without inducing nictitation, was occasionally observed with its nictitans drawn across its eyes while resting or sleeping in a dimly lit closet. Thus this behavior appears to be a normal characteristic of sleeping Barn Owls and irrelevant to the problem of retinal shielding.

In conclusion I might add that Dice's (Amer. Nat., 79, 1945:385–416) experiments on comparative sensitivity to low intensity lighting in three species of nocturnal owls (*Strix varia, Asio otus*, and *Tyto alba*) and one diurnal species (*Speotyto cunicularia*) demonstrate that Barn Owls are among those species most perceptive at weak light intensities. My observations of the Hispaniolan Barn Owl in the field indicate that this form is no less nocturnal in its habits than the mainland form which Dice studied.

These observations in no way rule out the possibility of a light-shielding use of the nictitans in other owls, particularly in members of the Strigidae, but it seems highly unlikely that this function is common among Barn Owls. The employment of these membranes as corneal lubricators and cleansers, as well as their use in protecting the eye from contact with foreign material seems incontestable, but further investigation is needed if we are to describe additional functions for these interesting membranes in owls.

Drs. Ernst Mayr and Raymond A. Paynter kindly read and commented on the manuscript of this paper. — DAVID O. HILL, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 22, 1963.*

The Pacific Nest Records Scheme in 1963.—In 1955 the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia set up a system for collecting data on nesting birds, "The British Columbia Nest Records Scheme," under the direction of M. T. Myers. It received support from faculty and students at the university and from many amateur ornithologists throughout the Province. The Natural History Societies, in Vancouver and Victoria, and the North Okanagan Naturalists club have been active supporters from the very beginning of the scheme.

At first the scheme gathered data from British Columbia, but by 1956 cards were being received from Alaska, Saskatchewan, and Washington. It was decided to expand the scope of the nest records

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF CARDS IN FILES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1963, WITH ESTIMATED NUMBERS FOR 1963

Region	Number of cards							
	To 1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Total to date	Est. 1963
Yukon	38	1	—	—	—	—	39	0
British Columbia	3072	2382	1808	1195	1232	1468	11157	2600
Washington-Oregon	116	102	403	356	282	230	1489	300
California	3	71	30	131	140	155	530	150
Interior states	1	160	135	352	299	3	950	50
Total	3230	2716	2376	2034	1953	1856	14165	3100
Alaska	133	109	105 — Given to Alaska Nest Records Scheme					
Prairies	36	66	22	{ Given to Prairie Nest				
N.W. Terr.	12	30	—	} Records Scheme				

scheme, and in 1957 M. T. Myers, I. McT. Cowan, and M. D. F. Udvardy (Condor, 59, 1957: 308–310) appealed for wider support from ornithologists in the western United States. The response was very encouraging. A total of 333 cards were received from the West and 109 from Alaska. As the British Columbia scheme continued to grow, Dr. R. B. Weeden and Dr. A. J. Erskine established similar schemes in Alaska and in the Maritime Provinces, respectively. The Museum of Natural History in Saskatchewan also established a scheme covering the Prairie Provinces. As the scheme had at that time cards from Alaska, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories, these were given to the Alaska and Prairie schemes to augment their files. At present our files, which as of January 1, 1963, contained 14,165 cards, cover five arbitrarily defined regions: Yukon Territory,

British Columbia, Washington-Oregon, California, and the western interior states Of the western interior states, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico are well represented while we have as yet no cards from Nevada. Table 1 shows the number of cards from each region with totals as of January 1, 1963. An estimate of the number expected for 1963 is given but at the time of writing only half of our contributors have submitted cards.

A general discussion of the aims and purposes of the scheme will not be given here. The reader is referred to Myers, Cowan and Udvardy (*op. cit.*) or to M. T. Myers (Murrelet, 38, 1957:30–31, 32–35) where such information is given in some detail. As mentioned in these two articles the cards

TABLE 2

FAMILIES OF BIRDS REPRESENTED IN THE PACIFIC NEST RECORDS SCHEME

Gaviidae	Trochilidae
*Podicipedidae	Alcedinidae
Hydrobatidae	*Picidae
Pelecanidae	*Tyrannidae
*Phalacrocoracidae	Alaudidae
Ardeidae	*Hirundinidae
*Anatidae (over 3500)	*Corvidae
Cathartidae	*Paridae
*Accipitridae	Sittidae
Pandionidae	Certhiidae
Falconidae	Chamaeidae
*Tetraonidae	Cinclidae
*Phasianidae	*Troglodytidae
Gruidae	Mimidae
*Rallidae	*Turdidae
Haematopodidae	Sylviidae
*Charadriidae	Motacillidae
Scolopacidae	Bombycillidae
Recurvirostridae	Laniidae
Phalaropodidae	*Sturnidae
*Laridae (over 5000)	Vireonidae
Alcidae	Parulidae
*Columbidae	Ploceidae
Tytonidae	*Icteridae
Strigidae	Thraupidae
Caprimulgidae	*Fringillidae
Apodidae	

