

Evening Grosbeak at Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino County, California.—I have been going to Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains for a number of years, and since I have never observed an Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) there previous to October 16, 1942, a record for that date may be noteworthy. About noon Mrs. Kent, Ruby Curry and I came suddenly upon 12 Evening Grosbeaks apparently sunning themselves in a tree some 20 feet from the ground. There was a single mature male in the group. After we had watched them for some time they flushed and flew to the top of another pine. In the half hour they were under observation there was no indication of any feeding.—W. A. KENT, *Los Angeles, California, December 15, 1942.*

Winter Visitant Rosy Finches in Northeastern California.—Records of wintering rosy finches in California are scarce, perhaps because little effort has been made to search for them in the plateau areas along the eastern border. An unusual opportunity to observe these birds was afforded one of us (Twining) on March 30, 1941, when approximately 300 individuals were found occupying mine shafts situated 2 miles south and 3 miles north of Chats, southern Lassen County, at an altitude of 5500 feet. Here a line of three vertical shafts extends up the west slope of the mountain range that borders Long Valley on the east. The rosy finches were using roosting sites on the irregular rocky sides of the shafts.

In the lower shaft there were approximately 150 birds, in the next about 25, and in the third 125. If the birds were not disturbed, there was no evidence from the exterior that the shafts were inhabited. A rock tossed down the hole would cause the rosy finches to flutter back and forth, and some of those nearest the top would fly out. At the lower shaft, the birds were thus harassed at intervals from 1 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. Some evidently did not emerge at any time in this period in spite of the frequent disturbance. The few that did fly out circled the hole in flocks and usually flew back in as soon as the intruder withdrew a few yards from the edge of the hole. Occasionally a few birds lit on the ground near by, but there was little evidence of feeding at such times. There seemed to be a compelling urge to return to the perches in the shaft. The weather was warm and there was no snow on the ground. Thus there was no need for the protection of the shafts during the day.

The flock proved to be of mixed character, at least three forms being represented in it. Thirteen birds collected at random were saved as specimens (Mus. Vert. Zool.). These have been identified as follows: Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte t. tephrocotis*), 7; Hepburn Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte t. littoralis*), 4; Black Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte atratus*), 2. None was assignable to *Leucosticte t. dawsoni* which breeds in the Sierra Nevada of the Tahoe district 50 miles to the southward. The examples of *Leucosticte t. tephrocotis* are the first recorded from California, although this form has been reported from Reno, Nevada (Linsdale, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936:119). Search was made especially for the race endemic in the Wallowa Mountains of Oregon, but to no avail. This form, *L. t. wallowa*, has been recorded but once outside of its breeding range, at Ramsey, Lyon County, Nevada, on November 15, 1941 (Alcorn, Condor, 45, 1943:40).

The examples of *L. t. littoralis* from Lassen County are the first winter-taken specimens reported from the State. Recently *littoralis* has been found breeding on Mount Shasta, Siskiyou County (A. H. Miller, Condor, 41, 1939:219). The two Black Leucostictes constitute the second and third records from California; the first was from Bodie, Mono County (Swarth, Condor, 30, 1928:191).—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley*, and HOWARD TWINING, *California Division of Fish and Game, San Francisco, California, November 22, 1942.*