

hang its head downward with its eyes evidently on prospective prey, and descend rather slowly almost to the ground. Here it would hover searching further for its prey. While descending, the extended feet and head would swing to and fro. The tail, which was held almost straight in line with the body, was spread and contracted, balancing the rather slowly falling kite. This performance reminded me of the descent of a helicopter. During several such pursuit drops the kite did not make a food capture.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, July 27, 1953.*

Food of the Long-eared Owl in Southern Washoe County, Nevada.—On March 5, 1953, a pair of adult Long-eared Owls (*Asio wilsonianus*) was found roosting in a single-needle piñon at 4800 feet in the foothills of the Virginia Range, 11 miles southeast of Reno, Washoe County, Nevada. Subsequent visits to the locality were made on March 26, April 30, and May 21, 1953. Two birds, an adult and one volant young judged to be about five weeks old, were present on the latter date near an old magpie nest. On the last three trips to the area I gathered 131 pellets from the ground beneath several piñon trees in the vicinity. Because most of the pellets had been protected from the weather by thick piñon cover, the majority of the skulls they contained were well preserved. An analysis of the contents of these pellets follows. Each item listed was represented by a complete skull or by a recognizable skull fragment.

	Number of items	Per cent of total
Pocket Mouse, <i>Perognathus parvus</i>	18	15.80
Kangaroo Rat, <i>Dipodomys panamintinus</i>	18	15.80
Pocket Gopher, <i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	2	1.75
<i>Thomomys</i> sp.	3	2.64
Harvest Mouse, <i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	15	13.16
Deer Mouse, <i>Peromyscus (maniculatus?)</i>	21	18.40
Meadow Mouse, <i>Microtus montanus</i>	34	29.82
Jackrabbit, <i>Lepus californicus</i>	2	1.75
Western Meadowlark, <i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	1	.88
Total	114	100.00

All of the *Dipodomys* skulls and all but one of the *Perognathus* skulls were identified to species on the basis of geographic range. Rabbit remains were frequent beneath scattered piñons in the area, but I could find only two skulls, neither of which was contained in a pellet.

The locality is situated at the ecotone of the piñon-juniper-sagebrush-grass zones, and is approximately one-half mile from the nearest meadowland. Thus it is interesting to compare the percentage of prey animals of moist, grassy environments (harvest and meadow mice, pocket gophers, and meadowlarks), which totals 48.25, to that of the remaining species of normally dry habitat which totals 51.75. Although the owls roosted in the piñon, about half of the feeding was apparently done in the meadowland area one-half mile distant. Groves of large cottonwoods and willow thickets near the moist area would seem to be suitable for both roosting and nesting of these owls, although no signs of such activity have been noted there.—NED K. JOHNSON, *University of Nevada Museum of Biology, Reno, Nevada, July 19, 1953.*

Falcated Teal at San Francisco, California.—On May 5, 1953, I found a strange duck on Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California. Robert T. Orr, Sandy Sprunt, and I later identified it as a Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*). It had previously been seen on Metson Lake in the park on April 5, by A. Laurence Curl. The bird remained on Stow Lake until May 20 or 21.

There have been at least three records of *Anas falcata* in North America (Hanna, Auk, 37, 1920: 250; Brooks, Condor, 44, 1942:33; Wilson, Condor, 50, 1948:127). It is native to eastern Asia. The possibility that the bird at Stow Lake was an escaped bird or a descendant of an escaped bird is good, as the species has been introduced frequently.—JOEL T. HEDGPETH, *San Francisco, California, July 21, 1953.*

The Prothonotary Warbler in California.—On May 25, 1953, the senior author picked up a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) on the grounds of Dial House, 505B E. Los Olivos, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California. The bird was an adult male with the testes enlarged to breeding size. Mr. Egmont Rett of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History confirmed our

identification and made up the skin which is now specimen no. 4258 in the collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Dial House is in Mission Canyon near Mission Creek and lies between the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and The Mission. The grounds and the adjacent areas have many trees and shrubs which make a narrow wooded strip in a residence section. The bird evidently was killed by flying into something high on or near the house and was one of three birds similarly found within a period of a few days. The two days preceding had been clear or with high, thin clouds and were average in temperature. They were unusual in having strong west and southwest winds varying from 13 to 30 miles per hour from about noon until late in the evening.

