

shinned, Cooper, Marsh, and Sparrow hawks were found on the ranch. The collectors also found a Golden Eagle, a Horned Owl (later identified as *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*), and a Long-eared Owl.

Two species of game birds—a flock of Sage Hens and the Western Mourning Dove—had found sanctuary at the McCuistion ranch.

Fifteen Lewis Woodpeckers (*Asyndesmus lewis*) (one of which was collected) and several Red-shafted Flickers were noted. It was interesting to find that, because of their effectiveness in controlling grasshoppers and crickets, a flock of about 200 American Ravens was encouraged around the farm.

In a small currant patch a single late migrant Sage Thrasher, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and an Orange-crowned, an Audubon, two Townsend, and several Tolmie warblers were noted. Unfortunately, neither the Orange-crowned nor the Audubon warbler was collected: specimens taken in near-by Utah proved to be *Vermivora c. celata*, *V. c. orestera*, *Dendroica a. auduboni*, and *D. a. memorabilis*.

It was surprising to find a Bobolink in this desert area. Western Meadowlarks, English Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings, House Finches, Pine Siskins, and Song and White-crowned sparrows were common.

In addition, one atypical Nevada Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis*) and one Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*) were collected.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., January 31, 1942.*

Black Pigeon Hawk Taken in Eastern Washington.—In a group of interesting predators recently sent to me in the flesh by Mr. Harold Witham, Superintendent of the State Game Farm at Kennewick, was a female Black Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*). The bird was taken on or about December 23, 1941, at Finley, about 5 miles southeast of Kennewick in Benton County, Washington, and is now preserved as a study skin (no. 1000) in my collection. Data obtained during preparation are as follows: wt. 218 gm., but little fat; length, 12.6 inches; extent, 25.5 inches; wing, 215 mm.; ovary evenly fine-granular. So far as the information in my files goes there are no previous definite records of *suckleyi* in eastern Washington, although there are several for eastern Oregon (Gabrielson and Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*, 1940:204) and the Okanagan region of south-central British Columbia (Brooks and Swarth, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 17, 1925:58). Mr. Stanley G. Jewett (letter of January 3, 1942) indicates that this is also his impression and advises placing the Finley specimen on record.—JOHN W. SLIPP, *Department of Botany, University of Washington, Seattle, February 9, 1942.*

An Additional Note on English Sparrows Feeding on Ants.—In the Condor for November, 1935 (pp. 284, 285) Uhl R. Kuhn reports English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) feeding on ants, and considers this an unusual food habit of this species. Mr. Kuhn was fortunate in his opportunity of observing them feeding on ants that had just been uncovered. I would not venture to say to what extent this feeding habit may be unusual, for it would be easy to overlook birds picking up an ant here and there among grass and other vegetation.

Through an observation in the summer of 1940 at my home near McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, I can add another case of the English Sparrow feeding on ants. A female was coming often about the well, and I noticed her taking ants that were on the boards at that place. As the ants became scarce, the bird's trips to the spot decreased; the locality was soon deserted by the bird after a few trips had met in failure in finding ants.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, *McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, December 20, 1941.*

Food of the Barn Owl at Soda Lake, Nevada.—On February 22, 1941, the writer and Miss Laura E. Mills visited the north end of Soda Lake, Churchill County, Nevada. Here, in a south-facing vertical bank, Miss Mills had seen Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) on several previous occasions. In the bank, less than thirty feet from the water's edge, we found an opening, about fifteen inches in diameter. Seven feet from the base, the hole went straight into the bank for about two feet, then made a ninety degree turn to the left and extended for about three feet farther. With the aid of a mirror placed at the turn, so as to reflect light into the hole, we could see an adult Barn Owl standing near the end of the burrow. Miss Mills had earlier in the day seen two Barn Owls fly from this location. Examination of the ground at the base of the bank below the opening revealed numerous pellets judged by us to have been ejected by the Barn Owls. A total of 89 that were reasonably fresh were picked up for study. Each of the 73 food items listed in the table was represented by the major part of a cranium.

Mammals	Number of items	Approximate per cent of total items
Ground squirrel, <i>Citellus townsendii</i> (<i>mollis</i>)	2	3
Pocket gopher, <i>Thomomys bottae</i> (<i>canus</i>)	20	34
Kangaroo rats, <i>Dipodomys</i> sp.	24	41
<i>Dipodomys ordii</i> (<i>columbianus</i>)	8	14
<i>Dipodomys merriami</i> (<i>merriami</i>)	2	3
Meadow mouse, <i>Microtus montanus</i> (<i>undosus</i>)	3	5
Total	59	100
Birds		
California Quail, <i>Lophortyx californica</i>	2	14.3
Virginia Rail, <i>Rallus limicola</i>	1	7.1
Brewer Blackbird, <i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	11	78.6
Total	14	100

Parts of names in parentheses are assumed on the basis of other identified specimens collected in the vicinity.

I am grateful to Dr. Alden H. Miller and Harvey I. Fisher, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, for identifying the remains of birds.—J. R. ALCORN, *Fallon, Nevada, February 20, 1942.*

Early Nesting of the Anna Hummingbird in Altadena, California.—On December 11, 1941, I found the nest of an Anna Hummingbird under construction; it was about one-quarter built. On December 17 the nest was apparently completed but contained no eggs. I did not examine the nest again until January 15, when I found two young birds in it. On January 15 I found a second nest which contained two young birds apparently more developed than those in the first nest.

These birds have survived frost, rain, and wind. On January 22, both broods of young seemed to be prospering.—WALTER I. ALLEN, *Altadena, California, January 22, 1942.*

Habits of Horned and Short-eared Owls.—That diurnal birds of prey are frequently carrion feeders has long been known. Similar habits are probably not unknown for several nocturnal species. On the road in Blitzen River valley, Harney County, Oregon, that borders the western side of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, one may find many jack rabbits that have been killed on the dirt highway by passing automobiles. Shortly after dusk on the evening of June 27, 1941, the writer observed four Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) feeding on a freshly killed black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus*) on the roadway. The following evening Messrs. Clarence Cottam, Cecil S. Williams, and the writer observed what may have been a family group of three Horned Owls feeding at about the same time and place on the carcass of a rabbit which had apparently been killed during the day.

On several occasions in the fall of 1941 the writer flushed a number of Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) from where they had been sitting on the above-mentioned highway in the vicinity of Saddle Mountain, just west of Unit 10 of the Malheur Refuge. A number of dead jack rabbits, killed by automobiles, were also observed along this stretch of road, and on the night of September 29 one of these owls was observed to fly across the road with a piece of jack rabbit clutched in its talons. Perhaps these birds also found this roadway a profitable hunting place for other prey, as mice were observed on a number of occasions out on the roadway.

Observations of these owls in the vicinity of the carcasses of the jack rabbits called to mind an observation made on September 22, 1938, when two Short-eared Owls, apparently juveniles, were seen going through what appeared to be practice maneuvers in capturing and killing their prey. These owls were observed to land on the carcass of a Redhead Duck (*Nyroca americana*) a number of times, with all the force they could muster. After landing on the carcass and sinking their talons into it, they would look around for a few seconds, fly a short distance away to another perch and survey their surroundings and then repeat the process. One owl struck the duck three times. They never attacked it with their beaks. The carcass of the duck was lying on a floating section of an old straw pile in the east end of a pond located in Unit 8 of the Malheur Refuge. It was known that these birds had not killed the duck, as it was spoiling and had been seen lying on the straw pile for several days.—CLARENCE A. SOOTER, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Burns, Oregon, November 6, 1941.*