

pairs or small groups of 4 or 5 birds. They fed on snow-free areas such as beneath Russian thistle, beside sheds or other places where the ground was exposed and seeds could be found.

They similarly scattered out at night when roosting. They roosted on wires to some extent but mostly in sheds where they perched on window and door sills as well as rafters. If disturbed, they would leave their perches and fly about for a short time, but they would soon return to the same site.

Van den Akker had noticed flocks regularly at the plant for four winters prior to the winter of 1941-42. On the day that the first rosy finches were collected, that is, on March 27, 1942, the birds were less numerous than they had been any week preceding. This suggested that they were moving out of the area and dispersing toward their breeding grounds. On March 28 two more rosy finches were brought in and the report was made that the leucostictes were much less numerous. On March 31, Van den Akker obtained two more, this time with difficulty because of the scarcity of the birds. By April 1 the entire winter population had left the area.

It was planned to continue this type of collecting again the following year. Rosy finches were noticed at the plant for the first time again on November 9, 1942. They were not at all numerous on that day. The numbers gradually increased and at intervals throughout the winter Van den Akker brought in specimens which were prepared as study skins. Accession dates which correspond with collecting dates were January 27, February 11, 14, 16, 22 and 27. The number of rosy finches thus acquired totaled 48 for the two years. In late March of 1943 the leucostictes commenced to be less abundant daily. By March 29, they were definitely scarce. All the large flocks were gone and those birds remaining were in small groups of 3 and 4 birds. A few days later not a single rosy finch was to be seen.

Of the 48 birds collected at night and in random fashion, 20 were of the species *Leucosticte atrata* (11 males and 9 females) and 28 represented the species *L. tephrocotis* (10 males and 18 females). There are apparently no geographic races of the Black Rosy Finch. The specimens of *L. tephrocotis*, in contrast, represent two geographic races. Eleven of the 29 have the sides of the head partly gray like the crown and represent the race *L. t. littoralis*, the Hepburn Rosy Finch. Seventeen have the sides of the head brown and are of the race *L. t. tephrocotis*, the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.

Many of the specimens collected as described above were weighed before being prepared as skins and the following weight data were thus obtained. Seven males of *L. atrata* had an average weight of 25.0 (27.7-23.0) grams; four females, 23.6 (25.0-22.0). Four males of *L. t. tephrocotis* weighed 25.1 (27.4-24.0); eight females, 25.3 (26.7-22.9). Three males of *L. t. littoralis* averaged 27.5 (28.0-26.2), whereas six females weighed 25.5 (26.5-24.2). Although these samples are not large, they are of some value. For instance, it does not appear that there are any great size differences between the two species and there are indications of some slight sex differences in body weight in all save *L. t. tephrocotis*.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 15, 1944.*

The Saw-whet Owl in San Francisco.—Prior to the discovery of the nesting of the Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) in San Mateo County, California, in the spring of 1937 and subsequently in 1938 (Granfield, Condor, 39, 1937:185-187; Santee and Granfield, Condor, 41, 1939:3-9), this species was considered a rare and irregular winter visitant to west-central California. Indeed the known instances of occurrence were so few that one hesitated to publish a sight record unaccompanied by a specimen in hand. Such at least was the attitude of the writer when he happened upon an owl of this species in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, on December 4, 1931. This owl was seen shortly after 5 p.m. on the lower limb of a small tree near the northernmost of the Chain of Lakes. It permitted approach to within four feet so that there was no question as to its specific identity.

On March 4, 1944, Richard F. Kovak and William Taylor obtained a Saw-whet Owl in the Panhandle of Golden Gate Park. This specimen, an adult female, now number 58449 in the ornithological collection of the California Academy of Sciences, is referable to *Cryptoglaux acadica acadica* although it is somewhat darker than most comparable California-taken skins in the Academy collection.

These two records, so far as known, are the first from San Francisco County.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, March 31, 1944.*

The Gray Oven-bird in New Mexico.—On October 13, 1941, an Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) was taken alive at the headquarters of the Jornada Experimental Range in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. The bird was injured on the left side of the head and the sight in the left eye was destroyed or impaired. The injury apparently resulted from the bird's having flown into a building housing an airways beacon power generating plant in which a light was kept burning through the night. The

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bird could be closely approached on the injured side and after making a few short flights from the point where first discovered, it was caught by hand. It died of its injuries and a study skin was prepared which has been deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (no. 89447). Identification was made by Dr. Alden H. Miller, who found the specimen to be of the race *cinereus*, the Gray Oven-bird. The species, although listed in Bailey's "Birds of New Mexico," was so included with the reservation that there was then no sure record of its occurrence in the State.

The writer observed another Oven-bird at the same location on September 10, 1939. At this time the bird was observed with $5\frac{1}{2}\times$ field glasses at distances of 10 to 15 feet and was identified by its size, color, and pattern, ground-frequenting habit, and peculiar walking gait. No attempt was made to collect this individual as the writer did not then appreciate the value of a record specimen of the species for the State. The experimental range, as a whole, consisting for the most part of desert shrub and desert grassland vegetation, is not the type of habitat in which one would expect to find an Oven-bird, but the headquarters area, in striking contrast, with its trees and shrubbery and water, offers an attractive spot for migrating birds.—K. A. VALENTINE, *State College, New Mexico, April 13, 1944.*

A House Finch Census at Mountain Home, Idaho.—After the summer resident population of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) had arrived at Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho, we made a census of this species within the limits of the town. Mountain Home, which is misleading as to name, is surrounded by many miles of typical treeless sagebrush country. The streets are lined with many domestic species of deciduous trees. Therefore, concentrations of birds would be expected within the environs of the community.

An area of approximately 120 blocks was covered. The census was taken from noon until 4 p.m. on April 13, 1944. We recorded 375 males and 285 females, making a total of 660 birds. Fourteen nests completed and ready for occupancy were seen. Many other nests were near completion. These 14 nests ranged in height from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 23 feet above ground, the average being approximately 15 feet. The one nest at $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet was in a honeysuckle vine along a porch and it contained two eggs.

We believe it would be safe to say that there are over one thousand House Finches in Mountain Home. As this census was taken at a relatively quiet period of the day for bird activity, it is highly probable that we missed a good many birds.—FRED G. EVENDEN, JR., and JOAN R. EVENDEN, *Woodburn, Oregon, April 23, 1944.*