Rancho La Brea has been helpful, and the figures given below compare satisfactorily with those she gives.

	Zenaidura macroura (M.V.Z. no. 71585)	*Columba fasciata* (M.V.Z. no. 54522)	*Ectopistes migratorius* (M.V.Z. no. 84315)
(1) Length of coracoid	34.1 mm.	37.2 mm.	31.6 mm.
(2) Length of carpometacarpus	23.2	33.1	29.8
(3) Length of tarsometatarsus (greatest)	21.1	28.3	28.3
(4) Breadth of proximal end of tarsometatarsus	5.0	7.1	6.4
(5) Breadth of distal end	5.1	7.7	6.6
(6) Breadth of shaft	2.2	3.6	2.3
Ratio of item 4 to item 3	23.7 per cent	25.1 per cent	22.6 per cent
Ratio of item 5 to item 3	24.2	27.2	23.3
Ratio of item 6 to item 3	10.4	12.7	7.8

—FRANK A. PITELKA and MONROE D. BRYANT, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 16, 1942.*

Birds New to Bryce Canyon National Park.—On January 2, 1941, a large Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was observed near the north boundary of Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah. This constitutes the first record of this species from the park insofar as I have been able to determine.

On May 27, 1941, a heavy rainstorm created several ponds near the rim of Bryce Canyon, and it was on one of these ponds near Swamp Canyon that seven Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) were observed feeding. The following day the pond had decreased in size considerably and the birds were gone. This is the first known occurrence of this species in the park.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Zion National Park, Utah, October 25, 1941.*

Purple Martins Using Leaves in Nest-building.—Hilda W. Grinnell reports in the minutes of the meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club for August, 1935 (Condor, 37:291-292) a nest of a Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), found by Alden Miller, which contained many clipped leaves of the California laurel (bay). Mr. Miller was sure that the leaves were taken by the martins, and the question was raised "as to whether the birds had in view the same idea which causes the housewife to put bay leaves into the nests of her sitting hens."

I have never seen any of these leaves, but note that they are described as aromatic. Since reading of this finding, I thought it might be of interest to report my observations of a colony of Purple Martins situated where I reside near McMillan, Luce County, Michigan.

The first bird house was erected here in the spring of 1915, and the Purple Martins were the first birds to examine it, but none nested until 1922, when 7 pairs used the houses erected for them. In the past few nesting seasons the colony has had over 30 pairs. During most of this period of time the houses have been in an area no larger than 60 by 25 feet.

In the course of the first few nesting seasons, the leaves of a pear tree were used by the martins in their nests and leaves of some apple trees were employed to a small extent. These trees are in a small orchard about 200 feet to the west of the colony. Beginning with the year 1928, the balm of Gilead trees have been of the greatest service to the martins in nesting. There are several of these among a group of trees standing on the north side of the colony. In this group are also some evergreens, 3 Juneberry, 2 mountain ash, and 1 each of apple, basswood, bird cherry, and black cherry. Also within 100 feet of the martin houses there are a few maples. To the east, and a little north and also a little south, not over 40 rods from the houses, is cut-over land in which there are beech, birch, elm, poplar, and other broadleaf trees.

I have listed the chief broadleaf trees that are within 80 rods of the martin houses in order that readers may know that the martins have several kinds from which to select material for the nests. The martins are seen at times on the basswood, maples, cherries, and others, and they may tear off parts of some of the large leaves of these trees for their nests. But their main choice, at least since the year 1928, has been the balm of Gilead. Many times I have seen a martin at a great height, feeding in the air, and then have watched it descend, alight on a balm of Gilead and get a leaf to take to the nest as it relieves its mate. Both sexes take part in gathering leaves, and it has appeared to me that leaves are taken from the time that no more other material is needed in nest-building until the eggs hatch.

