

several times and then was joined in the large bignonia vine by the mate, and copulation took place. Then they flew to the lime tree and from there to a pendant cluster of foliage at the end of a limb of a large eucalyptus tree and by doing so revealed the location of the nest which seemed to be almost completed. The nest was about eighteen feet from the ground and about one hundred feet from the windows and was well concealed in the foliage.

The single bird, and once in a while both of them, continued to give battle at the windows, but with diminishing frequency as their family cares increased. April 24, they were still feeding the young in the nest; but on May 2, the nest was found to be torn open and contained only an infertile egg. Crows were the probable depredators, but I do not know if they got the young Bush-tits or if the latter had safely left the nest. Neither parents nor young were observed at this time.

It seems worthy of note that such gregarious birds as Bush-tits should "shadow-box," and that, at first, the female should be as active in it as the male. The instinct to defend the selected territory during the nesting period must predominate over the instinct to flock together that is so conspicuous a part of the behavior of these birds during the rest of the year.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, May 5, 1935.*

Status of *Toxostoma redivivum* in the Rancho La Brea Fauna.—In connection with a comprehensive study of the skeleton in thrashers, I have had occasion to examine the cranial fragment of *Toxostoma* (no. 29515, Mus. Paleo. Univ. Calif.) doubtfully referred to *T. redivivum* by A. H. Miller (Univ. Calif. Publ., Bull. Dept. Geol. Sci. 19, 1929, p. 11).

Crania of the several species of the genus *Toxostoma* may be distinguished one from another by the position and character of the lateral ridge of the suprêmeatic process and by the consequent relative extent of the two areas which it separates—the "temporal fossa" and the suprêmeatic area. Only in *redivivum* and *dorsale* does the suprêmeatic area approximate the "temporal fossa" in width; these two species, however, may be distinguished readily by the much smaller cranium of *dorsale*. The specimen in question has the temporal region perfectly preserved on the right side, and it is indubitably of the *redivivum-dorsale* type. The brain case is sufficiently preserved to indicate its larger size, and there can be no doubt as to its identification as *redivivum*, which species thus may be assigned definitely a place in the avifauna of the Rancho La Brea Pleistocene.—WILLIAM L. ENGELS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 20, 1935.*

Some Feeding Habits of the Western Sandpiper.—The Dumbarton bridge near Palo Alto, California, crosses the tidal flats in the southern part of San Francisco Bay. On either side of the bridge proper are long approach roads, leading across about three miles of mud flats and shallow water to the east and almost two miles of marshy ground and sloughs to the west.

On May 11 and 13, 1935, large flocks of Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*) were seen on the asphalt pavement along the three miles of road east of the bridge (none was on the west approach road). Some of the flocks contained 200 or more birds. As the automobile approached each flock, the birds flew away together and at once returned to the road behind the car. In addition to the western sandpipers there were a few Brewer Blackbirds and Horned Larks feeding at the edge of the road or in the road. Feeding on the water were large numbers of Northern Phalaropes, and in the air were many Cliff Swallows. On June 17, about 200 Brewer Blackbirds were feeding along the road, mainly on the pavement.

The Western Sandpipers on the pavement were very active, making short runs here and there as they caught their food. We stopped to examine the pavement and found it teeming with brine flies (*Ephydra millbrae*). This is a sluggish fly which often moves only a foot or two when disturbed, and is easily captured. As no other insects were noted on the pavement it seemed certain that the sandpipers were feeding on this fly.

This conclusion was verified by stomach examinations made of two of the birds which had been killed by passing automobiles. All of the stomach contents seemed to consist of fly remains, although only a few of the flies in the stomach were sufficiently entire for certain identification. There was a thin scattering of sand mixed