

are more highly colored, more extensively marked, and generally brighter. As the work was very exhausting, both from the hard traveling in the marsh and from the intense heat, we did not return until May 25 and then only because of some empty nests that had shown good prospects. Some of these turned out to be the nests of Florida Gallinules, but on May 26, after searching all morning, we discovered another rail's nest with six slightly incubated eggs. This was the best built nest so far found."

Gelochelidon nilotica aranea. Gull-billed Tern. These birds were found by the museum's representatives to be common in April and were observed feeding over fields as far west as Westmorland, south to Brawley and east to Calipatria. Those collected were taken in late afternoon on April 11 and 12, 1940, as they were returning from their feeding grounds to the Salton Sea. Their stomachs were filled with grasshoppers. Bernard Bailey, of the museum staff, reported: "On April 11, I discovered a 'pass' where these birds were flying toward Salton Sea. I arrived at this point at 5 p.m. when the birds were already passing by. On the 12th, I arrived at 4:50, but no birds were seen until 5:12. From then until 6:20, birds passed over at frequent intervals, after which none were seen. A total of 194 birds flew during this time over a 'pass' not over 300 yards wide. On this night the birds did not seem to me to be nearly as numerous as on the previous evening, when the flight ended at 6:45 p.m. I believe the numbers on April 11 would have been between 450 and 500, had they been counted as they were on the 12th."

Hydroprogne caspia imperator. Caspian Tern. One of these birds was seen by Bailey on April 13, 1940, and one by Lewis W. Walker, also of the museum staff, on April 18. Five or six pairs were said by Luther Goldman to nest on one of the islands in Salton Sea.

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii hueyi. Desert Poor-will. A nest believed to be of this form, with newly hatched young, was found on May 11, 1940, by Messrs. Sechrist and Heaton. It was on a bare spot under a small bush, in very rocky ground near the eastern end of the Salton Sea. It was discovered by flushing the parent bird, and is apparently the first recorded nesting of the Desert Poor-will.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, July 19, 1940*.

Lark Bunting in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California.—Records of the occurrence of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in this vicinity are so few that it was with great interest that I examined at close range a flock of fully thirty on February 25, 1940, between Winchester and Elsinore in Riverside County. Males and females were present in about equal numbers. On March 3, 1940, Lark Buntings were abundant between Amboy and Ludlow in San Bernardino County and the females seemed to outnumber the males.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, March 11, 1940*.

An Observation on the Feeding of the Southern Bald Eagle.—That bald eagles feed on waterfowl and seabirds is well known. A note entitled "More about Hawks" by A. Brazier Howell (Condor, vol. 32, 1930, p. 157) presents the author's conviction that raptorial birds usually capture more sick than healthy birds. In the light of this statement, the following note may be of interest.

On March 1, 1939, in company with Henry Isham, I spent about two hours watching the activities of a family of Southern Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*) on and around the partially ice-covered surface of Baldwin Lake, at an altitude of 6,674 feet in the San Bernardino Mountains, California. We watched the birds from the road with powerful binoculars. The lake is perhaps a mile long by half a mile wide and the portion nearest to us comprised an ice-locked patch of open water several hundred square yards in area, where there were about twenty ducks and approximately twice that number of Coots (*Fulica americana americana*).

Our attention was first attracted to an adult eagle sitting on the snow-covered ice. Examining the bird through the binoculars, we found that it was eating a coot. It continued to feed for some minutes, then flew to a dead tree across the lake where two immature eagles were perched. One took off and glided toward a flock of coots that had left the open water and were meandering about on the ice. As the young eagle approached, the coots scattered wildly. One of these the eagle chose and as the luckless bird taxied for a takeoff, the talons of the eagle reached down, clutching it near the middle of the back. The coot raised its head, stretching its neck to full length in a last convulsion, then its feebly waving feet and head hung down limply. The eagle soared on for perhaps fifty yards, then alighted gracefully on the ice. For approximately five minutes it sat over its kill, appearing simply to inspect it without eating. It then flew back to the tree, without its prey, and alighted near the other two birds.

Flying toward the open water five minutes later, the adult eagle was followed at two-minute intervals by the young birds. They all circled between twenty and fifty feet above the ducks and coots