

a lookout station by birds of prey. The bird's cries suddenly became more spirited and frequent. A few seconds later we saw another falcon wheeling in toward her. It was soon evident that this was the male. Without any preliminary display by either bird, other than the crouching of the female, the male sailed gracefully down and mounted her; coitus immediately followed. During the coital act the wings of both birds were high upraised and rapidly and excitedly fluttered. Copulation lasted about ten seconds. Then the male dismounted and flew away, leaving the female perched on the rock. There she remained for more than half an hour with scarcely a motion. From time to time we heard her cries but the male did not return—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside College, Riverside, California, November 30, 1947.*

**Winter Occurrence of the Harlequin Duck in the Sacramento Valley.**—On January 4, 1948, in the late morning, while driving through the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Glenn County, California, I saw a small flock of ducks take to the air and fly over the road about 25 feet in front of the car. This group consisted mostly of Mallards and Baldpates with a few Pintails intermixed. A single duck, flying somewhat apart from the main group and nearest to the car was immediately identified as a male Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). I followed this bird for several seconds, until he landed in an adjacent pond and was obscured by the glare of the sun. According to Grinnell and Miller's "Distributional List of the Birds of California" (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27, 1944:87), the Harlequin Duck breeds in the central Sierra Nevada and winters on the central California coast, and although this duck must pass between these two areas, no record from the intervening Sacramento Valley has been reported.—PAUL A. DEHNEL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 9, 1948.*

**White Pelican and Ring-necked Duck in Humboldt County, California.**—On the morning of September 11, 1947, three White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) were noted flying over the edge of the northern arm of Humboldt Bay, California. On the afternoon of the same date, the three were again noted high up over the Samoa Channel of Humboldt Bay. On the morning of September 14, 1947, a single one flew over Eureka and the Eureka Channel of the bay.

A single Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*) was closely observed at Big Lagoon, Humboldt County, California. The bird, a male, was swimming and diving parallel to the highway bridge which spans the lagoon. Although there was considerable traffic on the bridge, and the observer hung over the rail, the bird appeared undisturbed and remained within fifteen to twenty feet of the bridge.

Both these species are recorded from many parts of the state of California, but there seem to be no data on them from this northern coastal region.—ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Eureka, California, December 17, 1947.*

**Behavior of the Gila Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird.**—When parent Gila Woodpeckers (*Centurus uropygialis*) virtually gorged their young with thick, granulated honey that was placed in a saucer on a sycamore stump, I thinned the honey to the consistency of syrup. Not so easily scooped, the liquid was fed by the male parent in a clever manner. He gouged pea-sized lumps of bark from the stump, dipped them in the syrup, and gave the honey-coated pellets to his fledglings. He repeated this trick for many days, sometimes varying it by using grains or sunflower seeds which were in a hollow of the same stump. This was observed in the first half of July, 1947, at my home, 2 miles south of Globe, Arizona, at 3700 feet.

On January 6, 1947, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) twitched about on a branch, so near that I glimpsed his white eye-ring and scarlet topknot. Suddenly he hovered over a flowering shrub amid a swarm of bees. Without alighting, he caught a bee in his bill, darted back to the tree, and with a quick flip of his head swallowed the bee entire. After repeating this stunt three times, he flew to a shallow, water-filled metate and took a bath.

While rain was falling gently on August 6, I spied a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) in a cypress by my window, taking a shower bath with much fluttering and preening. When the rain came faster he edged toward the center of the tree, clamped his feet to a branch, and braced his body against the trunk. For a few minutes there was a deluge—a cascade such as is purposely braved by some hummingbirds. The bird now straightened up his body and pointed his beak