

A Broken Wing Heals.—During banding operations at my Woodacre station on March 1, 1936, a Golden-crowned Sparrow "repeat," number 34161715, managed to snap the humerus of its right wing in trying to escape. A large brush pile is maintained close to where the feed hopper and some of the traps are located, the pile being large enough to form a good hiding place where birds cannot be reached by hawks or stray cats; so the injured bird was gently placed on an inner twig half way up the side of the pile.

On March 15, just two weeks after its accident, this bird reappeared in one of the traps. On being released after its number was read, instead of fluttering back to the brush pile close by, it flew to a thick-set live oak tree some 40 or 50 feet away, and furthermore it flew upward some 20 feet from the ground. It seemed to fly a trifle more slowly than usual, but its action showed that the bone had knit and that the wing was fulfilling its function. Moral: for ground-feeding birds always have a brush pile handy in case of accidents, where the victim can hop down from twig to twig and feed without straining the injured wing. Fortunately such an accident is of rare occurrence.

—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, April 8, 1936.*

Surf Scoter in the Cuyamaca Mountains, California.—On March 24, 1936, I was in the Cuyamaca Mountains near Julian, San Diego County, California. While driving down the grade toward the desert, I saw a male Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) sitting in the road. The bird did not seem to be injured, but rather tired out. It ran along the ground, but we succeeded in capturing him before he was able to take off. We had had a high wind all day, with rain and snow in the mountains. The altitude here is about 4000 feet. There are records of this duck from a number of inland localities; nevertheless, the discovery of this one some 50 miles from salt water seems worthy of record.—ED N. HARRISON, *Encinitas, California, May 5, 1936.*

Some Observations on the Food of the Prairie Falcon.—Pellets were collected and examined at two nesting sites of Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). Subspecific and some specific names of animals represented in them are based on known distribution (at the Kern County eyrie through trapping and shooting) of the forms rather than on direct identification. Questionable identifications are so marked.

Eyrie in southern Kern County: 41 pellets, all exclusively mammal remains:

- 9 *Citellus mohavensis*
- 26 *Ammospermophilus leucurus leucurus*
- 6 *Neotoma lepida lepida*

At the nest site was found a half-eaten and still fresh *Citellus mohavensis*, and just below it old bones (last year's?) of a young but nearly full-sized *Lepus californicus deserticola*, and fresh feathers (but no corresponding pellet) of a Northern Cactus Wren (*Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi*). The old birds were seen 12 or 15 times over a two-weeks period carrying *Ammospermophilus* to their young.

Eyrie in east-central San Luis Obispo County: 30 pellets, 20 containing (17 mainly or exclusively) mammal, 11 (10 mainly or exclusively) bird, 1 exclusively reptile, 6 (2 mainly) insect remains:

- Citellus beecheyi* (fisheri?) in 8 pellets
- Ammospermophilus nelsoni nelsoni* in 7 pellets
- hair, almost certainly *Ammospermophilus* in 2 pellets
- hair (*Onychomys*?) in 2 pellets
- Otocoris alpestris*, subsp. ? in 6 pellets
- feathers, probably *Otocoris*, in 1 pellet
- Sturnella neglecta* ? in 2 pellets
- Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* in 2 pellets
- lizard (*Sceloporus*) in 1 pellet
- grasshoppers (all *Oedipodinae*?) in 5 pellets
- large beetle (*Carabidae*?) in 1 pellet

A young decapitated and plucked Horned Lark was in the nest with the young falcons.

At an eyrie in western Kern County a female was flushed from the eggs and was joined in the air by the male. A pair of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*) flew from the same cliff. The female Prairie Falcon broke the wing of the female owl, and the male falcon killed the male owl outright, each with a single stoop. This eyrie was later revisited, and 4 dead young were found—1 in the nest and 3 below it. It is assumed that picnickers shot the parents.

At an eyrie in southwestern San Luis Obispo County was found a fresh half-eaten wild cat (*Lynx rufus californicus*) kitten, the estimated live weight of which was slightly over 2 pounds, or