

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

in this condition they are sometimes to be caught with a rope, I sent one of the men in our car to Grapevine, about five miles away, for a rope, while the rest of the party stayed to watch the Condor.

When he returned, I took the rope, stood on the running board while the car was driven near the Condor, and tried to lasso it, but I found that I could not throw a rope from the running board of the car as I had been able to from the back of a horse.

But we were determined to have that Condor, so two of us stood on the running board, and as the car passed rapidly by the Condor, we jumped off and grabbed it with our hands. It disgorged some of its food and then tried viciously to get to us with its beak, but by each holding one wing, as shown in the accompanying photograph, we were able to avoid any injuries.



Fig. 62. CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY; SEPTEMBER, 1926.

After photographing the bird and taking a good look at it, its bright yellow head being one of its most conspicuous features at close range, we released it. Even though it had disgorged some of its food, it still could not fly, so we left it there. The next morning, as we went back to work, it was gone.

This location is in the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley in the comparatively level ground three or four miles out from the foot of the mountains and about two miles east of the Los Angeles highway running south from Bakersfield.—A. V. WILSON, 4176 Garden Avenue, Los Angeles, California, November 30, 1927. [This communication was transmitted by Harold Michener.—Ed.]

**White Pelicans Wintering in Northern Utah.**—In the late afternoon of December 10, 1927, while at Utah Lake securing data for the national waterfowl census report, I was somewhat surprised to find two White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) and one Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias treganzai*) at the mouth of Provo River. The lake was all frozen over except at the mouth of the river and was covered with about two inches of snow. The thermometer registered near zero. Both species of birds seemed cold and inactive and stood in the shallow water slightly humped over as if in an effort to keep out the cold. During the hour I watched them they made no effort to secure food. Finally the pelicans flew northward to a spring of somewhat higher temperature. The heron, however, remained at the mouth of the river.

Local fishermen report seeing one lone White Pelican at a warm spring on the south shore of Utah Lake in January of 1927.—CLARENCE COTTAM, Dept. Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, January 10, 1928.

**Western Winter Wren Found Breeding in Tulare County, California.**—On July 6, 1926, while collecting mammals and birds near Doyle's Camp in the Sierra Nevada