Prior to this the westernmost records of occurrence of this warbler were from Arizona. Peet (Condor, 50, 1948:134) records one specimen taken in that state in 1884 and one in 1924.—MARIANNE HILLMAN and MARY M. ERICKSON, *University of California, Santa Barbara, California, August 14, 1953.*

Courtship Activities of the Inca Dove.—On March 6, 1951, at Terminal, elevation 6700 feet, in northern Zacatecas, México, I had an opportunity to observe courtship activities of a pair of Inca Doves (*Scardafella inca*) on the ground. The bird presumed to be the male circled the female, dipping its head, spreading its tail, and extending its wings on a "V" over the body, thus showing the chestnut of the wings to full advantage. These activities differ considerably from those described as courtship by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 162, 1932:444) based on Frank Stephens' statement (1885): "I saw a little group on the ground, the males strutting around the females, carrying their tails nearly vertical and cooing."—FRED G. EVENDEN, *Sacramento, California, August 28, 1953.*

Mountain-top Visits by Birds at Aspen, Colorado, in Winter and Early Spring.—Some observations recently made at Aspen, Pitkin County, in west-central Colorado, indicate that several passerine species are prone to move upslope and to forage on mountain tops in winter and early spring. Certain movements appear to be daily excursions which carry the birds many hundreds of feet above their roosting areas. Because mountain summits are, in large part, struck by the sun's rays earlier and later in the day than are the relatively narrow, intervening valleys, such as are characteristic of this region, the effective time for feeding by birds would surely seem to be longer at the higher altitudes. Lack (Proc. 10th Internat. Ornith. Congress, 1951:440) states and documents the fact that passerines "retire to roost later with respect to sunset in midwinter than in autumn, indicating that when days are shortest, the birds need to collect food up to the last possible moment." Thus, it seems reasonable to theorize that some birds, especially those with strong powers of flight, might well take advantage of mountain tops on sunny days for feeding purposes and might utilize the very early morning and late afternoon hours as well as other times of the day. Inasmuch as a mountain-top invasion at sunrise was once noted by one of us (Gardner), we have been led strongly to suspect that not only the presence of ample forage on the summit but also the matter of feeding time was, indeed, an important factor influencing such a movement. Pertinent details that suggest the likelihood of upslope invasions of this type are as follows:

Gardner, who lived on the side of Red Mountain, northeast of Aspen, in the winter of 1952-53, was first visited by Hebard from January 30 to February 2, 1953; during this period, only one Steller Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), American Magpies (*Pica pica*), and one fringillid, of uncertain identity, were noted. Gardner had seen very little else at his feeder since mid-December. By contrast, we found on Richmond Hill, at an elevation of 11,300 feet, on February 2, a different situation. The snow-covered top of this mountain supported Engelmann spruce and limber pine, with Douglas fir up to 10,500 feet. Between 10:30 and 11 a. m., Canada Jays (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*), Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*), Red and White-winged crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra* and *L. leucoptera*), and a Brown-capped Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte australis*) were observed, all or nearly all coming from the west slope. On the way up or down the ski-tow, we noted chickadees (probably Mountain Chickadees, *Parus gambeli*), Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*), and juncos (probably Gray-headed Juncos, *Junco caniceps*). On February 5 Gardner found a Cassin Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*) on top of Richmond Hill, but it did not appear at his feeder at 8300 feet until March 26.

It was March 10 before there was an increase in individuals and kinds of birds at Gardner's feeder. By March 25, when Hebard revisited the area, the density and variety of birds had increased in the valleys not far below and was greater, in fact, than it was on the summit of Richmond Hill, on