

White-tailed Kites near Sacramento.—The writer is gratified to report the presence of a pair of White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) in Yolo County close to Sacramento, California, on June 7, 1932. The specific location was in jungles of willows and cottonwoods along the east side of the Yolo By-pass about two miles to the northward of the east end of the Yolo Causeway, or about one and one-half miles north of west from Lovdal Station. The latter point is not over four miles from the capitol building in Sacramento.

The birds flew out of the jungle of willows and cottonwood as I approached, and circled silently about and close above me for a period of fully ten minutes. They were closely observed with 6x binoculars, and every characteristic point of identification was carefully noted. After the period of aerial evolutions they glided off over the tall trees, and were lost to sight. The topography of the surrounding area is closely similar to typical kite nesting-habitats as described in many of the bird publications. I could not ascertain whether these birds were nesting, or were merely casual visitors.

Reference to the files of the Condor fails to show any records in recent years for this species anywhere in this general vicinity, so this record is thought worthy of publication.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Sacramento, California, July 10, 1932.*

Slight Extension of Breeding Range of Barn Swallow in Orange County.—The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*), formerly nesting only in certain places along the beaches in this section of California, has been gradually extending its breeding range inland during the last few years, using, for the most part, small bridges over drainage ditches as nesting sites.

On July 28, 1932, a brood of four young Barn Swallows left a nest built under a small road bridge about one mile northwest of Cypress, this location being about nine miles airline from the nearest point on the beach and in territory where the species has not nested before to my knowledge. The floor timbers of this bridge were only about two feet above the stagnant water, and the bridge is only about ten feet long. Neither the adults nor the young have been seen since the day the young left the nest, and a canvass of the other bridges within a radius of two miles failed to show any other birds of the same species.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, August 3, 1932.*

Status of the Baikal Teal in California.—Mr. James Moffitt has recently recorded the capture of a specimen of the Baikal Teal (*Nettion formosum*) in California, with expression of his belief that it was a wild bird (see Condor, XXXIV, 1932, p. 193). He may be right in his assumption, but the following facts suggest otherwise.

The species is frequently handled by San Francisco dealers in live birds. I first became familiar with it when I began to inspect imported wild birds for the United States Biological Survey in 1910; next to the Mandarin Duck it is the commonest water fowl in the live-bird market. To satisfy my curiosity I have checked up recent records of inspection and find that between January 1, 1928, and June 30, 1932, Mrs. Davidson and myself have recorded 527 Baikal Teal entered at San Francisco, as many as 136 birds being shipped in one lot. Of course the species had been coming in steadily for years prior to the dates given. Under the circumstances it is surprising that it has not turned up in the marshes before now.

Next to the Baikal Teal ranks the Falcate Teal (*Eunetta falcata*) in point of numbers, another Asiatic species whose capture here should not be misinterpreted as the result of a wild bird's volitional movements. I have examined altogether 32 species of foreign wild ducks that have been brought here alive, some in considerable numbers. Any of these, shot in a wild state, I would certainly regard as escaped or released from captivity unless there was absolute proof to the contrary.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, July 19, 1932.*

Nesting of the Western Tanager in Solano County, California.—While following a footpath along Green Valley Creek in a shaded cañon five miles northwest of Cordelia, Solano County, California, on May 30, 1932, H. W. Carriger and I passed almost directly below a nest twelve feet up, near the tip of the first horizontal limb of an

alder tree. This nest, from below, was similar in appearance to a Black-headed Grosbeak's, so upon bending down the limb we were surprised to flush from it a female Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*).

The nest, which held four eggs of slight incubation, was constructed exteriorly of the fruit stems of wild grapes, a few stems of dry grasses, and a piece of common white twine; the body was of rootlets, and the lining was of black horsehairs with a few white hairs mixed with them.

Though the Western Tanager has been reported as having nested in Napa County, which adjoins Solano County on the west, we do not know of any previous record of the nesting of this species in Solano County.

The creek at the place where the nest was located was between three hundred and four hundred feet above sea level and was bordered and well-shaded by tall alders, maples, live oaks and laurels.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, Solano County, California, July 13, 1932.*

The Caspian Tern, a New State Record for Kansas.—On September 27, 1928, an adult specimen of the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*) was killed by Mr. Harold Standing of Wellsville, Kansas. It was brought to the University of Kansas for identification and subsequently donated to the Museum there. This specimen was taken just a few minutes after daybreak as it was flying along the Kansas River about five miles east of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. It had apparently followed the river down from the east and was accompanied by one other bird that appeared to Mr. Standing to be of the same species. The specimen is a female in the typical post-nuptial plumage and bears University of Kansas Museum number 17147.

The closest out-of-state records for this species are those reported by Harris in his *Birds of the Kansas City Region* (Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis, XXIII, 1919, p. 227). He mentions several taken in October, 1914, at Courtney, and one taken in the spring of 1886, at Lake City. These two towns are in Missouri, about forty miles directly east of Lawrence, Kansas. Acknowledgment is made to Mr. C. D. Bunker, who is in charge of the University of Kansas Museum of Birds and Mammals, for permission to report this record.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, August 19, 1932.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

"Bird Watching in the West" is the title of a recent charming volume by Frances Staver Twining (Member, Cooper Ornithological Club). Illustrations by Florenz Clark, Metropolitan Press, Publishers, Portland, Oregon, 1931, pp. 1-170. Price, \$2.00. Although we have an abundance of publications on the more technical side of ornithology we have little for the growing army of bird lovers who enjoy the birds for their "intrinsic charm" as the author so aptly states it in her preface. Mrs. Twining has shown exceptional ability to express in print her own as well as others' feeling for birds as a part of nature. This little volume, illustrated by numbers of attractive line drawings, and with lists of birds from several western sections, including those of National Parks, will fill a long felt want for a wide field of readers.—S. G. JEWETT.

Early on the morning of August 3, 1932, Miss Ellen Browning Scripps, in her

ninety-sixth year, passed from this life as she slept in her home at La Jolla, California. But the spirit of this remarkable woman, who had been acclaimed San Diego's "most useful citizen," will carry on indefinitely. Always of slight figure and somewhat frail in appearance, she nevertheless possessed the kind of force which comes with a character of insight, decision and vigor. The list of her special interests is the roll of vital human activities. She gave lavishly, but always unostentatiously and as far as possible through others, to colleges, schools, hospitals, churches of many denominations, playgrounds, associated charities, zoological gardens, museums, community enterprises and unnumbered obscure causes.

In the fields of science and education, she generously supported aggressive research, as well as those departments which appeal to children and spread popular knowledge. The list of her benefactions relating to natural history and