

Upon investigation I found that the object dropped by the Red-tailed Hawk was a full-grown Coot (*Fulica americana*). The entire head and neck were missing, and the upper breast had been torn open. The fresh condition of the Coot suggested that it had just been killed. A flock of more than 100 Coots had been swimming nearby and had flown up from the water as I approached shore. No evidence was obtained which would show precisely the relationship of one hawk to the other, or of either hawk to the Coot.—DOUGLASS H. HUBBARD, *National Park Service, Friant, California, November 27, 1946.*

Food Items from Red-tailed Hawk and Marsh Hawk Nests.—Pellets taken on July 12, 1939, from the nest of a Marsh Hawk in a *Salicornia* marsh about five miles southwest of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California, contained the following: Insects: 8 Jerusalem crickets (*Stenopelmatus* sp.). Birds: 1 Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis*), 1 Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*); 1 Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*); 1 Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*); 1 House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). Mammals: 3 meadow mice (*Microtus californicus*); 3 harvest mice (*Reithrodontomys longicaudus*).

From under a Red-tailed Hawk's nest in a eucalyptus about 5 miles northwest of Watsonville, there were taken on the same date pellets representing: Reptiles: 1 alligator lizard (*Gerrhonotus coeruleus*); 3 gopher snakes (*Pituophis catenifer*). Birds: 1 Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*); 1 House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*); 1 small bird, also probably a House Finch. Mammals: 4 California ground squirrels (*Citellus beecheyi*); 1 pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*); 1 meadow mouse (*Microtus californicus*); 1 brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*); 2 rabbits (both apparently *Sylvilagus bachmani*).—R. M. BOND, *Soil Conservation Service, Portland, Oregon, November 11, 1946.*

The Cardinal of Central Baja California.—In the preparation of manuscript on the distribution of birds in Baja California it has been necessary to review the taxonomic status of races proposed since the appearance of Grinnell's "Distributional Summation" in 1928 and to revise the ranges of others for which very few data were then available. This is particularly true of the central part of the peninsula, most of which was but poorly known from an ornithological standpoint twenty years ago.

The Cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis seftoni*, was proposed by Laurence M. Huey (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 9, 1940:216) on the basis of three males taken at Santa Gertrudis Mission. Twenty specimens (twelve males and eight females) of this form have now been examined, and they amply confirm the validity of the race, although the set of characters which distinguish it from *Richmondia cardinalis ignea* of the Cape region must be revised. *Seftoni* is not intermediate in wing and tail length between *ignea* and *superba* of southern Arizona as may be seen from the averages of 24 male *ignea* (wing, 92.3; tail, 107 mm.) from the Cape region and 12 *seftoni* (wing, 92.4; tail, 103.6). The bill of *seftoni* is smaller in all dimensions than that of *ignea* or *superba*, as stated in the original description. The color of both sexes of *seftoni* is paler as compared with *ignea*, the crests of the males remarkably so, and the females are more ashy (less buffy) gray dorsally as well as paler generally. It may be remarked that *seftoni* bears close resemblance in color to *Richmondia cardinalis townsendi* of Tiburón Island, but the pallid crest of the former is a good distinguishing mark, and there are some size and proportional differences which need not be elaborated here.

The ranges of the two races of the Cardinal which occur in Baja California are as follows on the basis of information available at this time:

Richmondia cardinalis ignea (Baird); Southern portion of the peninsula of Baja California, north to the vicinity of Comondú and to the south end of Concepción Bay at about latitude 26° 30' N.

Richmondia cardinalis seftoni Huey; Central Baja California from San Lucas, latitude 27° 14' N north at least to Santa Teresa Bay at latitude 28° 22' N.

Specimens have been examined as follows: *R. c. ignea*, Cape San Lucas, 5; San José del Cabo, 17; La Paz, 8; Dolores Bay, 1; Los Frailes, 2; Agua Caliente, 5; Todos Santos, 2; Eureka, 1; Boca de San José, 1; Matancita, 1; El Médano, 1; South end of Concepción Bay, 2; Comondú, 4; [San José Island, 2; Carmen Island, 3; subsp. indet.]; total, 56. *R. c. seftoni*, San Lucas (27° 14'), 5, intermediate; San Ignacio, 6; 2 miles south of Santa Rosalia, 1; 11 miles west of Santa Rosalia, 2; 5 miles southwest of San Ignacio, 1; Santa Teresa Bay (28° 22' N), 1; Santa Gertrudis Mission, 3; total, 20.

