

From another hole, while we were following by means of pick and hoe the carpet of horse manure, I removed a Pacific Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus pacificus*) with a wing spread of about fifteen inches. This, too, had been considerably "chewed upon."

In still another cavity was the rear half of a freshly-killed Least Sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*). Large flocks of these little "peeps" had been noted on the previous day flying over and feeding on the mud flats a quarter of a mile away. There was a question in our minds whether a burrowing owl could outfly and capture on the wing one of these sandpipers. In this connection I found that the food in the stomach of the sandpiper had been digested, there remaining in the stomach only thirty grains of sand and a hard-cased seed of similar size. From this it might be inferred that the sandpiper was taken by the owl during the night or early in the morning while the former was at roost. If taken at such a time the food would normally have become digested.

Another rather interesting note in connection with this day's collecting was the fact that one of the females captured in the nest cavity had evidence of holding another egg. She was taken to my home, placed in a box, and the egg was laid for us the next morning, quite likely completing the set of seven. The bird was then returned to the nesting locality and released.

I got another thrill when I found that an owl caught on her eggs in one of the holes bore a band which I had placed on her two seasons before, as I had captured her under similar circumstances in this identical field on May 6, 1930.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, May 24, 1932.*

Bird Notes from Southern California.—Perusal of a few recent volumes of the Condor has brought my attention to facts regarding the occurrence of a few species of birds from southern California. A few statements from my notes on three species may, in the light of these, be of interest and are presented here.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). This bird is rare in the region during the summer months. Mr. J. Moffitt (Condor, 33, 1931, p. 252) has published a record of four immature birds seen at the Bolsa Chica Gun Club, Orange County, on June 9, 1931. While at Palisades del Rey, Los Angeles County, on June 25, 1929, I discovered three birds, all apparently immature, in the canal east of the colony of beach homes. The birds were noticed again July 2 off-shore in company with some White-winged Scoters.

Wilson Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). This species is none too common in southern California in spring and there are few coastal records. I saw a small flock of these birds in the salt marsh owned by the local gun club at Palisades del Rey on April 13, 1929. All the birds were in breeding plumage. Two specimens were collected.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*). Mr. W. C. Hanna has brought up the subject concerning the most westerly breeding station of this species in California (Condor, 31, 1929, p. 75). On April 15, 1928, he found a nest with eggs at Coachella, Riverside County. There are several specimens of this species, taken in March and April at Mecca, which are now in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley. One female was collected by W. P. Taylor at Torres (now Toro), seven miles south and slightly west of Coachella. This bird (no. 828, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was taken April 15, 1908, with these notes of the collector: "The Vermilion Flycatcher contained well-developed eggs, so probably the species breeds here." While collecting at Indian Wells on May 11, 1930, I discovered a family of flycatchers in a grove of Fremont cottonwoods along the Palm Springs-Mecca auto road. Two immature birds were being fed by both adults. This locality is eight miles west of Coachella and extends the breeding range of this bird slightly still farther to the westward. The male was collected.—JAMES STEVENSON, *Berkeley, California, March 28, 1932.*

Bohemian Waxwings in Colorado, 1931-32.—Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*) were present in Colorado over a large area of the State, and in incredible numbers, from October to April (1931-32); there seems no way to estimate, even approximately, the numbers of these birds in Colorado during those months, but it was of the order of hundreds of thousands.

So far as I am able to ascertain, through reports sent to me by obliging friends residing in widely separated Colorado areas, the species came into Colorado by the

way of Fort Morgan early in October (the 3rd), where and when Mr. Edw. Hellstern saw a flock of moderate size on his home grounds. Singularly enough the second appearance of this species in our State during the winter of 1931-32 was at Mrs. Anna Benson's home in Fruita, where the birds arrived on December 14, appearing and disappearing at irregular intervals until March 22.

Evidently this winter's flood of Bohemian Waxwings divided into two streams as it made its way southward along the Rockies, one keeping to the eastern slope (via Fort Morgan), and the other to the western side of the mountains (via Fruita).

The last date of the presence of this waxwing in Colorado in the spring of 1932, is April 21, when a lone individual was seen by Mr. F. G. Bonfils near his house grounds. The earliest date of this season's invasion of Denver is January 19, when a flock was noted by Miss Irene Fowler in the northwest section of the city.

The birds became after that date unbelievably abundant all over the city, wandering about in search of food, which was provided for them by many citizens. On one occasion every tree on the Bonfils estate was actually dark with waxwings. They congregated in this yard because there they found an abundance of food, generous supplies of things that the birds relished having been spread about the premises. On this particular day the flock consumed more than nine pounds of raisins.

These winter visitors were recorded at the following Colorado localities: Colorado Springs (E. R. Warren), Denver (many observers), Englewood (Mrs. Enid Ortman), Fort Morgan (Edw. Hellstern), Fruita (Mrs. Anna Benson), Ione (Mrs. T. C. Forward), Littleton (Mrs. R. J. Kerruish), Loveland (Mrs. John Weldon), North Park (Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Bailey), and on the William's Fork of the Yampa River (Edw. Hellstern).

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey write that they never saw this species in their neighborhood (North Park) until a pair stayed there from the 5th to the 22nd of this past March. This absence of Bohemian Waxwings about the North Park area is explained by the Baileys by the absence of timber and suitable food in the Park.

These birds were last noted at Fort Morgan on February 3; Englewood, March 7; Loveland, March 20; Littleton, March 23; and Denver, April 21.

For a few days immediately prior to March 12, Denver experienced a spell of sub-zero weather which, however, seemed in no way to affect the waxwings. Only one report of the finding of dead waxwings has reached me this season, due, not to the cold spell, but probably to overeating, as these dead birds were found on the Bonfils estate, where the birds were happily gorged all the time. The species seemed to be held to a given area by the food available. Thus at Ione there were but a few waxwings all this past fall and winter, and these few tarried but a day or two. Mrs. Forward feels sure that this brief visit was due to there having been no hanging or windfall apples in the Ione orchards, the apple crop there having been a failure in 1931.

When Mr. Hellstern studied these waxwings last fall while hunting big game in northwestern Colorado, he was surprised to see them act as flycatchers.

Groups of waxwings varied in size, as they did in 1917, from a pair to a thousand or more. This season's birds were very tame, more so than in previous visits. While being fed at Mr. Bonfils' home they crowded about the food donor, alighting on his head, shoulders, arms, hands and the food container. They would take a raisin from the donor's lips. Any dried fruit or berry was acceptable, raisins, currants, apples, and Russian olives; when these failed they would take bread crumbs or meat scraps.

All of my friends are agreed that this waxwing is most amiable in its comportment when in flocks, never becoming quarrelsome or piggish over a food supply as do most other birds.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colorado, June 9, 1932.*

The Approximate Louse Population of a Burrowing Owl.—Driving by a freshly-killed Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) on the side of the paved highway near Benicia, Solano County, California, on March 21, 1932, I stopped, picked it up, and placed it in my car with the intention of looking into the stomach contents in order to find what the bird had been feeding upon.

Upon examining it that evening I became immediately aware, as one often does when handling birds, of a number of lice crawling on my hands. Scraping them off