

July, 1944

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

bird could be closely approached on the injured side and after making a few short flights from the point where first discovered, it was caught by hand. It died of its injuries and a study skin was prepared which has been deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (no. 89447). Identification was made by Dr. Alden H. Miller, who found the specimen to be of the race *cinereus*, the Gray Oven-bird. The species, although listed in Bailey's "Birds of New Mexico," was so included with the reservation that there was then no sure record of its occurrence in the State.

The writer observed another Oven-bird at the same location on September 10, 1939. At this time the bird was observed with $5\frac{1}{2}\times$ field glasses at distances of 10 to 15 feet and was identified by its size, color, and pattern, ground-frequenting habit, and peculiar walking gait. No attempt was made to collect this individual as the writer did not then appreciate the value of a record specimen of the species for the State. The experimental range, as a whole, consisting for the most part of desert shrub and desert grassland vegetation, is not the type of habitat in which one would expect to find an Oven-bird, but the headquarters area, in striking contrast, with its trees and shrubbery and water, offers an attractive spot for migrating birds.—K. A. VALENTINE, *State College, New Mexico, April 13, 1944.*

A House Finch Census at Mountain Home, Idaho.—After the summer resident population of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) had arrived at Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho, we made a census of this species within the limits of the town. Mountain Home, which is misleading as to name, is surrounded by many miles of typical treeless sagebrush country. The streets are lined with many domestic species of deciduous trees. Therefore, concentrations of birds would be expected within the environs of the community.

An area of approximately 120 blocks was covered. The census was taken from noon until 4 p.m. on April 13, 1944. We recorded 375 males and 285 females, making a total of 660 birds. Fourteen nests completed and ready for occupancy were seen. Many other nests were near completion. These 14 nests ranged in height from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 23 feet above ground, the average being approximately 15 feet. The one nest at $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet was in a honeysuckle vine along a porch and it contained two eggs.

We believe it would be safe to say that there are over one thousand House Finches in Mountain Home. As this census was taken at a relatively quiet period of the day for bird activity, it is highly probable that we missed a good many birds.—FRED G. EVENDEN, JR., and JOAN R. EVENDEN, *Woodburn, Oregon, April 23, 1944.*