

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Western Red-tailed Hawk Nests on High Voltage Tower.—On March 11, 1939, Mr. J. D. Graham, of Benicia, and I were endeavoring to locate the nest of a pair of Golden Eagles which we had seen several times a few miles north of Benicia, California. Upon inquiring of a rancher we were told that a pair of eagles had a freshly built nest in the tower of an electric power line two or three miles back in the hills. He said that his son had very foolishly risked climbing to it a week before and that the boy had reported there were no eggs at that time.

We drove as far as we could by car, walked about two miles farther, and located a nest which we concluded must be the one to which the rancher had referred. However, it was not an eagle's nest, but that of a Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*). A pair of red-tails was in the air about the nest, circling at times in company with three other individuals of the same species which appeared on the scene from an adjacent canyon. The location was six miles north of Benicia in Sulphur Springs Valley, about a hundred yards from a small creek of the same name. The height of the steel tower (fig. 38) was computed to be eighty feet, and we fixed the height of the nest at seventy-five feet from the ground.

On March 27, in company with Mr. Gunnar Larson, of Berkeley, I again visited the location. A red-tail was perched near the top of the adjacent tower to the north, and while I was taking photographs of the site, it sailed above and screamed. A notice at the bottom of the tower warned that, "These towers carry high voltage electric wires. It is dangerous to climb them." We decided to heed the warning and to forego closer inspection of the nest. — EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, April 20, 1939.*

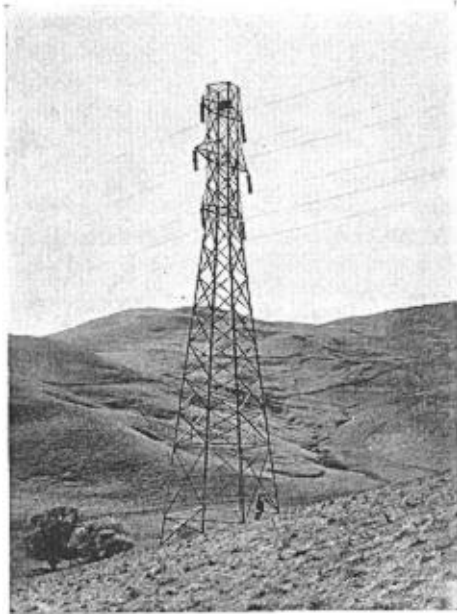


Fig. 38. Nest of Western Red-tailed Hawk on steel tower near Benicia, California.

Fork-tailed Petrels from the Coast of San Diego County, California.—Grinnell and Test (Condor, vol. 41, 1939, pp. 170-172) recently revived the name *plumbea* for the southern form of the Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) and gave descriptions of the southern and northern races and a table of measurements. Thus has been provided the basis for determining the identity of two petrels of this species, taken at the extreme southern coastal end of its range, which are in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History.

One of these birds proves to be a typical specimen of the southern race. It was recently sent in the flesh to the San Diego Natural History Museum by J. F. Hagerty. He had found it lying, in an exhausted condition, beside the coast highway at Cardiff, San Diego County, on June 9, 1939. The situation would suggest that the bird had been struck at night by an automobile, but in preparing the specimen the writer found neither broken bones nor abrasion of any sort. The bird was in very poor physical condition, either through sickness or lack of food, but was in good plumage. The body feathers, tail coverts and tertials appeared to have been recently molted; only the wing coverts and flight feathers showed the effects of a season's wear. This specimen is no. 18075, S.D.S.N.H.

The other bird (S.D.S.N.H. no. 2031) has been previously recorded (Stephens, Condor, vol. 21, 1919, p. 87; Willett, Pac. Coast Avifauna No. 21, 1933, p. 16) as *O. furcata*. It was found dead on the beach near San Diego on December 23, 1918.

The measurements of these two birds, both of which are females, are as follows:

	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Middle toe without claw	Culmen
June bird	145.0	77.8	24.3	24.0	14.0
December bird	150.0	82.2	26.2	24.7	13.7