

Localities previously recorded that have yielded specimens of the California Turkey are as follows:

- (1) Rancho La Brea, asphaltic matrix, type locality, specimens very abundant.
- (2) Carpinteria, asphaltic matrix, specimens abundant.
- (3) Workman Street (Los Angeles), fluvial matrix, two bones.
- (4) La Habra (California), fluvial matrix, one specimen.
- (5) Cita Canyon (Texas), fluvial matrix, one bone.

The locality here discussed is known as the York Valley site.

All records except the one from Texas are from the coastal plain of the San Diegan Faunal District. The extensive deposits from the interior of the state, that is, McKittrick and the caverns of the Sierran foothills, have yielded none, although a turkey of uncertain identity occurs in the cavern fauna and a smaller species is recorded from Niles Canyon north of San Jose. Pleistocene and sub-Recent caverns in Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico are likewise lacking in records of *Parapavo*. The one Texas record is of Pliocene age. A smaller species replaces it in the Pleistocene of northern Mexico just south of the Texas border.

Was the last stand of a declining species made in the San Diegan District of California?—LOVE MILLER, *University of California, Los Angeles, September 14, 1942.*

**Townsend Solitaire Uses Camp Table for Nest Site.**—Townsend Solitaires (*Myadestes townsendi*) use a variety of crannies for nesting. Normally these are found on cliffs in or near forests, about stumps, or at the sheltered bases of trees on steep slopes. The construction of elaborate camp ground tables may likewise offer protected niches that are well drained. The accompanying

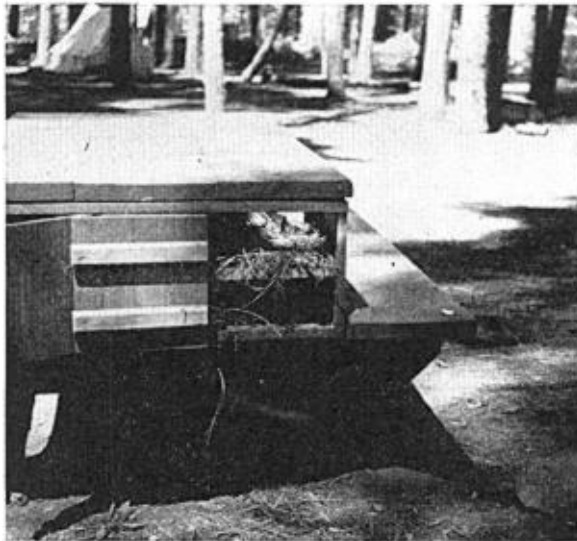


Fig. 84. Townsend Solitaire on nest built in camp table.

photograph (fig. 84) shows a solitaire's nest built in an open cupboard of a table in a camp ground at Lake Almanor, Plumas County, California. On June 12, 1942, the nest had 3 eggs and one of the birds was incubating.—C. ANDRESEN, *San Rafael, California, July 28, 1942.*

**Notes on the Food of the Horned Owl Near Fallon, Nevada.**—On February 26, 1942, an adult Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) was seen on a nest near the south bank of the Carson River, 4 miles west of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada. This nest had been used the previous year by a pair of Swainson Hawks. The nest, situated near the top of a cottonwood tree (*Populus fremonti*), was estimated to be about thirty feet from the ground. I was unable to examine the contents of the nest, for the limbs supporting it were judged to have insufficient strength to support a person's

weight. Frequent visits were made to the area in the nesting period at which time an adult owl was usually seen on the nest and another was often seen perched in a near-by tree.

The principle vegetation in the area is sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and many scattered cottonwood trees. California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*) were frequently seen near the nest site.

On April 3, 1942, an adult owl was flushed from the nest and one small downy young was seen protruding above the edge of the nest. On other occasions when the adult flew from the nest, due to my presence, it usually returned in about twelve minutes, from a different direction than that taken when it flew from the area. On April 19 the young was not in the nest but it was found on the next visit to the area, April 27, at which time it was seen perched in a small tree about ten feet high. This small tree was about 200 feet east of the nest.

Two adult owls, and the young that was yet unable to fly, were seen repeatedly in the area until May 5, at which time the young was judged to be fully grown. On May 20, the date of my last visit to the nest area, the young was not located but one adult was seen.

Repeated search for pellets in the area resulted in the finding of fifty-five under trees near the nest. None was found under the nest. In consideration of the length of time that the area was under observation, this number of pellets is low compared with the findings of Bond (Condor, 42, 1940: 164-165) in Pahrangat Valley, Nevada. Conceivably this is due to the number of trees in the area that afford numerous places for the owls to perch. This may scatter the pellets over a larger area where they would be more difficult to find.

Only the cranium and lower jaws, or their parts, were saved from the pellets for study. Each part found was recorded as one individual prey item. For example, one cranium and a lower jaw were recorded as two prey items. Results of the pellet examination were as follows:

	Number of items	Percentage of total items
Ground Squirrel ( <i>Citellus townsendi</i> ).....	10	31.3
Pocket Gopher ( <i>Thomomys bottae</i> ).....	5	15.6
Meadow Mouse ( <i>Microtus montanus</i> ).....	3	9.3
Cottontail Rabbit ( <i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i> ).....	12	37.5
California Quail ( <i>Lophortyx californica</i> ).....	2	6.3

On April 3 a dead California Quail was seen lying on the edge of the nest. On three occasions, California Quail feathers were found under trees where pellets were picked up. Feathers and wings of a Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*) also were picked up from under a tree near the horned owl nest. It is not known whether the three quail or the long-eared owl were captured or eaten by the horned owls. In addition to the mammal and bird remains found in the pellets, the mandible of one Jerusalem cricket (*Stenopelmatus*) was found.—J. R. ALCORN, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, Nevada, July 12, 1942.*