

a lookout station by birds of prey. The bird's cries suddenly became more spirited and frequent. A few seconds later we saw another falcon wheeling in toward her. It was soon evident that this was the male. Without any preliminary display by either bird, other than the crouching of the female, the male sailed gracefully down and mounted her; coitus immediately followed. During the coital act the wings of both birds were high upraised and rapidly and excitedly fluttered. Copulation lasted about ten seconds. Then the male dismounted and flew away, leaving the female perched on the rock. There she remained for more than half an hour with scarcely a motion. From time to time we heard her cries but the male did not return—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside College, Riverside, California, November 30, 1947.*

Winter Occurrence of the Harlequin Duck in the Sacramento Valley.—On January 4, 1948, in the late morning, while driving through the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Glenn County, California, I saw a small flock of ducks take to the air and fly over the road about 25 feet in front of the car. This group consisted mostly of Mallards and Baldpates with a few Pintails intermixed. A single duck, flying somewhat apart from the main group and nearest to the car was immediately identified as a male Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). I followed this bird for several seconds, until he landed in an adjacent pond and was obscured by the glare of the sun. According to Grinnell and Miller's "Distributional List of the Birds of California" (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27, 1944:87), the Harlequin Duck breeds in the central Sierra Nevada and winters on the central California coast, and although this duck must pass between these two areas, no record from the intervening Sacramento Valley has been reported.—PAUL A. DEHNEL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 9, 1948.*

White Pelican and Ring-necked Duck in Humboldt County, California.—On the morning of September 11, 1947, three White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) were noted flying over the edge of the northern arm of Humboldt Bay, California. On the afternoon of the same date, the three were again noted high up over the Samoa Channel of Humboldt Bay. On the morning of September 14, 1947, a single one flew over Eureka and the Eureka Channel of the bay.

A single Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*) was closely observed at Big Lagoon, Humboldt County, California. The bird, a male, was swimming and diving parallel to the highway bridge which spans the lagoon. Although there was considerable traffic on the bridge, and the observer hung over the rail, the bird appeared undisturbed and remained within fifteen to twenty feet of the bridge.

Both these species are recorded from many parts of the state of California, but there seem to be no data on them from this northern coastal region.—ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Eureka, California, December 17, 1947.*

Behavior of the Gila Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird.—When parent Gila Woodpeckers (*Centurus uropygialis*) virtually gorged their young with thick, granulated honey that was placed in a saucer on a sycamore stump, I thinned the honey to the consistency of syrup. Not so easily scooped, the liquid was fed by the male parent in a clever manner. He gouged pea-sized lumps of bark from the stump, dipped them in the syrup, and gave the honey-coated pellets to his fledglings. He repeated this trick for many days, sometimes varying it by using grains or sunflower seeds which were in a hollow of the same stump. This was observed in the first half of July, 1947, at my home, 2 miles south of Globe, Arizona, at 3700 feet.

On January 6, 1947, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) twitched about on a branch, so near that I glimpsed his white eye-ring and scarlet topknot. Suddenly he hovered over a flowering shrub amid a swarm of bees. Without alighting, he caught a bee in his bill, darted back to the tree, and with a quick flip of his head swallowed the bee entire. After repeating this stunt three times, he flew to a shallow, water-filled metate and took a bath.

While rain was falling gently on August 6, I spied a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) in a cypress by my window, taking a shower bath with much fluttering and preening. When the rain came faster he edged toward the center of the tree, clamped his feet to a branch, and braced his body against the trunk. For a few minutes there was a deluge—a cascade such as is purposely braved by some hummingbirds. The bird now straightened up his body and pointed his beak

skyward. This position, exposing a slanting and smaller surface of sleek feathers, enabled him to take the impact without apparent difficulty.—ADA ANTEVS, *Globe, Arizona, November 17, 1947.*

A Mid-winter Record of the Barn Swallow in Lane County, Oregon.—Throughout the winter of 1946-47 a Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) established residence under a low bridge along the highway near Meadowview about eight miles north of Eugene, Lane County, Oregon. During this period of time I was collecting owl pellets for analysis and made two collections from about this bird's roosting place.

The first collection of nine pellets was made on December 30, 1946. The second collection produced six newly cast pellets on February 9, 1947. Two of the pellets from the latter group contained the remains of a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Of these two pellets, one was entirely composed of swallow material and the other contained both swallow remains and the parts of a mouse of the genus *Peromyscus*.

Normally the Barn Swallow is found in this area from April until late September, but apparently this bird was in the area during January. The pellet analysis was made by Charles C. Sperry of the Denver Wildlife Research Laboratory of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, October 4, 1947.*

White-winged Junco Parasitized by Cowbird.—In the open pine woods of Powder River County in southeastern Montana, White-winged Juncos (*Junco aikeni*) breed commonly. In late June of 1947, 4 miles west of Fort Howes Ranger Station, near Otter, I found two nests of this species each sunk in foot-high grass at the edge of pine timber. The first nest of June 25 contained one cowbird egg, one junco egg and two recently hatched young. One of the young had dry black down and was evidently a young junco; the other, with nearly white down, was assumed to be a cowbird. In the second nest on June 28 were two young cowbirds about five days old and two junco eggs. The young cowbirds begged loudly for food before the adult junco reached the nest, thus nullifying the concealing effect of the cautious skulking approach of the foster parent.

Juncos as a group are not frequently parasitized by cowbirds. Friedmann (*Auk*, 60, 1943:350-356, and preceding literature there cited on host species) reports parasitism only of the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) and of one race of Oregon Junco (*Junco oregonus montanus*). The habitats of juncos and cowbirds are largely distinct and often are not adjacent. In the vicinity of Fort Howes Ranger Station there are open grassy lands and creek bottoms which the cowbirds frequent and which afford means of penetration of the forest habitat. Cowbirds were abundant and specimens proved to be of the race *Molothrus ater artemisiae*. Solitary Vireos (*Vireo solitarius plumbeus*) also were seen raising young cowbirds in the pine timber.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 6, 1947.*

White-tailed Kites Roosting Together.—Due to the scarcity of the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) and to the fact that the bird seems to be gaining somewhat in numbers in southern California, the following records may be of interest. While serving as a member of the Marine Corps, I was stationed for over eight months at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California, and there I found the White-tailed Kite to be a fairly common bird. However, it was not until my duties took me to the rifle range every day that I discovered what an unusual concentration of kites this area possesses.

At Camp Pendleton the main rifle range is situated on the north side of the wide canyon which runs from the center of the base to the sea and down which flows the Santa Margarita River. This river has been dammed up a mile or so above the rifle range into a sizeable pond, and the overflow from this pond kept some water flowing into the river all the time I was there. Doubtless this was an important factor to the local bird and mammal populations.

I quote the following notes from my journal: "January 21, 1946: To the rifle range this morning shortly after dawn; in three dead trees grouped closely together near the river were perched six kites! January 22: Eleven kites just after dawn perched in the same group of dead willow trees; they frequent a large marshy-grassy area, sprinkled with small trees and large bushes. Several birds beautifully seen as they flew close overhead and hunted nearby. January 23: At the rifle range at dawn today with twenty-five kites perched in the same three trees, all in the field of my glass at one time! They