* Indicates families represented by more than 100 cards.

are available to any ornithologist working on a project who requires information on breeding biology above and beyond what he himself can obtain. Thus in the past, workers have used these cards to gather data from outside their study areas and from years previous to their studies. To aid prospective users of the scheme, table 2 shows the approximate distribution of cards for the families of birds represented. Complete information on number of cards per species can be obtained by writing to the University of British Columbia. As the scheme continues to grow, more information will be available for a greater number of species. But we must stress that this will not be possible without the cooperation of professional and amateur ornithologists who take a little extra time to put the data onto our cards, thereby making them available to others. Graduate students of this department frequently use the cards to collect their data in the field, then when they have finished their analysis, deposit the cards in our files.

At present the greatest gap in our files is the California region and the western interior state region, where only 1480 cards have been received to date. We therefore appeal to all ornithologists

to help build up a valuable collection of data on the breeding biology of birds. — GEORGE M. MCKAY, *Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 21, 1963.*

Additional Bird Records for Interior Alaska.—Since Gabrielson and Lincoln (Birds of Alaska, 1959:765) and the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (5th edition, 1957) both give southern Alaska, from Cook Inlet and the Copper River Valley south, as the breeding range of the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) in Alaska, the following observations seem noteworthy. While mistnetting birds one mile north of Fairbanks, Alaska, on July 13, 1963, a male and a female siskin were taken along with a flock of 23 juvenal Common Redpolls (*Acanthis flammea*). Data for the siskins are as follows: female, molting wing and body feathers, large brood patch, ovary 4 by 3 mm., skull ossified; male, testis 7 by 4 mm., skull ossified. On July 22, 1963, another male was taken with a flock of 11 juveniles and one adult redpoll in the same locality. This siskin was molting its primary feathers and the testes measured 4 by 2 mm. A dried food mass, often seen in finches that feed their young by regurgitation, was on the bill. In both the above mentioned cases, it is believed that the siskins were either feeding with the redpolls or decoyed into the nets by the calls of the captured redpolls. These records seem to establish the nesting of the Pine Siskin some 200 miles north of the accepted range.

On August 29, 1963, a male Townsend Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) was taken in a mist net on the campus of the University of Alaska at College, Alaska. The skull was not ossified and the testes were less than 1 mm. Gabrielson and Lincoln (*op. cit.*:722) give the Kenai Peninsula, some 200 miles to the south, as the northernmost known area of occurrence in Alaska.

On August 28, 1963, a male Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*) was taken in a mist net in the same area as the siskins noted above. It weighed 9.5 gm.; the skull was not ossified, and the testes were less than 1 mm. In Alaska its distribution is principally coastal except for the inland populations in the Mount McKinley area (Gabrielson and Lincoln, *op. cit.*:677–678) and Anaktuvuk Pass in the Brooks Range (Irving, Birds of Anaktuvuk Pass, Kobuk and Old Crow, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 217, 1960:102–104). All specimens are on deposit in the Biological Collections of the University of Alaska. — CLAYTON M. WHITE, *Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alaska, College, Alaska,* and WILLIAM S. BROOKS, *Department of Zoology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, October 8, 1963.*

Hepatic Tanager Vagrant to Coastal Section of California.—On November 8, 1959, an Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava hepatica*) was taken by the junior author at a point two miles south and eight miles east of Shandon, San Luis Obispo County, California. This is apparently the first record of this species supported by specimen evidence from the coastal section of California. The Hepatic Tanager is known to breed in the higher mountains of Arizona near the lower Colorado River Valley, some 400 miles distant. The Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), both its eastern and western races, is now being detected in increasing numbers as a vagrant to the Pacific coast (A.O.U. Check-list, fifth ed., 1957:545–546).

The tanager found near Shandon visited a fig tree after having bathed in a shallow pool from the overflow of a water tank. Several Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) were bathing at the same time. The tanager was a male in yellow postjuvenal body plumage and was a bird-of-the-year, as shown by the skull, which was incompletely ossified. The bird was in good physical condition and the wing and tail feathers of the specimen (Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 142145) showed no evidence of wear that would suggest a period of captivity.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley,* and EBEN MCMILLAN, *Shandon, California, November 16, 1963.*

Hepatic Tanager in Southern California.—On July 31, 1963, a male Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) was observed at a feeding station in the Sunland area, Los Angeles County, in the company of a flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). The bird was observed with binoculars as close as 50 feet through the day. At all times it stayed with the cowbirds at the feeding station and about the orange orchard on the ranch property of Mr. F. S. Wade. This area is at an elevation of about 1200 feet, just south of the Tujunga Wash.