

Florida Keys. The specimen is no. 11543 in my personal collection.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, March 23, 1953.*

Summer Foods of the Burrowing Owl.—An investigation of the food habits of the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) in the agricultural region of Mesa Valley, Maricopa County, Arizona, in the summer of 1944 involved the collection and analysis of 405 pellets. The technique for analysis of the pellets followed the procedure described in United States Department of Interior Wildlife Leaflet Number 222 (1942) for food remains of this type. The writer is indebted to Dr. H. H. Knight, of Iowa State College, for his assistance in identification of insect remains.

A total of 48 food items occurred 1,355 times in 405 pellets collected in the months of June, July, and August. The five major food items in order of frequency of occurrence were: scorpions (Scorpionida), 284 (63 per cent); lamellicorn beetles (Scarabidae), 277 (62 per cent); locusts (Locustidae), 250 (55 per cent); ground beetles (Carabidae), 149 (33 per cent); pocket mice and kangaroo rats (Heteromyidae), 101 (22 per cent).

The occurrences of food remains in the pellet samples by months in per cent were as follows: June (245 pellets), Scarabidae, 71, Scorpionida, 70, Locustidae, 60, Carabidae, 44, Heteromyidae, 18; July (104 pellets), Scorpionida, 76, Locustidae, 75, Scarabidae, 71, Carabidae, 34, Heteromyidae, 30; August (56 pellets), Scorpionida, 61, Scarabidae, 54, Heteromyidae, 46, Locustidae, 45, Carabidae, 11.

A comparison of the summer foods by months showed a general similarity in the foods taken. The relative standing of the food types probably reflected the variation in availability. Such food items as scorpions, lamellicorn beetles, and grasshoppers continued to be staple foods throughout the summer.

In an agricultural area such as the Mesa Valley, the beneficial effects of natural insect control, as exercised by the Burrowing Owl, represented an asset rather than a liability to the land owner. As a result it seems logical to assume that the encouragement of the presence of Burrowing Owls, rather than their persecution, should be a part of any wise land use program.—FRED A. GLOVER, *Wildlife Management Department, Humboldt State College, Arcata, California, January 10, 1953.*

Evidence for the Suppression of the American Race of the Pintail.—The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list and many other current reference works continue to divide the Pintail, *Anas acuta*, into two subspecies: *A. a. acuta* Linnaeus of the Old World and *A. a. tzitzihoa* Vieillot of the New World. According to Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., 1 (2), 1948:357), "the American Pintail is supposed to differ from the European and Asiatic bird by larger size, longer bill and tail, and more greenish speculum." These authors present measurements of 12 adult males from Europe and Asia and of 18 from North America. They concluded that *tzitzihoa* was not separable on the basis of size. They also found the variation in color of the speculum to be unrelated to geographic distribution.

Hørring and Salomonsen (Medd. om Grønland, 131, 1941:8), although having only five American specimens available, were also unable to distinguish *tzitzihoa*. Several other ornithologists have come to the conclusion that *tzitzihoa* is invalid but have not published their findings, and the name continues to appear in much of the current literature.

In his "Key to the Wildfowl of the World" (2nd Ann. Rept. Severn Wildfowl Trust, 1949:pl. 9), Peter Scott considered *tzitzihoa* "very doubtfully distinct." In a later, revised edition (1951) of this key, Scott granted recognition to the American subspecies on the basis of larger size. I have been informed by Mr. Scott that this change was based on inadequate evidence and that he now agrees that *tzitzihoa* cannot be separated from *acuta*.

In order to satisfy my own curiosity as to the taxonomic status of New World Pintails, I measured a somewhat larger series than that available to Hellmayr and Conover. These birds comprised the full-plumaged adult males in the collections of Cornell University, the American Museum of Natural History, and Carnegie Museum, a total of 31 Old World and 23 New World birds. The measurements obtained are shown in the accompanying table. It may readily be seen that although New World birds average slightly greater in tail length, overlap is such that identification of single specimens is impossible. None of the other measurements shows any significant difference. Like Hellmayr and Conover, I was unable to find any consistent difference in the color of the speculum.