

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
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Birds</b>		
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
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>

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.*