

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Occurrence of the White-tailed Kite in Northern California.**—In view of the fact that records of the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) in northern California seem to be uncommon, I thought it best to publish my own observations on this species. Townsend (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 10, 1887, p. 201) states that two kites were seen by him near Red Bluff early in May, 1884. So far as I can ascertain, this is the only published record of kites in northern California unless certain records from Napa Valley are to be included and more recently those from Yolo County.

During October, 1933, I saw a White-tailed Kite flying over the Sacramento River bottom-land near Orland. The bird flew low over a field and except for hovering a couple of times, its flight resembled that of a Marsh Hawk. The next kite I saw was over chaparral near Cherokee. This time the bird was flying rapidly and soon disappeared from sight. Both this and the first observation were made in Butte County.

On April 29, 1937, I saw two White-tailed Kites chasing each other over a forest near Burney Falls in eastern Shasta County. This pair was observed with glasses for several minutes before they disappeared. They would fly at each other and after making a few aerial maneuvers would sail about with their legs hanging down. No cries or calls were heard.—LLOYD G. INGLES, *Chico State College, Chico, California, May 18, 1937.*

**Virginia Rail Nesting at Benicia, California.**—A set of eight fresh eggs of the Pacific Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola zetarius*) was found on the Southampton Bay marsh, one mile west of Benicia, Solano County, California, on May 3, 1936. Though this species is reported as a fairly common resident in the San Francisco Bay marshes, records of eggs taken in this same region are few.

The nest reported above was located by a Benicia High School student, Manuel Costa, who led his science teacher, J. D. Graham, and myself to the patch of sedge, near the middle of which the nest of dry marsh-grass, was found. The sedge patch in which this nest was placed was about twelve feet in circumference, surrounded by a large stretch of salicornia, and about a hundred feet from a cattail bordered slough. As seems to be customary when nests of rails are approached, no bird was seen at or near the nest. Verification of my identification of the eggs as those of the Virginia Rail was made by Professor J. Grinnell at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley.

On October 3, 1936, while looking over this marsh and hoping to observe a rail, I found another nest of this species, the egg shells in and about which indicated that the eggs had hatched in the previous nesting season. This nest, too, was in a small patch of sedge surrounded by a rather extensive growth of salicornia.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, October 3, 1936.*

**A Vaux Swift and its Young.**—On July 30, 1930, Messrs. J. M. Edson, E. J. Booth, and I visited the nest site of a Vaux Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) at a packing plant in Bellingham, Washington. Edson (Murrelet, 1931, vol. 12, p. 25) reported upon certain observations on this bird, the young, and nest. The nest, constructed largely of sticks and cemented to the inside corner of a brick chimney about 12 inches below the roof of the building (fig. 61), contained four nearly full-fledged young. When I revisited the site on August 2, the young still were in the nest and the parent bird (presumed to be the female) was present, making frequent trips afield.

During the time I was at the nest, 9:37 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., the old bird made 8 trips as tabulated below.

Trip	Out	In	Minutes away from nest	Minutes at nest
1.	9:37	9:43	6	2
2.	9:45	9:46	1	2
3.	9:48	10:03	15	1
4.	10:04	10:07	3	2
5.	10:09	10:30	21	2
6.	10:32	10:37	5	12
7.	10:49	11:10	21	5
8.	11:15			

Although the variability of the time away from the nest (1 to 21 minutes) might indicate that two birds were engaged in feeding the young, I never saw more than a single adult bird at any one time. Because of this, I infer that only one parent was occupied in feeding them.