

quite active, picking and tearing at some food. At 9:43, the parent flew to a branch nearby and was there when I left an hour later.

The parent owls made no visits to the nest on the night of May 27 during observations from 7 to 9 p. m.

While watching the nest May 28, one of the parents was seen to alight on it at about 9:00 p. m. What took place there could not be discerned because of darkness, and the only sound heard was a snapping of the beak. After a few minutes the adult flew off down the creek. The young owl called after it with a rasping *peerahhh*, and the parent answered by the same note. This calling and replying continued for about five minutes, the sounds varying in length and sharpness, sometimes amounting to a scream. A parent once uttered a whistling *whee-whee* note. A short period of silence passed and then both parents were heard in a tree near the nest, holding a confused conversation, one uttering the *whoo* and the other giving *erreeuh* calls accompanied by a loud snapping of the beak. The latter was evidently the female, since it flew to the nest a few minutes later, after the other left, uttering the same calls, and showing the usual tameness when I walked close to the tree. Another of her calls was a series of sharp *tchi-tchi-tchi* sounds, ending in a harsh screech.

The nest was watched from 8:00 to 10:00 p. m. on the nights of May 30 and June 5, but no activity was detected on account of the foliage having become dense and the wind preventing hearing.

The young owl left the nest on June 6. With its parents it remained in the nesting territory for over a month. By June 24, it was the equal of the parents in power of flight. A trait that I had not observed before in these birds was their roosting among the grasses and weeds on the damp ground below the trees during the hot days of June. Once one was observed to return to the ground a few minutes after the observer had withdrawn.

From the foregoing observations, it would seem that the horned owls have as great a variety of call notes as some of our more easily observed diurnal birds.—LEON KELSO, *Aurora, Colorado, November 16, 1929.*

Migratory Flight of Swainson Hawks.—In *Bird-Lore* (XXI, 1910, p. 147) I recorded a flight of Swainson Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) seen at Buena Park, California, on April 8 and 9, 1909. Since that time the species has been observed here on April 8, 1910, when four birds were seen; on March 16, 1918, a large flock; and on May 8, 1926, two birds. At 6:30 a. m., April 1, 1929, several large hawks were noticed flying over some open pasture land near my home, and taking my field glasses I went to a place where I had a clear view; in about twenty minutes I had counted twenty-five Swainson Hawks, scattered over an area of about forty acres. Some were on the ground, some on fence posts and others in the air, soaring in ascending spirals, and, after gaining considerable elevation, gliding away to the northwest on set wings. The same day, between 11:50 a. m. and 12:20 p. m., twenty-three more Swainson Hawks were seen on some open pasture lands near Cypress, California, about three miles to the southwest of the place of earlier observation. At this time there was a strong southwest breeze blowing from the ocean and the birds gave some interesting demonstrations of soaring flight. As in the early morning these birds were gliding away to the northwest as they reached an elevation estimated to be about a thousand feet.

Some of these birds lingered in the locality, or were replaced by other birds from the south, as, on April 2, three were seen; April 3, seven; April 8, fifteen; April 9, ten; April 10, four; April 12, ten; April 13, four; April 15, five; April 16, three; April 25, one; and on April 29, two. With a strong breeze blowing the birds would rise from the ground or from a fence post and soaring to a height of 100 feet or more would head into the wind and hover in one spot for a long time, with only a slight flexing of the wings and a spreading of the tail to keep them in equilibrium, as they searched the ground below for food. If prey was sighted, they dropped to the ground, but if none was seen they would glide to another location and hover again.

Of all the birds seen during this migration, only one, seen on April 1, was in very dark plumage, the others all being in varying degrees of the light phase.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, October 27, 1929.*