

proved to be a female that had bred and was now returning from her northern breeding grounds.

It might be mentioned that, at the first Valle de la Trinidad camp, Western Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) were exceedingly abundant among the mesquites. No less than twenty pairs were breeding in an area not exceeding six acres. At the time of our visit, the young were just leaving their nests and were much sought by the Indians for cage birds.

While at the second camp, during the early part of the afternoon of July 14, the writer was attending to his traps, which were set for Round-tailed Ground Squirrels, when a shadow passed close by. Glancing up, he saw an adult Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo abbreviatus*) not over fifty feet above his head, so close that the bluish bill was plainly visible—and he was gunless! A sharp watch was kept thereafter, but the hawk did not return until July 18, when it was seen again, about mid-day, flying high overhead. This mid-day appearance of the hawk might be attributed to the fact that the Round-tailed Ground Squirrels, which were no doubt the attraction for the bird, were most active during the hottest hours of the day. Scott Orioles (*Icterus parisorum*) were occasionally seen at this camp and an immature specimen was collected July 16.

The time from July 20 to July 25, 1927, was spent at Laguna Hanson. The writer had previously visited this locality during the summer of 1925 and had noted several species of water birds breeding in the tule patches—American Eared Grebes (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*), Mallard Ducks, Ruddy Ducks (*Erismatura jamaicensis*), Virginia Rails (*Rallus virginianus*), and American Coots (*Fulica americana*). A return trip had been made to the same locality during October, 1926, when the lake was found to be completely dry. According to the custodian of a gun club who resides at the lake, there had been no breeding water birds at Laguna Hanson that summer. Heavy winter rains had again filled this shallow basin, and a check was made in 1927 to determine how quickly the breeding birds would return. Of the five kinds previously noted but two had returned, the Eared Grebes and the Coots. Both were again present in about the same numbers as in 1925, in spite of a presumable absence of one season.

In the coniferous forest near the lake, two adult Mexican Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*) were taken. Both were males and dissection proved they were breeding. California Linnets (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) were fairly abundant, and birds with the natal down clinging to the newly acquired plumage were collected, as were two specimens of Lawrence Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*) in the same condition. Both these species were thus established as breeding birds in the pine belt of the Sierra Juarez.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego, California, August 29, 1927.*

**Western Mockingbird Nesting in a Mail Box.**—On May 14, 1927, during a hike with the Boy Scouts of Troop 41, San Diego, California, the attention of the writer was attracted by a "cheeping" sound, as of young birds, issuing from an R. F. D. mail box at the roadside. Investigation led to the discovery of a nest, in the box, of the Western Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*), containing four young birds. A slight opening at the corner of the box permitted the entrance of the parent birds. As the books available to me state, without exception, that the mockingbird nests in such situations as bushes, thickets, vines, thorny trees, etc., the mail box site would seem sufficiently unusual to be worthy of record. There were three mail boxes beside one another on the shelf, the central one being that occupied by the birds.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, July 20, 1927.*

**Condor Caught in San Joaquin Valley.**—One evening in September, 1926, when returning to Grapevine from our work of surveying for the 220,000 volt transmission line of the Southern California Edison Company through Tejon Canyon, we saw a Condor on the ground, where it had been feeding on a dead cow. Knowing that these birds sometimes gorge themselves until they cannot rise from the ground and that