

Nesting of the Hepburn Rosy Finch in Washington State.—After reading the splendid Leffingwell article upon the winter habits of the Hepburn Rosy Finch (Condor, xxxiii, 1931, p. 140) I have been prompted to tell of the finding of the nest of this interesting bird in the State of Washington.

While in camp at snowline upon the side of Mount Baker, Washington, in July, 1929, birds of this species were observed about the bare patches of lateral moraine, evidently intent upon securing food for nestlings. On the 12th of the month the writer, in company with three enthusiastic camp companions, H. A. and Don Anderson of Bakersfield, California, and William Morris of Pullman, Washington, began an earnest search for the finch's nest which resulted in most exciting clues. A renewal of the search on the following day led to the locating of the nest of one pair of the Hepburn Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*).

The birds had selected a crypt in an overhanging ledge of rock by the side of a glacier, at the limit of vegetation. The final revelation of the nesting site was given by one of the parent birds flying from a near-by rock directly up to the nest cavity. This action was immediately responded to by the chirping of young birds, a sound which had been heard by H. A. Anderson the day before, but rendered uncertain by the noise of a near-by waterfall.—WILLIAM T. SHAW, *State College, Fresno, California, June 17, 1932.*

The Saw-whet Owl in the Desert.—The Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*) is so definitely a boreal species in the minds of most of us that one finds it difficult to visualize it in a smoke-tree-creosote association. Such an anomalous occurrence would seem therefore to warrant recording.

On March 26, 1932, a party from the University of California at Los Angeles was encamped in a dry wash in the Chuckawalla Mountains south of Gruendyke Well (Desert Center) in Riverside County, California. A mile up the cañon was Aztec Well, and three miles below was the palm bordered oasis known as Corn Spring. The immediate environment included such plants as creosote-bush, ocotillo, iron-wood, smoke-tree and palo verde. Animal life included desert tortoise, zebra-tailed lizard, Gambel Quail, Verdin, and Saguaro Screech Owl.

One of the party picked up under a smoke-tree the complete ligamental skeleton of a small owl. The flesh and practically all feathers were gone, but no bones were broken. The carcass was brought home as a Saguaro Screech Owl, specimens of which were found within two hundred yards of the same spot; but the first really close scrutiny of it proved it quite different in osteological characters from the Screech Owls.

Deprived of its feathers, the saw-whet appears less like a Screech Owl and more like a "giant pigmy," if one could use such a term. The frontal region of the skull is abruptly reflexed over the nasals to a marked degree, the tarsi are extremely short and broad, even surpassing *Bubo* in its relative stoutness. The clavicles are incomplete and do not unite to form a furcula in the Saw-whet, Burrowing, Pigmy, and Ferruginous Pigmy owls. A furcula is formed, though very weak in the Long-eared Owl, and in the tropical *Pulsatrix* and *Cicaba*. In the Screech, Horned, Barn, and Spotted owls, the furcula is better developed. Even in the frail little Elf Owl there is a complete furcula quite in contrast with the aggressive, bird-catching pigmy.

The specimen picked up under the smoke-tree on the desert has all the osteological characters noted above as common to the saw-whet and the pigmy, but has the size of the saw-whet. Fortunately the very dense feathering of the tarsus and toes is also preserved. These feathers are bleached apparently by exposure and are somewhat paler than appears in fresh specimens of the race *acadica* from New York. They have the same long, silky texture, however.

Severe rains during the midwinter period had caused appreciable wash in the cañon and would have buried or destroyed such a frail specimen had the bird died during the previous fall. Some confidence is therefore felt in stating that three months would represent the maximum time elapsed since the bird had wandered to the locality. "Wandered" seems a proper term to use since there is no Transition Zone and no coniferous forest within many miles, and one does not readily hypothecate a migration route to the south which the species regularly travels. The specimen is now in the osteological collection of the University of California at Los Angeles.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, California, May 10, 1932.*