

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

California Condors in San Luis Obispo County, California.—On June 14, 1944, in the course of road-improvement operations on the Cholame Ranch about eight miles west of the north-east corner of San Luis Obispo County, the writer had the good fortune to see a flock of twenty California Condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*). I had pointed out a condor with its white wing patches to one of a road crew two or three years ago. When I arrived this morning, he said, "There are three of your condors." As we worked farther up the road, more and more condors appeared until there were twenty in the air circling above us.

They had been feeding on a carcass about two hundred feet west of the road, and the noise of road-grader engines frightened them away. After the graders had passed, the birds returned and I counted them again as they came in to the field. I was close enough to see the feathers at the tips of their wings bend up three or four inches from the air pressure just before they landed.

A few Turkey Vultures had also been attracted to the food, but these appeared small by comparison, and kept well out of the way of the condors. While tearing at the dead animal, the condors kept their balance by raising and partly extending their wings.—HALBERT T. JOHNSON, *Paso Robles, California, October 3, 1944.*

Notes on Raptors of the Boulder Area, Colorado.—The following observations were made in the period from September, 1941, to September, 1943.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus ssp.? Bald Eagle. The occurrence of the Bald Eagle along the Front Range in Colorado and its possible nesting there is of great interest to observers in that state. Several recent authors agree that it is a rare transient and winter resident in Colorado, although the following records would tend to indicate that it is much more frequent than was formerly thought.

On January 10, 1942, a single adult soared over the hills just south of the mouth of Lefthand Canyon, seven miles north of Boulder. On January 25, 1942, a single adult male (no. 4124, Univ. of Colo. Mus.) was shot four miles east of Boulder. On March 8, 1942, a large adult flew north by north-west along the palisades of Lefthand Canyon. On December 16, 1942, an immature bird was seen soaring south over South St. Vrain Canyon about three miles southwest of Lyons. On February 14, 1943, in Spruce Canyon, just below Fairview Peak, three miles west of Altoona, an adult was watched as it soared north at about 3 p.m., and at 3:20 p.m. a second bird, which was thought to be an immature Bald Eagle, was seen flying north at the same place as the first. On February 21, 1943, an adult Bald Eagle was attacked as it soared northward by the male of a pair of Golden Eagles nesting in Twomile Canyon. On March 10, 1943, an adult passed along the east face of the Dakota hogback at Twomile Canyon just north of Boulder. On March 21, 1943, two adults were observed as they left a patch of cottonwoods on the shore of Welch Reservoir, about four miles northwest of Berthoud. No nest was found but circumstantial evidence would indicate the nesting of this species in the Buckhorn Creek drainage. Unfortunately, it was not possible to investigate the various rumors of nesting.

Tyto alba pratincola. Barn Owl. In his recent list of additions to the birds of Boulder County, Alexander (Condor, 46, 1944:36) states that "the status of the Barn Owl in this region is somewhat uncertain. Although there is little evidence for nesting, the bird has been considered a possible resident." On November 27, 1941, a young Barn Owl was found dead at the foot of the cliff making up "White Rocks" about seven miles east of Boulder. This owl was about six weeks old and could not have flown any great distance. Pellets and excrement indicated the long residence of this species. Shortly after the finding of this first specimen, an adult male was found dead at the same location. The following year, 1942, fresh pellets of this species were observed. The discovery of this young owl establishes the breeding of this species at "White Rocks," and provides another record of very late nesting in this species (see Walker, Migrant, 4, 1943:80).

The Barn Owl is of regular occurrence in the Pawnee Buttes and Chalk Bluffs area of north-eastern Colorado, and the finding of a molted feather in the hogback area north of Boulder would indicate its occurrence there. This owl should be considered as a scarce resident on the plains up to the foothills, with centers of abundance in the dry bluff areas of eastern Colorado.

Asio flammeus flammeus. Short-eared Owl. The following observations provide some evidence of the sporadic occurrence of this species. Niedrach and Rockwell (Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks, Denver, 1939:96) speak of the Short-eared Owl as a winter visitor in the Denver area, and Alexander (Univ. Colo. Studies, 24, 1937:94) writes as follows: "infrequent; plains and foothills; considered a winter visitant by Betts [Univ. Colo. Studies, 10, 1913:196, two fall and three spring