As the leaves of the balm of Gilead are the first choice of this colony of martins and as these leaves have a balmy, or aromatic odor, support is given to the idea suggested above concerning their use as insect repellents. Most Purple Martin nests that I have seen are made of rather coarse materials, such as stems and straws, and even medium-sized potato stalks; mud is used by some, and it may be that leaves serve also as an insulating lining.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, *McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, December 22, 1941.*

Late Breeding Record for the Cassin Kingbird.—A pair of Cassin Kingbirds (*Tyrannus vociferans*) built a nest high up in a eucalyptus tree growing in a yard at Corona del Mar, Orange County, California. They were observed feeding young in the nest on the very late date of August 18, 1941.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, September 7, 1941.*

Soaring Snow Geese.—Flocks of Snow Geese usually move through the sky as if intent on keeping an appointment. The black and white of the wings enhance the impression of rapidity of the wing beats, and the incessant high-pitched honks add to the seeming purposefulness of the flights. On October 30, the writer was observing the feeding habits of Canada Geese on the Salicornia mud flats west of Brigham, Utah, when he witnessed a marked deviation from the normal flight habits of Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea*). A flock of 123 of the birds came *soaring* slowly in from the north, some 500 feet overhead, taking advantage of the air currents. They looked much like a flight of White Pelicans, a species which the writer has observed on countless occasions on their breeding and feeding grounds in Utah, Oregon, and other western states. The small sizes of the body and bill and the forward position of the neck were, however, apparent through field glasses and precluded the possibility of the birds being pelicans. The birds made no effort either to gain or lose altitude, except for an occasional wing beat serving to keep the flock intact. They were unquestionably loitering and evidently were enjoying the activity. And to make the incident even more unusual, not a sound was given off by any of the birds. The flight was watched through field glasses periodically for forty minutes and during that time the ground distance covered by the flock is estimated to have been between 1 and 1½ miles.—C. S. WILLIAMS, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Brigham, Utah, December 5, 1941.*

Painted Redstart at Altadena, California.—On January 14, 1942, a Painted Redstart (*Setophaga picta*) several times came to my bird bath in Altadena, California, where I watched it from a window at a distance of fifteen feet. It came once the next day.

On January 19 it returned, and since a pull trap had been set over the bird bath, I was able to catch and band it. Because I had the bird in my hand and compared it with the colored plate in Mrs. Bailey's "Birds of New Mexico," I feel that there can be no mistake as to the identity. There is only one previous record of this bird mentioned in Willett's list of the birds of southwestern California (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933:150).—WALTER I. ALLEN, *Altadena, California, January 23, 1942.*

Insect Food of the Sage Thrasher.—The Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) is a highly desirable resident of wheat- and alfalfa-field fence rows, as well as of sagebrush, greasewood and shadscale range land, because of its beneficial, insectivorous food habits. This report on the food of this thrasher is based on an examination of 70 stomachs from birds collected throughout Utah in the years 1932 to 1941, inclusive. The abundance of grasshoppers present during outbreaks in these years apparently has been reflected in the large number of these present in the stomachs.

Recognizable insect food in the stomachs of eight specimens collected from March to the end of June consisted of the following: 10 grasshopper nymphs in five stomachs; 14 Hemiptera, including 1 predacious *Reduviius personatus*, 1 *Zelus socius*, 1 alfalfa bug (*Lygus elisus*), 1 each of the stink-bugs *Chlorochroa sayi* and *Carpocoris remotus*, and 1 *Nysius californicus*; Homoptera consisted of 2 leafhoppers and 1 sage aphid, *Macrosiphum coweni*; 42 beetles, including 2 scarabaeids, 3 click beetles, 1 buprestid, 7 darkling beetles, 1 clover leaf weevil and 1 alfalfa weevil; 2 cutworms, 1 being an army cutworm; 11 dipterous specimens, including 2 blowflies, 1 robberfly and 1 soldierfly; 174 Hymenoptera, of which 165 were ants. Many of the ants are common range and field pests, the harvester ant in particular preventing plant growth over sizable areas around its hills.

Recognizable contents of the stomachs of 62 thrashers of all ages, collected from July through October, consisted of the following: 138 orthopterous specimens, including 105 adult and 23 nymphal grasshoppers (mostly common injurious species), 5 field crickets, 1 snowy tree cricket, 1 coulee cricket, 2 cricket eggs, and 1 Jerusalem cricket; 5 termites; 1 thrips; 142 Hemiptera, including 4 pentatomids (*Euschistus inflatus, Thyanta custator* and *Chlorochroa sayi*), 109 adult and 7 nymphal false chinch