

What was probably the same Bald Eagle was sighted the following day about 15 miles farther up Lake Mead near the Temple. The bird was then circling high overhead along the shore of the lake; it eventually disappeared from view near the junction of the Virgin and Colorado River arms of Lake Mead.

Another uncommon bird in this area, the Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*), was also seen on this same trip, approximately fifteen being noted during the two days spent on the lake. Other water birds recorded included 6 Baldpates (*Mareca americana*), 4 Buffle-heads (*Charitonetta albeola*), 4 Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*), and numerous Coots (*Fulica americana*) and Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*).

While on another trip on Lake Mead on March 30 and 31, the following water birds were noted: 40 Black Brants, 10 Baldpates, and fully 500 White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*).—GORDON C. BALDWIN, *Boulder Dam National Recreational Area, Boulder City, Nevada, April 8, 1944.*

**Seeds of Legumes Eaten by Birds.**—In an extensive paper issued by the Soil Conservation Service in 1939, and entitled "Legumes: Their Erosion-Control and Wildlife Values," Graham discussed the species of birds and mammals that are known to feed on various legumes. Recently completed examination of a large series of stomachs and crops of the White-winged Dove (*Melopelia asiatica*) from Arizona, Texas, Mexico, and Central America and the earlier examination of a large series of crops and stomachs of the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) enable the writer to add to the lists given by Graham. His nomenclature is followed in so far as is possible.

Band-tailed Pigeon: garden peas (*Pisum sativum*) formed 4.8 per cent of the food of 639 individuals collected in five western states. The peas were all found in birds collected in Washington; Taverner and Munro have each described the same feeding habit from British Columbia and it is known from certain areas in California and Oregon. Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon, 1940:326*) reported the taking of the seeds of *Lupinus lyalli*. Seeds of unidentified species of clover (*Trifolium*), lupine (*Lupinus*), and trefoil (*Lotus*) were found in specimens collected in California.

White-winged Dove: seeds of *Acacia* are freely taken in most areas where acacias and White-wings are both found; the only species identified were *Acacia greggii* and *Acacia constricta* in specimens from Arizona and Sonora, but seeds of unidentified species of *Acacia* were found in specimens collected in Texas, eastern and southern Mexico, and Guatemala. Peanuts (*Arachis hypogaea*) were found in one specimen from Oaxaca, Mexico. Seeds of false mesquite are freely taken in Arizona; *Calliandra eriophylla* and *C. reticulata* were identified. Seeds of unidentified species of sweet clover (*Mellilotus*), trefoil (*Lotus*), and wild bean (*Rhynchosia*) were found in Arizona specimens, the latter also in Mexican material.

Seeds of mesquite (*Prosopis chilensis*) were taken only sparsely, as also those of a mimosa (*Mimosa dysocarpa*), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), a few unidentified legumes. Cowpeas (*Vigna sinensis*) were found in one Mexican specimen. Hunters reported that near Yuma, Arizona, in 1939 a large flock of White-wings fed in stubble fields of black-eyed peas (*Vigna catajang*) and that the crops of birds shot were filled with these beans. Specimens from Texas, eastern and southern Mexico, and Central America also contained occasional traces of seeds of unidentified species of the *Pithecolobium* group.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*): in San Diego County, California, a considerable acreage is planted annually to the garbanzo (*Cicer arietinum*) and occasionally severe damage results from the attack upon the maturing pods by meadowlarks.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado, May 4, 1944.*

**Notes on Leucostictes Wintering in Salt Lake Valley, Utah.**—Flocks of rosy finches are fairly common in Salt Lake Valley in the winter months and recently a rather unique opportunity was afforded for obtaining a good-sized sample of the winter population. A former student in the biology department at the University of Utah, John Van den Akker, who had had some training in ornithology, was employed as a guard at the Hercules Powder Plant at Bacchus, Salt Lake County, Utah. On March 27, 1942, he brought to the writer two rosy finches which he had caught early that morning by reaching up and grabbing them from the sill above the door of a shed. He reported that rosy finches were the commonest birds around the plant in winter, being far more numerous, even, than English Sparrows.