I acknowledge gratefully the use of the collections at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the San Diego Natural History Museum, and the collections of Laurence M. Huey and Max M. Peet.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, September 30, 1946.*

Food of White-tailed Kites on the Suisun Marsh.—During May and June, 1937, Mr. J. D. Graham and I, while traveling about the Suisun Marsh, Solano County, California, noted that one

or both of a certain pair of White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus*) would be found perched on a bare limb of a lone eucalyptus tree near the Grizzly Island Ferry landing. On July 5, 1937, I picked up twenty-nine fresh pellets from the ground under this favored perch and sent them to the Biological Survey for examination.

Due to moving and war activities, report was not made until September 25, 1946, under which date Mr. A. L. Nelson of the Division of Wildlife Research reported the result of the examination. All twenty-nine pellets contained remains of *Microtus*. Thirteen pellets each consisted of remains of one of these mice, fourteen the remains of two; one contained parts of three, and one pellet contained parts, in addition to *Microtus*, of one harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys* sp.) and one house mouse (*Mus musculus*).

This report indicates that *Microtus* is the chief food of the White-tailed Kite on the Suisun marshes, Solano County, as has been found by Bond (Condor, 42, 1940:168) in Ventura County and by Hawbecker (Condor, 42, 1940:106; 44, 1942:267) in Santa Cruz County.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, November 20, 1946.*

The Hammond Flycatcher in the Willamette Valley, Oregon.—While identifying some birds from the Warner and Cooke collection taken in the Willamette Valley over fifty years ago, I found an adult male Hammond Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*) bearing the label "Warner and Cooke—Clinton T. Cooke, 1342—Salem, Marion County, Oregon, April 28, 1891." So far as known this is the first and only known specimen of this flycatcher collected west of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon. It also constitutes the earliest spring arrival of *hammondi* in the state. Our earliest previous spring date of arrival as published in the "Birds of Oregon" (1940:396) was a specimen collected in Baker County in the northeastern part of the state on May 8.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 8, 1946.*

Notes from Death Valley, California.—On January 3 and 4, 1947, my father, L. P. Bolander, Edwin H. McClintock and I were in Death Valley, California. Among the twenty-five species of birds noted, there were four of more than passing interest.

Harris Sparrows (*Zonotrichia querula*) were first recorded in the valley by the late M. F. Gilman on November 10, 1936 (Condor, 39, 1937:90). At the time of our visit this species was present on and about Furnace Creek Ranch in sufficient numbers to be classed as common. At least fifteen individuals were seen at close range and no doubt there were others that escaped our attention. Each of us had excellent views of the birds and noted that all were seemingly immature. Only two were seen that closely approached the full adult pattern.

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were twice seen by McClintock and myself on January 3 at the Furnace Creek Ranch. Two were first seen feeding with a group of Western Meadowlarks until a Cooper Hawk routed the gathering. Later a flock of eleven was seen just as dusk was descending. They flew over on a northward course, but we were not successful in our attempt to locate their roosting spot.

The Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*) and the Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) were noted. These two water-loving species certainly seemed out of place in the barren surroundings even though they occurred along the irrigation ditches of the ranch.—GORDON L. BOLANDER, *San Francisco, California, January 15, 1947.*

New Records for the Boulder Dam Area, Nevada.—In the past few months three additional records have been added to the National Park Service check-list of birds of the Boulder Dam Recreational Area.

On September 2, 1946, a Frigate-bird (*Fregata magnificens*) was noted in the vicinity of Eldorado Canyon on the Colorado River about thirty-five miles below Boulder Dam. This is, so far as is known, the first record of this bird from southern Nevada.

During the latter part of September a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) was observed on the shore of Lake Mead near the Boulder boat dock in company with a dozen or more White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). These birds remained in the vicinity for several days before winging off to the south.

On October 22, 1946, a Steller Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) was seen in Boulder City. A race of this jay occurs on the Charleston and Sheep mountains west and northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada (Linsdale, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936:84). The occurrence of this species forty miles to the east and at an elevation of only 2500 feet above sea level appears to be extremely unusual. This or another bird was also reported from the same locality a week later.—GORDON C. BALDWIN, *Boulder City, Nevada, November 26, 1946.*