

may be a potent factor in gallinaceous well-being. Drinking from surface water, as pools, may be a secondary, learned source of supply.

The problem of water supply, especially in the young, is one of the most important to birds. Animal food, the staple food for the young of seed-eaters, may be more than a source of concentrated nutrition. It may be fed the young, not because of its superior food value, but as a source of moisture. Dew and water of exudation may serve to furnish the remainder of the necessary water for precocial birds and as such be a vital determinant of the success of the family.—LEONARD WILLIAM WING, *University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, March 28, 1935.*

**A Whistling Swan Visits Death Valley.**—On December 5, 1934, Adrey Borell, Donald Curry, and the writer found a lone Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) at the old Eagle Borax Works, which is below sea level in Death Valley, California. By remaining flat on my stomach, I crawled up gradually until I was within fifty feet of the swan. It fed with its head down, in a small brackish pool, digging into the black mud with vigorous strokes for the underwater stems of a water weed.



Fig. 41. Whistling Swan in flight over ruins of old Eagle Borax Works, Telescope Peak in background, Death Valley, California.

Wildlife Division negative no. 4136.

The swan, which was clearly an immature bird, spied me as I arose slowly to a sitting position in order that I might obtain a photograph. It then flew a short distance out into the center of the pond. Upon being approached, the swan took off easily against a stiff north wind and circled over the ruins of the old Eagle Borax Works, giving me a chance to secure a photograph (fig. 41) which not only serves to identify the bird as a swan but also identifies the locality.—JOSEPH S. DIXON, *Wildlife Division, National Park Service, Berkeley, California, February 11, 1935.*

**The Man-o'-war-bird off the Oregon Coast.**—On the morning of February 18, 1935, a strange bird was seen soaring over the east end of Tillamook Rock, an isolated islet