

The Long-eared Owl as a Ratter.—Norway or barn rats (*Rattus*) as a rule have rarely been represented in the diets of the mid-west Long-eared Owls (*Asio wilsonianus*) which I have studied (CONDOR, XXXIV, 1932, pp. 178-180); whether this was due to lack of availability of the rats as prey, or to reluctance on the part of the owls to attack them, or to difficulty in handling the prospective victims, my previous data do not tell.

However, one lot of 177 complete and fragmentary pellets, the 1932-1933 winter deposit from beneath a favorite roost tree used by as many as four Long-eared Owls at once, contained the skulls of 11 adult rats. The other contents of the pellets determined mainly on the basis of skulls were: meadow mouse (*Microtus*), 142; deer mouse (*Peromyscus*), 47; house mouse (*Mus*), 3; shrews (*Blarina* 2; *Sorex* 3), 5; English sparrow, 1; junco, 1; total, 210 individuals. Analyses were made by Mr. F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr., of the Iowa State College zoology staff, and by myself.

The pellets were collected from the Des Moines, Iowa, city waterworks grounds, a large wild life refuge teeming with mammals and birds. Inasmuch as rats were procurable chiefly from the vicinity of farm buildings and a relatively few quail feeding stations at a time when native mice were known to outnumber them far more than the pellet ratio shows, it is not easy to provide a truly plausible explanation for the disproportionate pressure upon this one species.

Aside from the possibility of the owls exhibiting an actual preference for rats as prey (which I seriously question), these new data may be looked upon as adding more weight to the evidence already at hand as to the alien rat being exceptionally vulnerable, even at low population densities, to the preying of native owls. Peculiarities of behavior, conspicuousness, lack of racial familiarity with specific predatory perils, confinement in woods and fields to restricted habitats (such as corn shocks and other rich food sources in winter) may be terms that perhaps will ultimately serve to explain one more ecological relationship now obscured by the usual unknowns.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, April 7, 1933.*

Records from North Central Arizona.—The following observations were made during field work in the general region of the San Francisco Mountain Plateau in late October, 1932. Oak Creek Lodge is located in Oak Creek Cañon, twenty-three miles by road southwest of Flagstaff, at the point where West Fork joins the main cañon. Sedona post office is on Oak Creek seven miles south of Oak Creek Lodge.

Ardea herodias treganzai. Treganza Heron. Individuals recorded on Oak Creek a short distance below Sedona post office on October 29 and November 1, may be of interest because of the few records for herons in this region.

Buteo regalis. Ferruginous Rough-leg. In a roadside zoo maintained in connection with a filling station at Cañon Diablo, on Highway 66 between Winslow and Flagstaff, I found two immature birds that had been taken during the summer from a nest in Anderson Pass about twenty-six miles southeast of Flagstaff. These birds, reared by hand and remarkably tame, were secured for the National Zoological Park and are now on display in Washington, D. C. This seems to be the first record for the breeding of this species in Arizona. On October 26 two of these hawks were seen soaring below El Tovar in the depth of the Grand Cañon.

Falco columbarius bendirei. Western Pigeon Hawk. At Turkey Tanks, eighteen miles by road northeast of Flagstaff, at an elevation of 6000 feet, on October 20, I shot a pigeon hawk in hot pursuit of a robin. Mr. L. L. Hargrave and I recorded another at Heiser Spring on October 21. The specimen taken has the dark coloration typical of this western race.

Capella delicata. Wilson Snipe. One was seen near Oak Creek Lodge on October 30.

Glaucidium gnoma pinicola. Rocky Mountain Pygmy Owl. Near Oak Creek Lodge at an elevation of 5300 feet these small owls were fairly common. A male was taken at dusk on October 28, and the birds were heard calling regularly.

Cinclus mexicanus unicolor. American Dipper. Near Oak Creek Lodge the Dipper is found regularly. An immature male was collected October 30.

Nannus hiemalis pacificus. Western Winter Wren. On October 28 I collected a male on the West Fork of Oak Creek about two miles from Oak Creek Lodge. The

bird was in dark shadow under a Douglas fir. On November 2 I heard one singing in this same area. There are few records for this bird in the State.

Thryomanes bewickii eremophilus. Baird Wren. Two were seen and one was taken two miles below Sedona post office on October 29. As observations increase, this wren is found to have a wider range in Arizona than formerly was supposed.

Hyllocichla guttata sequoiensis. Sierra Hermit Thrush. On October 29 hermit thrushes were common two miles below Sedona in a cañon leading into Oak Creek from the west. Five taken, including four males and one female, all belong to this race.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., March 8, 1933.*

Nocturnal Singing of the Western Meadowlark.—A search through what ornithological literature I have available fails to disclose any published reference to night singing of the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). My observations concerning the nocturnal singing habits of this bird in extreme northwestern Montana may therefore be of interest.

In this locality, songs of the Western Meadowlark can be heard at night regularly from about the middle of April until the middle of June. (Usual daytime songs are heard daily from the date of spring arrival of the birds, early in March, until the time of their departure in October.) Singing is not continued for any length of time during the night; instead, it seems to be done at occasional awakenings, which occur at all hours of the night, but most frequently between dark and midnight. Although generally only one song is given by a bird during one awakening, frequently two to as many as twelve songs are uttered, at intervals ranging from a few seconds to a minute or longer. Often a song by one bird is followed at once by songs from one to four other birds within hearing range of the first.

The songs given by the birds at night are usually their typical territory songs. Sometimes a song will be broken off abruptly after the first two or three notes have been given. All singing is done with fully as great vigor as during daylight hours.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, April 29, 1933.*

White-crowned Sparrow Records from Southern California.—Because of recently published records of the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*) in the coast district of southern California, it seems worth while to place on record the only occurrence, known to me, of this form at Buena Park, California. On the afternoon of May 1, 1929, an adult bird appeared at my banding station and was at once recognized as being different from the Gambel Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*), the last of which had come to my traps on April 21. I set several traps, and in about an hour, captured this bird. It was photographed by Mr. James A. Calder, given band no. A116619, and released.

The occurrence of the White-crowned Sparrow in the Imperial Valley in the winter does not seem to have been recorded. On February 22, 1930, in the vicinity of the North Holtville Friends Church, about five miles north of the town of Holtville, I observed several White-crowned Sparrows in a flock of Gambel Sparrows along a roadside. November 27 and 28, 1930, Gambel Sparrows were common in the same location, but I failed to find any White-crowns among them. At the same place, February 19 and 20, 1933, two White-crowns were seen with a large flock of Gambel, and on February 21, an adult male was collected and is now no. 117 of my collection.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, March 21, 1933.*

The Vulture's Fair-way.—In the latter part of July, 1932, I traversed the seaward roads down the northwest coast of California from Humboldt Bay to Bodega Bay, keeping just as close to the ocean as the presence of any through road permitted. The 17th of July found me at Mendocino Light, on Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County. Offshore were many surf-beaten rocks upon which could be seen groups of Steller sea-lions. Along a beach against the sea cliff below me I could see dark objects, which I presently learned were carcasses of sea-lions. As I was told by Mr. M. M. Palmer, the affable officer on duty at the light station, some men whose camp he pointed out had been killing sea-lions on the rocks, solely for the whiskers and certain other parts of