

**The White-tailed Kite at Benicia, California.**—On February 6, 1933, a lad about seven years old told me that he had found "a dead hawk which was white with black on the wings" on a hill overlooking Suisun Bay at Benicia, California. I suspected from this description that the bird might be a kite, so I took the boy in my car to the place where he had left the bird. This proved to be in the rear of a house where there was an immature Red-tailed Hawk with a broken wing which was kept captive in a cage. Upon arrival at this location I found lying on top of the hawk's cage a White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*). The captive hawk was due for a rather rare meal, for it was intended that the kite be next on his menu.

Needless to say, I salvaged the kite, which was in fairly good condition. It appeared to have been shot with a rifle through the neck, probably on the previous day. It was a female; the length was 16½ inches and the wing spread 42 inches. The stomach contents were identified by Mr. Seth B. Benson of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, as five House Mice (*Mus musculus*). Four of these had been slightly digested and the other had probably been eaten on the day preceding that on which the bird was killed.

The marshes and fields about Suisun Bay are ideal foraging grounds for White-tailed Kites, and they are still occasionally seen, though one might search diligently for sight of one without success. Their nests have been found here in eucalyptus trees, or in oaks of the lightly wooded areas skirting the marshes.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, Solano County, California, March 14, 1933.*

**On the Occurrence of Certain Hawks in Northwestern Montana.**—Reference to Saunders' "Distributional List of the Birds of Montana" (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 14, 1921)—to which page citations given below refer—discloses a scarcity of published information concerning the hawks of the northwestern portion of this state. The following data which I have obtained in Lincoln and Flathead counties thus seem worthy of record.

Western Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus striatulus*). Saunders (p. 62) lists this form as a summer resident and probable rare winter visitor in the western half of the state. *A. a. atricapillus* is given as a fall migrant in the eastern part of the state, with one record of occurrence in winter cited. According to the latest A. O. U. Checklist (p. 64), Montana is not included in the breeding range of either subspecies, while all winter visitors would seem referable to *atricapillus*. I do not know which form occurs in Lincoln and northern Flathead counties. I do know, however, that goshawks occur here sparingly at all times of the year; that nesting occurs; and that the birds appear to be fully as common in winter as in summer. During the six years, 1927 to 1932, of my residence in Lincoln County at all seasons, I chanced to observe goshawks on twenty-nine occasions. These occasions are distributed among the months, January to December, respectively, as follows: 4, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 7, 0, 2, 5, and 3. Two young birds on the wing were seen, August 8 and 25, 1922, in Canadian zone mountains near Fortine.

Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). A Cooper Hawk was seen near Fortine on December 5, 1928. This appears to be the first Montana record of the occurrence of this species in winter.

American Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus s. johannis*). The A. O. U. Checklist (p. 69) describes the breeding range of this species as extending south to "northern Alberta, north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Newfoundland." Saunders (p. 63) cites a number of summer records from Montana, with the statement that it "possibly breeds, or formerly did so." In Lincoln and Flathead counties, this species occurs regularly in summer, but more sparingly than in winter. It is rather rare at all seasons. During summer I have noted it near Fortine on the following dates: July 29 and August 8, 1922; August 23, 1923; May 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1927; August 8, 1931. In the mountains of southwestern Lincoln County, it was observed June 10, 1923; July 19 and August 4, 5, 7, 8 and 26, 1924. On August 8, 1922, two young birds on the wing were seen in a Canadian zone forest in the mountains of northern Flathead County.

Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Buteo regalis*). This species occurs as a rare migrant or straggler in the vicinity of Fortine. Single birds were observed on the following

dates: July 27 and September 4, 1921; April 20 and October 4, 1927; April 17 and 25, 1928.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus* spp.). A gyrfalcon with almost entirely white plumage, suggesting *candicans*, was observed near Fortine on December 9 and 10, 1927. At dawn on January 20, 1930, a large raptorial bird believed to be a gyrfalcon attacked a small flock of Mallards that had spent the night in a spring-fed pond a quarter of a mile from my home. Passing over me at such extreme speed that the whistling of its wings became almost a scream, the falcon hurtled itself downward toward the pond as the frightened ducks arose in great confusion. The distance and the lingering darkness together prevented me from ascertaining the outcome of the early morning raid. Similar raids had been heard just before daylight on at least two mornings during the previous winter, but the dates had not been recorded, the identity of the bird being unknown. The performance was repeated shortly after daylight on the morning of December 17, 1931, by a large gray or white falcon that certainly resembled a gyrfalcon more than it did a Duck Hawk.

Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). Saunders (p. 65) states that this species has been recorded west of the divide in Montana only from Deer Lodge and Silver Bow counties. In Lincoln County I have noted it rarely in spring, summer, and fall. Specific dates are as follows: September 3, 5, 12 and 15, 1922; August 25, 1923; April 17, 1927; March 29 and 31, 1928; August 5, 1929; July 21, 1930; September 30, 1931.

Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius* spp.). It appears that pigeon hawks, of whatever subspecies, are rare birds in Montana. Saunders (p. 66) cites only three records for the occurrence of the species in this state since 1900. In Lincoln County I have observed pigeon hawks a number of times in recent years, but do not know whether they represented *richardsoni* or *bendirei*. My notes for 1921 include nine dates, but many of these are doubtful. Later dates are as follows: May 23 and July 16, 1922; July 17, 1924; May 18 (questionable) and August 14, 1927; April 3 and August 16, 1928; June 25, 1929; January 15 and October 2, 1931; March 19, August 2 and September 19, 1932.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, February 9, 1933.*

**Hermit Thrushes of the Northwestern States.**—In our recent brief revision of the western Hermit Thrushes (McCabe and McCabe, *Condor*, xxxiv, 1932, pp. 26-40) the most acute deficiency of material was from Washington and Oregon and the northern part of the Great Basin. Through the kindness of Dr. Alden H. Miller a sufficient series from central and eastern Oregon and Washington and certain points in Idaho, collected by him and by Messrs. R. T. Orr and D. H. Blanchard in the early summer of 1932, is now available to indicate rather definitely the relationships of the three breeding races of this region. Certain information of a rather vague sort as to the birds of western Oregon and Washington has also become available in a recent publication by Oberholser (*Scientific Publ., Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 4, 1932, p. 8).

The accompanying map (fig. 23), which shows wing-lengths of male specimens (the most useful criterion in this difficult form) supplements our map of the western part of the continent, already published. It shows a prevalence of rather uniform races with abrupt transitions which accord well with geologic, climatic, or floral boundaries.

The characteristic Great Basin race, *polionota*, maintains its large size into central Idaho, there to break down rapidly to the dimensions of the unnamed race hitherto known principally from the interior of British Columbia, in correlation with the increasing rainfall, and changing timber. To the west, *polionota* undergoes like modification across the rather narrow divide between the Blue Mountains of central Oregon and the main ranges of the Cascades.

The race of the British Columbia interior is found to stream far southward into the United States, its dimensions hardly rising to those of *sequoiensis* until the Sierras replace the Cascades. It is an academic question, which can never be answered, whether these birds are genetically identical with the central British Columbia birds or merely represent an intergrading area between *polionota* and the small *slevini* of the coast. As has already been shown, about the head of the Sacramento Valley, *slevini* reaches well inland. Oberholser, in proposing the race *oromela* (male wing