

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

evidently all roost together, but as soon as the sun comes up they quickly disperse, leaving the usual six or eight birds which I've seen all week hunting in this area."

This concentration of twenty-five birds on January 23 was the largest number seen at any one time, although the birds continued to be present in varying numbers. On January 29 courtship flight was first observed. On February 22 I did not arrive at the "kite rookery," as I had come to call it, until 8:30 a.m., usually far too late in the morning to see any more than six or seven birds, but there were fourteen kites in the same three dead willows.

On March 3, I met Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cogswell and Mr. and Mrs. James Murdock of Los Angeles in Oceanside shortly after dawn in the driving rain to try to show them this concentration of kites. Due to the rain, the fact that we did not reach the range until well after sun-up (had it been visible), and also that the season was far advanced (the morning concentration had decreased steadily in the latter part of February), there were only two birds present at the usual spot. However, in the course of the day's observation in the vicinity we were able to find eleven kites. As I noted in my journal at the time, "they have evidently all spread out to breed, for we had to travel to every spot I knew of to find the eleven birds we saw."

On March 12 there were five pairs in the immediate vicinity of the winter roosting spot and three nests were found. Adult birds were observed sitting in them for long periods, leaving only when I approached closely and then showing considerable concern. I found it impossible to see into any of the nests and so I do not know definitely whether or not eggs had been laid. However, one pair of birds which I watched closely were seen to copulate twice within an hour.

I was transferred away from Camp Pendleton in the month of April, but upon my return in early May the kites evidently had young in the nest, as the adults were seen for the first time hunting regularly in the main area of the base, right among the barracks.—ALLEN H. MORGAN, *Hartford, Connecticut, November 20, 1947.*

The Eastern Brant in Idaho.—While Glen Bandelin of Sandpoint, Idaho, was in a blind with goose decoys before him at the southeast corner of Lake Pend O'Reille at the mouth of Clark's Fork River, Bonner County, Idaho, on October 7, 1947, a bird alighted among the decoys unnoticed by the hunter. It was there for an undetermined time and flushed only when the hunter became restless and moved about in the blind. A long shot brought the bird down.

Game Management Agent Edward T. Carter, in checking Bandelin's kill for the day, saw the bird and brought it to the attention of Webster H. Ransom of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who at once made an unsuccessful effort to secure the bird for a specimen. Ransom, however, did obtain the head and part of the neck, at the same time writing a complete description of the bird's plumage, which he illustrated with a pen line sketch. This sketch, with the head and neck, were presented to me early in November. To verify my identification of the bird as an Eastern Brant I sent all this evidence to Alden H. Miller, who examined the material and compared it with all the brant in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, California. In conclusion Dr. Miller wrote me under date of December 8, 1947: "The head thus seems perfectly typical of *Branta bernicla hrota*."

From Ransom's description of the feathers on the back and wings I believe the bird was immature. It was in poor flesh as is usual with the few brant I have examined taken far from salt water. Apparently a fresh water habitat does not furnish these salt water birds with a suitable diet to keep them in good flesh.

The only previous mention of any brant occurring in Idaho with which I am familiar is that of Davis (*Condor*, 37, 1935:234) who lists the Black Brant as a regular migrant. This occurrence is referred to by Arvey in "A Check List of the Birds of Idaho" (*Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 1, 1947:193-216). I know of no specimens to verify these reports.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, January 2, 1948.*