

Large Set of Eggs of the Western Red-tailed Hawk.—I received a letter a short time ago from a former club member, Mr. O. F. Beekman of Wasco, Kern County, relative to the finding of an abnormally large set of *Buteo borealis calurus* which I thought might be of interest to CONDOR readers. The nest was found April 14, 25 feet up in a large cottonwood tree and contained two newly hatched young, two pipped eggs, and two eggs far advanced in incubation. I have heard of a number of sets of five eggs, but this is the first one of six.—LAURENCE PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, May 28, 1918.*

Supposed New Record for Central Kansas.—On June 10, 1918, while collecting near Solomon, in eastern Saline County, Kansas, I found a nest containing three eggs of the Painted Bunting (*Cyanospiza ciris*). I have spent several years collecting in this part of Kansas and have never noted the bird here before although I am quite familiar with the species, having collected it near Bartlesville in northern Oklahoma. Upon finding this nest I knew that I had made an important record, so returned three days later and collected the set and the female bird. The male was not seen. The eggs were highly incubated at this time. The identification is made certain by the fact that the female is distinctively colored on the back, a bright greenish olive, and because the eggs are well spotted, all the other species of buntings laying plain unspotted eggs.

Mr. A. K. Boyles, a taxidermist of Salina, Kansas, only a few miles west of here, stated to me that he had never known of the occurrence of this species in central Kansas. He is also familiar with the bird, having noted it in northern Oklahoma. Extreme southern Kansas (Barber and Comanche counties) seems to be the northernmost previously recorded locality (Goss, *Bds. Kansas, 1891, p. 492*).—A. J. KIRN, *Solomon, Kansas, July 20, 1918.*

Bird Notes from Admiralty Island, Southeastern Alaska.—The last winter has been a hard one in this section. It was all winter weather since last Thanksgiving, with snow ten feet deep the end of March. This was by far the worst winter I have ever seen here, and I believe that ninety percent of the deer will have died. In regard to recent papers in THE CONDOR about the migration of horned owls to the Puget Sound region, here too they have been numerous. The rabbits all died in the interior last year (1916), and the lynx and owls have all been moving to the coast during the last two years. They have almost cleaned up the grouse and ptarmigan, and the lynx are now doing well on mallards, etc. Last fall I shot three *Bubos* around the house, and a visitor shot one that had just killed a mink. An acquaintance, a reliable man, was trapping around Icy Point last fall and winter, and he says that he killed more than twenty owls with clubs or by throwing his trapping hatchet at them. He saw a great many more, some of them sitting around and hooting in broad daylight. One that he killed was eating a loon, not dead yet, one was eating a gull alive, one was eating a squirrel, one was eating another owl which was not dead yet, and one was eating a mink. Mink are very scarce, supposed to have been killed off by the owls. He found an eagle eating an owl, and I, myself, saw near a deer carcass signs that an eagle, presumably, had killed and eaten a white owl. I killed a very large Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in January at Mole Harbor, Admiralty Island. He had been trying to catch a duck until it was so wet and weak that I ran it down on the flats. The owls all left Mole Harbor when the snow began to pile up in December. There is a territorial bounty of fifty cents on eagles, and over three thousand have been killed. The Alaska Council of National Defence is striving to have bounties placed on bears and all sea birds.—ALLEN E. HASSELBORG, *Juneau, Alaska, March 29, 1918.*

A Late Nest of the Swainson Hawk.—A nest of *Buteo swainsoni*, examined by the writer on the 12th of July, 1918, was found to contain two eggs which were apparently fresh. The bird was incubating. The eggs were entirely unmarked. A subsequent visit on July 20 disclosed only an empty nest, with no hawks in sight. The eggs were probably destroyed by men who had been at work in an adjacent field. The nest was well up toward the top of a cotton-wood tree on the bank of the Teton River, beside a ford. I first discovered it on July 7, when the bird was upon it, but I did not then climb up to examine it.

