair of this species with eight, one-fourth grown young was observed on this same lake on May 11, 1941.

Mergus merganser. American Merganser. On December 22, 1940, nine were observed along the river and on Mittry Lake by Dr. C. T. Vorhies and the writer. On May 11, 1941, a single male was seen on Mittry Lake. According to local sportsmen this species may be on the increase in this area.

Gallinula chloropus. Florida Gallinule. One was seen among the tules bordering Mittry Lake on December 22, 1940. A pair with seven very small young was watched for some time on the same lake, May 11, 1941. Local residents claim that it has also been known to breed at Lake Haughtelin, on the California side of the river. It is evidently resident in the lower Colorado River Valley.

Fulica americana. Coot. An abundant resident in the lower Colorado River Valley. On April 6, 1941, an adult with one, one-quarter grown young was observed on the small lake northwest of Somerton. On May 11, 1941, five adults with young varying in size from very small to almost half grown were seen on Mittry Lake.

Squatarola squatarola. Black-bellied Plover. Two individuals of this species were observed near Somerton on December 30, 1940.

Phaeopus hudsonicus. Hudsonian Curlew. On January 12, 1940, a flock of nine was positively identified approximately two miles south of Somerton. Although this appears to be the first record for this species in Arizona, it is understood that they are of quite common winter occurrence in Imperial Valley, California.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater Yellow-legs. A not uncommon winter resident of the Yuma district. Two were observed September 28, twelve on December 22, and six on December 30, 1940, while eight were seen on January 12, 1941.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. This is a species of very common winter occurrence. Usually travelling singly or in pairs, it frequents the irrigation canals and margins of the lakes and sloughs on both sides of the river.

On October 1, 1940, the first *continuous* stream of water was allowed to flow into the All-American Canal which carries Colorado River water to Imperial Valley, California. It was with much interest that this newly formed large body of water was watched for signs of responsive bird life. During the first four months following its opening Lesser Scaup Ducks (*Nyroca affinis*), Redheads (*Nyroca americana*), Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*), Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*), Killdeers (*Oxyechus vociferus*), and Belted Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*) were observed on or along the edges of the canal.—LEE W. ARNOLD, *Yuma, Arizona, April 15, 1942.*

Range Extensions of Three Lower California Birds.—Across the Gulf of California at its narrowest point lie three islands which form a broken bridge between the mainlands of Lower California and Sonora. These are, from west to east, San Lorenzo, San Esteban, and Tiburón. The first and last are, as might be assumed, closely connected faunally with their respective mainlands. San Esteban lies almost in the center of the Gulf, although closer to Tiburón than to San Lorenzo, and its avifauna seems to have been derived from several sources. Lower California, although more distant in a geographical sense, seems to have contributed the greater proportion, for at this writing only one species, *Toxostoma curvirostre*, can be definitely stated to have been of Sonoran origin. On the other hand, Lower California has contributed at least three races and one of these is not that of the nearest peninsular point but from some distance farther south. The three races in question are *Dryobates scalaris lucasanus, Myiarchus cinerascens pertinax,* and *Auriparus flaviceps flaviceps*.

Re-investigation of the subspecific status of certain resident birds of San Esteban Island was initiated when a recent study of the distribution of the Sonoran races of the Ladder-backed Woodpecker showed *lucasanus* to be the resident race there. (Incidentally, the race on the peninsula opposite San Esteban is not *lucasanus*, but *eremicus*.) From certain other data at hand it would seem none