

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.

A number of pellets measuring from one-half inches to one and one-half inches long and one-half inch wide was collected, eleven from the nest and eight from the plucking place; the contents of these were as follows:

One consisted of 95 per cent red-backed mouse hair and 5 per cent feathers; another comprised 95 per cent feathers and 5 per cent red-backed mouse hair; the remainder was composed of feathers (chiefly contour feathers) and, in four instances, pieces of bird bones. Fragments of the elytra of small beetles were present in the majority and seeds occurred in two; these were considered to be from the digestive tracts of the small birds eaten.

The feathers were broken down and for the most part without color or other characters by which they might be identified. Three pellets contained red feathers that might have been from a Red-winged Blackbird; another, red feathers that suggested a sapsucker; and a third, yellow feathers that might represent any one of several species.

The three young Sharp-shinned Hawks were collected; the stomach of one contained parts of a Red-winged Blackbird; that of another, a Shufeldt Junco. The stomach of the third was empty.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, January 29, 1940.*

The House Finch in Western Oregon.—In the *Condor* (vol. 41, 1939, p. 164), Kenneth Gordon reports the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) at Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon, during April, 1937, and states "In the past it has not been recorded . . . north of the Rogue and Umpqua river valleys."

I wish to report a female, no. 7177 in my collection, taken at Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon, on March 21, 1932. During a recent visit to the DePoe Bay Museum, I examined a mounted female taken at South Beach, Yaquina Bay, Lincoln County, on January 6, 1938, by Mr. J. C. Braly. On September 11, 1939, I visited with Mr. Braly the exact locality where he had taken his specimen. A flock of eleven of these birds was found feeding in a dense growth of bush lupine along the old ferry road near the beach. An adult male and an immature female were collected. Others of the same species were heard in the nearby trees. From these observations it would appear that during recent years the House Finch has moved northwest into the humid coastal region of Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 11, 1939.*

New and Noteworthy Records of Birds for the State of Nevada.—The following notes pertain to kinds of birds not commonly recorded from western Nevada. Unless otherwise noted observations were made and specimens were taken by the writer.

Butorides virescens anthonyi. Anthony Green Heron. One was obtained four miles west of Fallon, Churchill County, in September, 1934; this was the only one seen in this location. Two others were seen, and both obtained (nos. 77798, 77799, Mus. Vert. Zool.), five miles southeast of Minden on the Carson River, Douglas County, on August 24, 1939. This species is reported (Linsdale, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 23, 1936, p. 31) from the Colorado River valley, but has not been previously reported in western Nevada.

Ixobrychus exilis hesperis. Least Bittern. One was taken (coll. J. R. Alcorn) by Earl J. Alcorn, four miles west of Fallon, in September, 1935. This was the only one seen.

Anser albifrons. White-fronted Goose. One was obtained by Vernon L. Mills (coll. Mrs. Anna Bailey Mills) near Soda Lake, Churchill County, on April 3, 1938. No others were seen. This is the first record of this species in western Nevada.

Querquedula discors. Blue-winged Teal. One male was obtained by Vernon L. Mills, at Mahala Slough, Churchill County, on April 1, 1939 (coll. Mrs. Anna Bailey Mills). No others were seen. Although this teal has been recorded from Nevada a few times, Mr. Mills and I had vainly attempted to obtain or see a "blue-wing" for over six years.

Aix sponsa. Wood Duck. One was obtained four miles west of Fallon in December, 1933 (coll. R. T. Moore); one was obtained on Carson Lake, Churchill County, in November, 1937 (coll. J. R. Alcorn); one was seen to fly from Wilson Creek, 7500 feet, Nye County, in October, 1937, and Vernon L. Mills observed two on a canal seven miles west of Fallon on October 14, 1939. This species of duck has not otherwise been recorded in Nevada in recent years.

Nyroca marila. Greater Scaup Duck. One was taken by Vernon L. Mills (coll. Wm. A. Powell, Jr.) near Soda Lake, Churchill County, on November 20, 1938. No others were seen.

Lophodytes cucullatus. Hooded Merganser. One male was taken four miles southwest of Wadsworth on the Truckee Canal, Storey County, in December, 1937 (coll. J. R. Alcorn). One female was seen with this male.

Accipiter atricapillus. Goshawk. One in immature plumage was taken five miles southwest of Fallon, Churchill County, in March, 1937 (coll. J. R. Alcorn). An adult male was taken by Vernon