

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Returns of Banded California Brown Pelicans.—Early returns of pelicans banded at Anacapa Island, Ventura County, California, in April, 1939, and May, 1940, were reported by me in 1942 in the *Condor* (44:116-121). Since that time eight additional returns have come in as follows, all but the last one banded on May 15, 1940.

How obtained	Date	Place
Shot	"Season, 1942"	4 miles S San Rafael, Calif.
Found injured	May 22, 1944	Emerald Bay, Laguna Beach, Calif.
Found dead	Aug. 22, 1944	Near Ferndale, Calif.
Shot	Jan. 1, 1945	About 4 km. from mouth of Rio Acaponeta, Nayarit, Mexico
Found	April 30, 1945	Ensenada, Baja Calif., Mexico
Dead on beach	Nov. 4, 1945	Santa Cruz, Calif.
Caught on fish hook	About April 1, 1947	Huntington Beach, Calif.
Found dead	Jan. 4, 1946	Between Coronado and Imperial Beach, Calif.

Thus 8 (7.62 per cent) of the 105 nestings banded on April 16, 1939, and 63 (14.00 per cent) of the 450 banded on May 15, 1940, have been returned. The localities reported are all within the range established by the early returns. The oldest birds so far heard from are the last two listed here: 6 years and about 11 months, and 6 years and about 9 months, respectively.

The bird found at Ensenada may possibly have been nesting in the vicinity, but the question of whether or not there is any attachment to the natal colony is not answered by these returns.—R. M. BOND, *Soil Conservation Service, Portland, Oregon, December 22, 1947.*

The Starling Appears at Leevining, Mono County, California.—On December 8, 1947, following a snowstorm in the night in the Mono Basin, Mr. Ralph V. Beck, of Leevining, California, reported to the writer the occurrence of several "strange-appearing" birds in his backyard. They fed during the forenoon on breadcrumbs placed on a box about six feet from his office window. Five in number and about the size of a Robin, the dark-colored, profusely light-speckled birds were unlike any he had ever seen. The next day, a flock of about a dozen flew low over the yard. From the description given, I inferred that the birds were Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*); on December 10 their reappearance at the improvised feed station while I was at Mr. Beck's residence confirmed this. The Starlings fed eagerly at the station at intervals from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and at one time, while seven fed at or near the station, five more loafed in a "close-ordered" row in the sunlight on a power line a block away. Subsequently the Starlings apparently disappeared, and since have not been seen anywhere in the Mono Basin.

Starlings have previously been reported in California from Tule Lake, Siskiyou County, Death Valley, Inyo County, at Chino, San Bernardino County (see Stager, *Condor*, 49, 1947:169) and in the Colorado River valley (Monson, *Condor*, 50, 1948:45). The occurrence herein reported is believed to be the first for the Mono Basin and Mono County.—ELDEN H. VESTAL, *California Division of Fish and Game, June Lake, Mono County, California, January 6, 1948.*

The Effect of DDT on a Bird Population.—At the sewage disposal plant at Modesto, California, are some 20 acres of settling ponds. From August to April such shorebirds as Least, Western and Spotted sandpipers, phalaropes, Black-necked Stilts, Avocets, Wilson Snipe, Dowitchers, Yellowlegs and Killdeer move in and out of the area. Pipits are often present and usually hundreds of Brewer Blackbirds are there at all seasons. For ten years or more I have used part of this area as a banding station, and for five years or so a mosquito abatement group has been giving the area some attention. Until 1946 the group generally used an oil sprayed on the ponds and applied it with a hand-operated rig, but in 1947 it used DDT and power equipment. In the summer an airplane duster was used until it crashed, whereupon a tank-truck with hundreds of feet of hose took over. About September 15 an intensive campaign with the tank-truck was begun. The area was sprayed about every five days with DDT; treatment covered not only the ponds, but the heavy vegetation about some of them. In addition to that, aerosol fog machines put a cloud over the area about equal to a low tule fog.