

Bush-tit Nesting in Vicinity of Marshes.—While investigating the nesting activities of Willow Goldfinches and Song Sparrows along the Sears Point cut-off, Napa County, near the Sonoma County line, California, on June 10, 1939, I came upon a Bush-tit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) nest about five feet off the ground in a broom bush. The nesting site seemed unusual in that it was probably eight or more miles to the nearest normal cover, and it did not seem that the nature of the broom growth along the ditch banks bordering the marshes would afford cover for permanent residence. The nest contained six fairly fresh eggs. Ducks, avocets, godwits, sandpipers, and other shorebirds are common in the immediate vicinity.—J. DUNCAN GRAHAM, *Benicia, California, February 12, 1940.*

Food Habits of the White-tailed Kite.—On June 12, 1939, Merle R. Gross, of the Soil Conservation Service, attempted to band a nest of young White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) in a poplar at the edge of the Santa Clara River, Ventura County, California. The young were fully fledged and flew before they could be banded, but Mr. Gross found in the nest 26 pellets which he kindly turned over to me for analysis. Remains of 26 skulls of *Microtus* were found, one each in 22 pellets and two each in two others. The remaining two pellets contained only hair of the same mouse. The only meadow mouse known from this region is *M. californicus sanctidiegi*, which is doubtless the form represented. No other prey whatever was found in any of the pellets, though one contained a dry stick about 3 cm. long and .3 cm. thick. These findings agree closely with those in Santa Cruz County reported in the Condor (vol. 42, 1940, pp. 109-110) by Hawbecker. The kite nest was found by Mr. M. C. Badger of Santa Paula, to whom thanks are due for showing it to Mr. Gross.—R. M. BOND, *Soil Conservation Service, Berkeley, California, March 1, 1940.*

Food of the Sharp-shinned Hawk.—At Lac La Hache, British Columbia, in the summer of 1938, a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter velox*) built their nest in a tall spruce situated near the edge of a small spruce woods surrounded by open and brush-covered range. The structure was fourteen inches in diameter at the base, about six inches high and composed entirely of spruce twigs; it rested on two slender limbs that were close to the trunk and fifteen feet from the ground. Although I had passed close to the edge of the woods several times in July when the nest must have been occupied, it was not discovered until August 8 when my attention was attracted to it by a cloud of white down which, covering the nest and the surrounding branches, was conspicuous in the dark woods. This was identified later as the down shed by the young birds during the progression of the molt.

The adults had left the nesting territory, but three fully grown young, all females, remained in the vicinity. On the day the nest was discovered and on the two preceding days, they were heard calling from an adjacent timbered hillside, giving a rather mellow whistle, probably the call for food. These birds were feeding themselves.

The twigs composing the nest were gummed with droppings, and mixed through the structure and on the ground below were the feathers and other remains, including wings, of many small birds. Directly below the nest the ground was white with droppings.

In the thick woods forty yards away from the nesting tree numerous small birds had been plucked, probably by the male during the nesting period. The plucking place was a small dead willow lying in a horizontal position three feet above the forest floor. The ground below for a space of five feet by two feet was completely covered with feathers. The species identified here and in and about the nest were:

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*), wing of young
 Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)
 Flycatcher (*Empidonax* sp.)
 Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*)
 Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*)
 Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*), ad. ♂, ♀
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*), ad. ♂, ♀
 Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*), ad. ♀, juv.
 Western Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*)
 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), ad. ♀, juv. ♂
 Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)
 Oregon Junco (*Junco oregonus*)
 Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

The only food item other than birds was a red-backed mouse (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), indicated by pieces of skin and hair.