

It might be deduced that the sapsucker is highly selective in choosing trees, or, put in a better way perhaps, it is only the rare redwood tree that is attractive to the sapsucker. In the case of a clump of stump sprouts, each sprout seems to possess this attractiveness or palatability. Were a record available of the parent tree, it is not unlikely that it, too, would have been found to have been a host for the sapsucker. This relationship between parent tree and sprouts is manifested also in other ways.



Fig. 10. Exaggerated case of drilling by Red-breasted Sapsuckers, showing workings on all members of a family of stump sprouts. Drillings extended from near ground line to the upper crowns.

A sample of bark removed from one of the trees indicates that the birds worked on the trees but a few years before. The holes extended nearly to the inner bark, but the inner face of this living bark layer showed no marks or effects of the drilling. This is to be expected, since new bark, as it is formed, pushes outward from the cambium layer and there is no tendency to fill wounds, as would be the case on the surface of the woody portion of the stem.—EMANUEL FRITZ, *Division of Forestry, University of California, Berkeley, October 20, 1936.*

Vermilion Flycatcher near Los Angeles.—As a matter of interest I record seeing today, between Los Angeles and South Pasadena, a female Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*). The bird was on a weed-covered hillside in company with a Black Phoebe; a Sharp-shinned Hawk was foraging for birds in the same field.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, October 22, 1936.*

Bald Eagle Pellets in Kansas Show Rabbits as Principal Food.—Many Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) winter in western Kansas and roost in the tall cottonwoods along the shallow streams. In this habitat, surrounded by grassland and cultivated fields, the principal food is the Black-tailed Jack Rabbit. In the winter of 1935-36 the writer collected 105 pellets under a roost

which was used by from nine to sixteen Bald Eagles. These were sent to the Division of Wildlife Research of the Biological Survey where they were examined by Mr. C. S. Williams. Invariably each pellet contained the remains of a single animal plus some incidental débris such as sticks, stones, grasses, and dirt. One hundred and five pellets contained the following items: 104 Leporidae [8 *Lepus californicus*, 2 *Lepus (townsendii?)*, 45 *Lepus* sp., 2 *Sylvilagus (floridanus?)*, 1 *Sylvilagus?*, 47 unidentified rabbits]. There was one occurrence of a prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*).—RALPH H. IMLER, *Stockton, Kansas, October 5, 1936.*

Concerning the Name of the Sonora House Finch.—Ornithologists in general, and those who are interested in variations of the House Finch in particular, will welcome Robert T. Moore's paper entitled "Description of a new race of *Carpodacus mexicanus*" which appeared in a recent number of the Condor (vol. 38, 1936, pp. 203-208). This paper outlines the transition from a relatively large, streaked, pale-colored race in the southwestern United States to a small, nearly unstreaked, red race which reaches its culmination in characters in Sinaloa.

The author decides that Ridgway's old name *Carpodacus mexicanus sonoriensis* is not applicable to the Sinaloa birds, and he therefore makes a new one, *Carpodacus mexicanus rhodopnus*, with a range for the race restricted to that State. However, there is one element of nomenclature which Moore has completely overlooked. To be specific, his page-long analysis of the "type" of *sonoriensis* (a specimen of rather anomalous characters) is somewhat redundant in view of the fact that there is no holotype of that race. It is true that in the United States National Museum there is a specimen (no. 164324 Biol. Survey Coll.) marked as the type. But Ridgway named no type at the time the name was published and his series, therefore, constitute cotypes.

So far as can be determined by an analysis of Ridgway's description (Birds of North and Middle America, vol. 1, 1901, p. 135) there were eighteen cotypes from "southern Sonora (north to Guaymas on the coast) and southwestern Chihuahua (Batopilas, etc.)." Specific localities mentioned are Batamotal, Guaymas, and Alamos in Sonora, and Batopilas in Chihuahua. The smaller size of the Chihuahua specimens is particularly mentioned. Under these circumstances the whole question of what name to apply to the Sinaloa population must be reopened on the basis of adequate series of specimens from localities represented by the original series of cotypes. If birds from any one of these localities are found to average closer in characters to "*rhodopnus*" than to *frontalis*, there is ample precedent for the establishing of a restricted type locality which will allow the preservation of an old name as a preferable alternative to the creation of a new one.

It is my emphatic opinion that the name *sonoriensis* will easily include *rhodopnus*. If a reviewer decides that *sonoriensis* is really a composite which includes two races, he has, of course, the privilege of burying it under *frontalis* or he may preserve it and bury *rhodopnus*. In any event the matter is still open for the action of a reviewer.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, September 23, 1936.*

Summer Records of Birds for Marin County, California.—In the course of summer observations on birds in the vicinity of Mt. Tamalpais during the months of June and July, 1936, three avian species were noted which, in so far as known, have heretofore been considered only as winter visitants or migrants in this region.

From June 9, when first discovered, until July 21, when field observations were stopped, Audubon Warblers (*Dendroica auduboni*) were noted almost daily in the vicinity of Rock Springs on the western slope of the Mountain. This species was one of the most common forms observed in the Douglas fir forests which are dominant hereabouts. In certain instances as many as four singing individuals could be heard from one point. Pairs were regularly noted.

Black-throated Gray Warblers (*Dendroica nigrescens*) were observed close to Potrero Meadow, north of Rock Springs, between June 9 and July 21, although they were not so common as members of the previously mentioned species. The margins of Douglas fir tracts where live oaks were numerous seemed to be the preferred type of cover chosen by this warbler.

Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) were noted occasionally between June 11 and July 21, both in forests composed almost entirely of Douglas firs and in areas where these trees were growing in combination with redwoods on the northwestern slope of the Mountain.

Unfortunately no nests of the three above-mentioned species were located. Considering, however, the period during which these birds were observed, it appears highly probable that all three species were breeding in this southwestern portion of Marin County.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, September 25, 1936.*