The leucostictes occurred during most of the daytime in flocks which ranged in size from about 75 to 150 individuals. The average size of the flocks was about 100 birds. During the daytime these finches were very gregarious except when actively feeding, at which times they occurred singly, in

pairs or small groups of 4 or 5 birds. They fed on snow-free areas such as beneath Russian thistle, beside sheds or other places where the ground was exposed and seeds could be found.

They similarly scattered out at night when roosting. They roosted on wires to some extent but mostly in sheds where they perched on window and door sills as well as rafters. If disturbed, they would leave their perches and fly about for a short time, but they would soon return to the same site.

Van den Akker had noticed flocks regularly at the plant for four winters prior to the winter of 1941-42. On the day that the first rosy finches were collected, that is, on March 27, 1942, the birds were less numerous than they had been any week preceding. This suggested that they were moving out of the area and dispersing toward their breeding grounds. On March 28 two more rosy finches were brought in and the report was made that the leucostictes were much less numerous. On March 31, Van den Akker obtained two more, this time with difficulty because of the scarcity of the birds. By April 1 the entire winter population had left the area.

It was planned to continue this type of collecting again the following year. Rosy finches were noticed at the plant for the first time again on November 9, 1942. They were not at all numerous on that day. The numbers gradually increased and at intervals throughout the winter Van den Akker brought in specimens which were prepared as study skins. Accession dates which correspond with collecting dates were January 27, February 11, 14, 16, 22 and 27. The number of rosy finches thus acquired totaled 48 for the two years. In late March of 1943 the leucostictes commenced to be less abundant daily. By March 29, they were definitely scarce. All the large flocks were gone and those birds remaining were in small groups of 3 and 4 birds. A few days later not a single rosy finch was to be seen.

Of the 48 birds collected at night and in random fashion, 20 were of the species *Leucosticte atrata* (11 males and 9 females) and 28 represented the species *L. tephrocotis* (10 males and 18 females). There are apparently no geographic races of the Black Rosy Finch. The specimens of *L. tephrocotis*, in contrast, represent two geographic races. Eleven of the 29 have the sides of the head partly gray like the crown and represent the race *L. t. littoralis*, the Hepburn Rosy Finch. Seventeen have the sides of the head brown and are of the race *L. t. tephrocotis*, the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.

Many of the specimens collected as described above were weighed before being prepared as skins and the following weight data were thus obtained. Seven males of *L. atrata* had an average weight of 25.0 (27.7-23.0) grams; four females, 23.6 (25.0-22.0). Four males of *L. t. tephrocotis* weighed 25.1 (27.4-24.0); eight females, 25.3 (26.7-22.9). Three males of *L. t. littoralis* averaged 27.5 (28.0-26.2), whereas six females weighed 25.5 (26.5-24.2). Although these samples are not large, they are of some value. For instance, it does not appear that there are any great size differences between the two species and there are indications of some slight sex differences in body weight in all save *L. t. tephrocotis*.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 15, 1944.*

**The Saw-whet Owl in San Francisco.**—Prior to the discovery of the nesting of the Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) in San Mateo County, California, in the spring of 1937 and subsequently in 1938 (Granfield, Condor, 39, 1937:185-187; Santee and Granfield, Condor, 41, 1939:3-9), this species was considered a rare and irregular winter visitant to west-central California. Indeed the known instances of occurrence were so few that one hesitated to publish a sight record unaccompanied by a specimen in hand. Such at least was the attitude of the writer when he happened upon an owl of this species in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, on December 4, 1931. This owl was seen shortly after 5 p.m. on the lower limb of a small tree near the northernmost of the Chain of Lakes. It permitted approach to within four feet so that there was no question as to its specific identity.

On March 4, 1944, Richard F. Kovak and William Taylor obtained a Saw-whet Owl in the Panhandle of Golden Gate Park. This specimen, an adult female, now number 58449 in the ornithological collection of the California Academy of Sciences, is referable to *Cryptoglaux acadica acadica* although it is somewhat darker than most comparable California-taken skins in the Academy collection.

These two records, so far as known, are the first from San Francisco County.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, March 31, 1944.*

**The Gray Oven-bird in New Mexico.**—On October 13, 1941, an Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) was taken alive at the headquarters of the Jornada Experimental Range in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. The bird was injured on the left side of the head and the sight in the left eye was destroyed or impaired. The injury apparently resulted from the bird's having flown into a building housing an airways beacon power generating plant in which a light was kept burning through the night. The