This is much the latest nesting date that has come to my attention. Incubation is usually begun in this locality (southeastern Teton County, Montana) during the last

week of May or first part of June. Since this species is known to construct a new nest, if deprived of its first eggs, the present nest is doubtless a case of that kind. My notes show that Swainson Hawks were seen at this place on May 13, one of them soaring high above the river with nesting material in its talons.—A. D. Du Bois, *Dutton, Montana, August 12, 1918.*

Notes from Southern California.—Franklin Gull (*Larus franklini*). A fourth record of this bird comes from the same locality as the three specimens taken by Mr. J. E. Law (CONDOR, xvii, 1915, p. 96). This gull was taken by myself on October 29, 1917, from a great flock of Bonaparte, Western, California, Ring-bill and Herring gulls, feeding on the sewage where it discharges into the ocean at Hyperion, Los Angeles County. In plumage it is the same as the birds taken by Mr. Law, an immature, probably of the year.

European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*). On December 12, 1917, a clerk in one of the large public markets of Los Angeles called my attention to a pair of fine "Red-heads" exposed for sale along with numerous other ducks of various species on his counter. A quick sale followed, the birds proving to be of the above species. Both were in perfect adult plumage, marred only by absence of under tail-coverts, which had been stripped off in removing the entrails. The proprietor stated they had been shipped to him from Brawley, Imperial County.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). The passing of famed Nigger Slough, as a result of drainage work begun in 1916, removes the last considerable area of breeding-ground for fresh-water birds in southern California. The reduction of formerly extensive deep-water areas to wide stretches of oozy mud, partly covered by a thin sheet of water, appears to have coincided with an unusual visitation of Red Phalaropes to this locality. This species was first noted on the beach southwest of Los Angeles, May 23, 1918, where several birds were taken and quite a number seen, at very close range, feeding about the cast-up kelp. On the 27th, several were noted at Nigger Slough, in company with thousands of the Northern Phalarope. Frequent inspection of the slough during the following week showed considerable numbers of the Red species, in every stage of plumage from the gray winter to full breeding garb, but a rapid decrease of the Northern. Both were practically gone on June 8.

Birds taken on the beach were greatly emaciated, while those taken at the slough were generally in good flesh, some of them fat, and all approaching breeding condition.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California, June 15, 1918.*

When the Thrushes Cease from Singing.—In the California springtime we hear the sweet-toned ringing of the thrushes' song, that of the Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) for the most part, and of other varieties as well, in some restricted parts. We instinctively note the first of these seasonal outbursts of joy, but how many of us take note of when they cease?

At first adding to our enjoyment of blossoming nature we soon become accustomed to the amorous outpourings of our avian friends and calmly take them for granted as a pleasing part of the fresh spring atmosphere, so that when they cease it takes us some time to awaken to the fact. Many times have I resolved to keep careful watch for the moment when these ringing notes would no longer be heard, and yet the season went by with this unnoticed.

This summer, however, I have had exceptional opportunity to take note of what happened as regards two species of thrushes. Going to the Bohemian Grove, on the Russian River about ten miles above its mouth, in Sonoma County, California, upon July 6 (1918), I found that in the darker and less disturbed part of the grove—where my own camp is situated—the Monterey Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata slevini*) was quite abundant, frequenting the lowest hillsides and occasionally appearing on the floor of the canyon, and in full song. During the many previous years of my camping there, but an occasional note had been heard, while no individual had been actually identified. This difference in habits was probably due to the extreme dryness of the nearly rainless winter and spring, with water very scarce on the higher levels around the grove.

The attendance in Bohemia was very light this year on account of so many members of the club being either directly or indirectly connected with war service, and human neighbors seldom appeared; so that passing most of the time quietly in my camp offered unusual opportunity to note the bird-life round about. There were certainly more birds of various sorts in the grove than ever noted before.