

circle, with their heads almost touching in the center. The gulls and shearwaters, with excited cries and much flapping of wings, would fly over, crawl over and dive under the stolid pelicans. Whenever a pelican wished to swallow his catch, he would suddenly stick his head under water, leaving only the afterpart of his body and legs above the surface, and would, apparently, swallow the fish in that position. The moment a pelican upended, the excitement among the other birds doubled and trebled, while they fought among themselves to get the fish that evidently slipped from the pelican's pouch the moment he opened his bill. The pelicans, however, seemed able to retain the bulk of their catch, for, after a while, apparently satisfied, they would rise slowly and go to fishing again. When they had collected another pouch full, the same performance would be repeated. The whole thing was most amusing, and the excitement of the birds was so great that I was able to lie within fifteen or twenty feet of them during the entire performance.—J. W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, January 21, 1927.*

**Valley Quail Imported from Chile.**—Perhaps no other American game bird has been so successfully acclimatized in other countries as has the California Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica*). For many years it has been known that this bird had been successfully introduced in such remote regions as British Columbia, Chile, and New Zealand, and now there has come to hand some interesting information as to the magnitude of the success attained in one of these places. Mr. F. E. Booth, of San Francisco, while on a visit to Santiago, Chile, noted Valley Quail for sale in the market there. On inquiry he learned that they were abundant enough to be obtained in quantity, and as a consequence he has begun the importation of stock from Chile for introduction into coverts on a game preserve in Sonoma County. The first shipment arrived during the early part of January, 1927, consisting of 134 birds, which reached their destination in good condition. Thus, depleted game coverts in California are being re-stocked with Chilean-raised California Quail.

Mr. Booth's importation of birds received newspaper publicity, and as an outcome of this there resulted some information regarding the early exportation of quail from California to Chile that seems worth placing upon record. The newspaper item was seen by Mr. E. F. Greenwood, of San Francisco, who wrote to me, giving information substantially as follows:

"My wife, a Chilean, is a grand-daughter of one William Govers, formerly of California and before that of Holland, who had a ranch near San Jose. He decided to migrate to Chile about 1864. Being a thrifty Hollander he took many things with him, including a brace of quail which he had captured on his ranch. When he arrived in Chile there were no quail in that country, and his birds, exhibited in a store window, were quite a novelty. He bought a ranch at Limache, near Valparaiso, and had his birds there for some time. Then, while feeding them one day, their cage tipped over and they escaped. This is the reason for the abundance of quail in Chile."

A second letter, from Mr. Henry J. Besant, Sonora, California, received by one of the daily papers and forwarded to me, reads thus: "I was in Chile with Mr. C. J. Lambert, who had a copper mine and smelter at La Compania, near Serena, Province of Coquimbo. In the park in which he had his residence at La Compania he released a lot of quail which he had had sent down from San Francisco. The climate and other conditions evidently being favorable, they increased in numbers rapidly and spread out over the country. I cannot now remember the exact date when this was done, but I think it must have been in 1881 or 1882."

It is possible, of course, that these were not the only importations of quail into Chile, but here, at any rate, is definite information as to the exact subspecies first introduced there, information to be taken into account in any study of the characters now exhibited by Chilean Valley Quail.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 9, 1927.*

**Status of the Yellow-legs in Arizona.**<sup>1</sup>—Recently, while occupied with the preparation of the distribution and migration sections for A. C. Bent's forthcoming volume on the Life Histories of North American Shorebirds, I was surprised to learn that there was available no authentic published record of the occurrence of the Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) in the State of Arizona.

<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

In his "Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona" (Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 10, 1914) Swarth denies this species a place in the regular list, although admitting it to the hypothetical list (p. 83) because of the published statement of Visher (Auk, xxvii, 1910, p. 280) that it was "tolerably common on a pond near Tucson early in September." As Mr. Swarth rightly says of this record: "In the absence of specimens it may be questioned."

Specimen evidence, however, is available in the collections made by Dr. E. A. Mearns in connection with the Mexican Boundary Survey, and which are now in the U. S. National Museum. It is a matter for regret that publication of the ornithological results of this Survey has been so long delayed. The field catalogue of Dr. Mearns contains the records of a series of 19 specimens of this species, collected at the San Bernardino Ranch near Monument no. 77, in southeastern Arizona, between August 2 and 29, 1892. I have located and examined 17 of these specimens in the National Museum collection. The distribution by date and sex is as follows: August 2, two females (one marked as immature); August 18, one male, two females; August 19, two males; August 21, six males, one female, one, sex undetermined; August 27, one male, two females; August 29, one male. During the same season in 1893 Dr. Mearns again worked at this station, but the Yellow-legs was not recorded in his catalogue.

Curiously enough, these specimens were overlooked by Prof. W. W. Cooke, when he prepared his supplementary list of Arizona birds, which appeared in the *Auk* for July, 1914 (pp. 403-404). Although more than thirty-four years have elapsed since the collection of this material, it would seem reasonable to assume that in eastern Arizona (or possibly only in the southeastern part) the Yellow-legs may be a fairly regular migrant, particularly in the fall.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., February 14, 1927.*

**Western Bluebird Nesting in the City of San Diego.**—A nest of the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) found during the past summer in Balboa Park, San Diego, is of interest, both as the southernmost nesting record on the sea-coast for this bird, and also on account of the unusual nesting site. Probably because they could find no suitable natural cavity in the trees of San Diego's well-pruned park, and because, for lack of suitable tenants, bird boxes are scarce, the birds occupied an empty Cliff Swallow's nest. In fact, they were obliging enough to select one under the eaves of the Natural History Museum, between the two windows of the Director's office. But so secretive were they in their affairs that their presence was not suspected until there were well grown and noisy young in the nest. This was on July 10, 1926; two days later the young were out of the nest.

Other evidence that Western Bluebirds have nested in Balboa Park is offered by a specimen in the spotted juvenile plumage that was found dead by the writer on the West Driveway, July 29, 1922; and by the observation of Carroll DeWilton Scott, a member of the San Diego Society of Natural History, who, on June 3, 1926, saw both parents feeding well-fledged young on the lawn at Eighth and Date streets.

It cannot be said that the above mentioned nest is the first Western Bluebird's nest to be found in the city of San Diego, for Laurence M. Huey, now a member of the Natural History Museum staff, has in his collection a set of four eggs of this species, taken from a woodpecker hole in a sycamore limb in Rose Canyon on June 4, 1915. The locality is about four miles from the ocean and, although completely rural, is within the corporate limits of the city.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, September 21, 1926.*

**The Lewis Woodpecker Apparently Nesting at Gustine, Merced County, California.**—On April 23, 1926, I found a pair of Lewis Woodpeckers (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) entering a hole about forty feet up in a cottonwood at Gustine. On July 30, 1924, I saw an immature bird in the same region. The elevation of Gustine is only 104 feet above the sea, and there are neither oaks nor pines in the region where the birds apparently breed.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, January 1, 1927.*

**The Rock Wren of San Nicolas Island Not a Recognizable Subspecies.**—In the *Auk* (xv, 1898, p. 237), I named a supposedly new race of Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus pulverius*, with type from San Nicolas Island, California. This island is situated more