

have wandered into the higher elevations after being reared in the lower desert. This is the fourth record for Nevada.—GEORGE T. AUSTIN and W. GLEN BRADLEY, *Biology Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada, February 18, 1965.*

**An Abundance of White-tailed Kites in Sonoma County, California.**—Various recent reports have clearly demonstrated the recovery of the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) since its near extermination in California some years ago. Further evidence of this was found in Sonoma County during the past fall and winter.

A concentration of kites became evident in the vicinity of Rohnert Park and Cotati in the fall of 1964. Groups of a dozen or more birds were reported by several observers. On September 10, 19 kites were noted in one field just east of Cotati, California. In October a number of kites, as well as Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), were seen just north of Cotati. On October 21, 1964, 14 kites and 16 Red-tailed Hawks were seen by Arnold in an area of about 200 acres. In October a count of 18 kites over one field led Bolander to attempt a more thorough count. He returned to the same area on October 24, when there were 27 individuals. They moved out of the field in a westerly direction as dusk approached. He then moved to a new location in an attempt to intercept the line of flight. At that point, the birds were still moving to the west and 75 individuals were counted as they passed over a roadway toward a roosting area.

On October 25 Bolander and Arnold joined in an effort to count the complete flight. They were in place early enough to note the first kite moving across their sighting line at 4:21 p.m. In the next hour, an additional 20 birds had passed over. Then, in the space of 19 minutes, 134 more were tallied until finally, at 5:43 p.m., the last bird moved across. All 156 proceeded along a northwesterly course. The birds were alone or in small groups and flew in a leisurely manner from 15 to 70 feet above the ground.

The actual roosting spot was located in a walnut orchard on the following day by Bolander and B. D. Parmeter. The birds were perched in loose groups over an area of approximately three acres. No full count was obtained at that time, but eight kites were seen to come into the roost area from the west. It seems likely that they represented individuals not counted on the previous day.

On October 28 a count which was very adversely affected by a cold rain and poor visibility yielded a total of only 85 birds. There has been almost continual stormy weather since that date and no intensive effort has been made to keep track of the birds.

The area is included in the Santa Rosa Christmas count made by the Redwood Region Ornithological Society. They reported 47 kites on December 27. On the count in 1963 they had noted 20 kites.—GORDON L. BOLANDER, *Santa Rosa, California*, and JOHN R. ARNOLD, *Division of Natural Sciences, Sonoma State College, Rohnert Park, California, February 10, 1965.*

**Field Feeding of Whistling Swans in Northern Utah.**—During the early spring of 1964, Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were observed feeding in upland areas in two counties in northern Utah on several different occasions. Field feeding of Whistling Swans, while not unknown, is atypical behavior for this species.

Whistling Swans frequenting Utah feed almost exclusively on the vegetative portions and tubers of sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*). However, weather during the early spring of 1964 was extremely severe in northern Utah and held marshes icebound into mid-April. Migrating swans returning to Utah found normal supplies of food were inaccessible due to heavy ice cover on open water areas.

Data gathered, during a Whistling Swan trapping and marking program carried on by the Utah State Department of Fish and Game, indicated that many birds sustained a substantial weight loss during this period. Several swans which had apparently died of malnutrition were picked up by department personnel on the Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area, some 12 miles west of Ogden in Weber County.

During this same period flocks of swans on Ogden Bay and the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Box Elder County began to make daily flights to machine-harvested cornfields ad-

jacent to these marsh areas. The swans fed on waste corn in the picked fields. Once the pattern of field feeding became established, it was not uncommon to observe from 500 to 600 Whistling Swans feeding in a single cornfield.

Whistling Swans continued to feed in cornfields of Weber and Box Elder counties from early March to mid-April. Moderation of climatic conditions with subsequent thawing allowed swans to return to normal marsh feeding habits.—JOHN NAGEL, *Utah Department of Fish and Game, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 20, 1965.*

**Wintering Rufous-crowned Sparrows Found in Utah.**—A Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) was collected by the author in Oak Creek Canyon, Zion National Park, Washington County, Utah, on November 5, 1963. The specimen was a male and was assigned to the race *scotti* by Lester Short of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. It represents the first record of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow for Utah and extends the previously known range about 100 miles to the north.

The species was found to be present within the area throughout the winter of 1963–1964, as six individuals were reported. The first record was that of a bird banded at the Oak Creek station on November 3; it remained through the winter and early spring as it was captured again on December 2 and on March 4, 1964. Other records include: two birds observed in Pine Creek Canyon on November 6, 1963, by Dennis Carter, and one found dead in upper Pine Creek by Carter on November 12; a second bird was banded at the Oak Creek Canyon station on December 21, 1963.

Five additional Rufous-crowned Sparrows were banded at the Oak Creek Canyon station in August and October of 1964. A single bird was banded on August 29, and four individuals were banded on October 9, 16, 17, and 31. A banded bird was seen in the area throughout December, and two unbanded individuals were observed in upper Oak Creek Canyon on January 7, 1965. A single bird was banded at the Oak Creek station on January 30, 1965.

It appears that the Rufous-crowned Sparrow has become a regular wintering resident in the Zion Canyon area. Previous records for this race occurred “from central northern and central eastern Arizona (Grand Canyon, McNary) and southwestern New Mexico (Catron County) south to central southern Arizona” (Checklist of North American Birds, 1957:600–601). Phillips, Marshall, and Monson (*The Birds of Arizona*, 1964:200) say that the species is “found sparingly along most of the Grand Canyon, where its range and status are poorly known.” They also state that “there is still no good evidence of migration in this sparrow, other than short ‘weather movements’ downward in snowy weather and fluctuations at its lower limit . . . from year to year.”

The early fall records, in August, in Zion Park indicate a fall wandering tendency for the species, but the presence of Rufous-crowned Sparrows throughout the winter months appears to suggest a northerly movement in fall and, perhaps, a return to southerly breeding grounds in spring.—ROLAND H. WAUER, *Zion National Park, Utah, January 31, 1965.*

**The Starling in Guanajuato, México.**—On November 16, 1964, while watching Boat-tailed Grackles (*Cassidix mexicanus*) roosting in the garden in the main square of San Miguel Allende, in Guanajuato, México, I saw two Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) fly into the pine tree where the grackles were perching. The Starlings stayed for about 15 minutes and then flew off. About ten minutes later, another Starling arrived at the pine tree and was still there when I left about one-half hour later.—WALTER R. DONAGHO, *Kirkland, Washington, March 8, 1965.*