

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Russian-banded Emperor Goose Killed in California.**—On November 24, 1940, while stationed at Sacramento, California, I received from Mr. J. M. Williams of Gridley a band taken from a goose. The bird was killed six miles west of Gridley on November 21 and was described as a whitish goose "with sort of cream-colored spots on him," without black wing tips, weighing about five pounds, and unlike any other goose the hunter had ever seen. The notation on the band was: "510 H—Moskwa—13152 B."

Immediate efforts were made to trace the band, but since just about then Germany and Russia went to war, no reply was received. No further effort was made until late in 1946, when the central office of the Fish and Wildlife Service made further inquiries. Early in 1947 a reply from Mr. A. Tugarinov, Chief of the Ornithological Section, Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., carried the following information. The band was one of a series issued to Captain G. Grinberg in 1938 and 1939 when he was working in the vicinity of Uellen (Welen), Tchuktchen (Chukche) Peninsula. Captain Grinberg was killed during the war and all of his papers were lost.

Mr. Tugarinov stated that "as far as I know, the only species of goose breeding in the vicinity of Uellen is *Philacte canagica*. Hence, most probably, it was that species that has been obtained in California." Combining this statement with the fact that the goose was unlike any other Mr. Williams had ever seen and that the Emperor Goose is so rare in the Sacramento Valley that few people there have ever seen one, there seems to be little doubt as to the identity and origin of the goose killed.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *Univ. ed States Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado, September 30, 1948.*

**Nesting Birds of the Ajo Mountains Region, Arizona.**—The bird life of the Ajo Mountains of western Pima County, Arizona, remains poorly known. Huey and his assistants collected along their western side, entering lower Alamo Canyon in March, early May, and December, 1939; Huey is the only ornithologist who has written anything about this range. Unfortunately we cannot agree with him that the occurrence of "two or more species of oak trees" in Alamo Canyon "marks the only tendency in the [Organ Pipe Cactus National] Monument towards Upper Sonoran zonal conditions" (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 9, 1942:358). We found only a single species of oak tree (identified by Dr. C. H. Muller as *Quercus turbinella*, although its appearance is most unusual); but junipers (*Juniperus monosperma*) and Arizona rosewood (*Vauquelinia californica*) are also common in upper Alamo Canyon. Hackberries (*Celtis laevigata* var. *reticulata*) and mulberries (*Morus microphylla*) also grow in the canyon, although most of the mulberries are small. Other Upper Sonoran plants present are hop tree (*Ptelea angustifolia*) and holly-leaved buckthorn (*Rhamnus crocea* var. *ilicifolia*). For plant identifications, we are indebted to Dr. Robert A. Darrow of the University of Arizona.

At the very tops of the ridges (about 4500 feet altitude), the north-facing slopes are more nearly dilute Upper Sonoran than Lower Sonoran. Here are found bear grass (*Nolina microcarpa*), various true grasses, and a patch of true scrub oak. South-facing slopes are purely Lower Sonoran, as saguaros grow to their tops. Leafy trees are everywhere restricted to canyon bottoms and sheltered north-facing slopes.

On March 23, 1947, Phillips visited Alamo Canyon with A. J. van Rossem. Hiking up the canyon, he heard a song which he attributed to a Rufous-crowned Sparrow, but he failed to obtain the bird. Curious to know if birds of the Upper Sonoran Zone breed so far west in southern Arizona, we made camp at the mouth of Alamo Canyon on May 20, 1947. Next day we hiked up and across the canyon to the top of the ridge to the south, and on May 22 we left the region. We are indebted to William R. Supernauth, superintendent of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, for numerous courtesies, and to A. J. van Rossem for the loan of a series of *Aimophila ruficeps rupicola*.

*Falco peregrinus*. Duck Hawk. Although a pair of falcons was always much in evidence about a conspicuous cliff south of camp, it was not until our last day there that we were able to identify them as Duck Hawks. They had apparently replaced the Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) reported by Huey in 1939. We saw none of the latter species.

*Aëronautes saxatalis*. White-throated Swift. A total of 16 or more was seen, and a pair was observed mating. There would thus seem to be little doubt of the species nesting here, although it is