

Mid-winter Nesting in Southern California.—On December 24, 1925, I flushed a young Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) from the grass on the shore of Sweet-water Lake, San Diego County, California, whose almost tailless appearance, and the solicitous attention of one of its parents, indicated that it was but recently out of the nest. It could already fly too well for me to catch it, but the presence of young meadowlarks at this unusual date was further proved by Mrs. May Canfield, a member of the San Diego Society of Natural History, who, on December 27, 1925, collected near Mission Gorge, San Diego County, a young meadowlark even less developed than the one I had seen. Perhaps the heavy autumn rains of 1925 induced abnormally early nesting, for specimens of the San Clemente Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii leucophrys*) taken by Laurence M. Huey, of the Natural History Museum, on San Clemente Island, December 12, 1925, showed unmistakable evidence of breeding. As I saw a Green-backed Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus*) feeding her young, still in their nest in a pepper tree at the old San Diego Mission, on October 31, 1925, and as John von Bloeker, Jr., a member of the San Diego Society of Natural History, reported finding the nest of an Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) containing well-grown young on February 16, 1926, it can truthfully be said that, some seasons at least, nesting is a year-round proposition for the birds in southern California.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, September 21, 1926.*

Additional Breeding Records of the Spotted and Saw-whet Owls in California.¹—The Spotted Owl (or Northern Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis caurina*, if this subspecies continues to be recognized) is extremely rare in Marin County. In the many years passed in that county, on hundreds of nights with the sky, a tree, or a bit of canvas for a roof, I never heard a note that could distinctly be attributed to this owl. Farther north along the coast it becomes more common. At the Bohemian Grove, Sonoma County, in some years its notes occasionally may be distinguished during intervals in the ululant chorus that resounds through the woods of a summer night—after the Bohemians have ceased ululating.

In Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties this owl is much more numerous, and seems to be fairly well distributed throughout the coniferous forest association. In fact, it has been heard at practically every camp that I have made in these three counties. It was also noted on the South Fork Mountains, Trinity County, in June, 1926, 45 or 50 miles directly east from the coast. In these camps it was often heard but never seen, even when an individual was barking and whining one night over our heads in a tree by the camp fire. On one occasion Chester Lamb and I made patient but unavailing attempts to "flash" the owl's eyes.

In the various published attempts to describe in words the notes of the spotted owl, the descriptions of the whining and barking notes have been as nearly accurate as might reasonably be expected, but the only description that accurately fits into my experience of its call note, or hoot, is that given in the very interesting account of the habits of the Spotted Owl by J. Stokly Ligon (*Auk*, XLIII, October, 1926, p. 423). In that paper the call is expressed by *coo-coo-coo-coo-o-o*. Here the proper intervals are clearly shown, the second long interval being nearly twice the length of the first. The only suggestion that I might make in regard to this description is that it has always seemed to me as if the sound were more like *coop*, or possibly *cwoop*, with the last letter barely sounded. This is the call that I have used in imitating the spotted owl, when one was hooting and I could get the proper pitch of its note. It often seemed as if the bird were answering me, but then again, perhaps it wasn't, for my best efforts never brought one into view!

For this state, breeding records of spotted owls are rare, and the published records are confined to the southern half of the state. There is in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, an adult female that was taken in Marin County, May 23 (1896); but this does not constitute a breeding record, as the bird may have been a non-breeder that season. In view of our limited knowledge regarding the nesting of birds of this species in northern California, the following record for Mendocino County should be of interest.

¹ Contribution from the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences.