

**The White-tailed Kite in Humboldt County, California.**—On about September 10, 1952, Mr. R. S. Hall of Arcata, California, told the writer of a "rare kite" which he had repeatedly observed on Dows Prairie about 7 miles north of Arcata, California. Mr. Hall said he first noted the bird in the spring of 1952. Upon investigating the report on September 15, 1952, the bird was found to be a White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*). It was observed hovering above the grass prairie and also perching in heavy beach pine growth. The writer observed this individual on numerous occasions for several weeks and it then appeared to have moved away.

Because of the rarity of the species and its vulnerability to hunting, the presence of the bird on Dows Prairie was reported to Captain Leslie Lahr of the Bureau of Patrol of the California Department of Fish and Game. When he notified his warden staff it was discovered the species was by no means as rare in Humboldt County as was first believed. Following is a résumé of records for the Humboldt Bay area, Humboldt County, that have come to the writer's attention.

Warden Larry Werder reported that a kite had been killed in September, 1951, by a boy hunting on the Beatrice Flats near Salmon Creek about 8 miles south of Eureka. He also reported a kite near Ryans Slough, on November 12, 1952, and two more that were regularly found on the McBride Ranch near Beatrice.

Warden Herb Christie reported seeing kites regularly on the Occidental Ranch in the Ferndale bottoms west of Port Kenyon and others on the Copenhagen Road west of Loleta. On November 22, 1952, Warden Christie and Captain Lahr noted a kite west of Loleta in the Ferndale bottoms near Grizzly Bluff.

Captain Lahr saw a kite on January 15, 1953, at Table Bluff, and another on March 22, 1953, on the Pleasant Point Road in the Ferndale bottoms near Grizzly Bluff.

The writer observed single individuals on October 6 and October 22, 1952, near Beatrice, on March 2, 1953, west of Loleta near Table Bluff, and on March 4, 1953, at the south end of Humboldt Bay near the mouth of Salmon Creek. These observations indicate that probably a minimum of six kites are resident around Humboldt Bay. No nests have been observed, however.

The report of the White-tailed Kite at Dows Prairie constitutes a northward extension of 75 miles of the known range from Miranda, on the South Fork Eel River, Humboldt County (Clay, Condor, 28, 1926:98). The Miranda record of August 6, 1924, is unusual in that the habitat there is very unlike anything this species usually prefers. It is in the canyon of the Eel River where very steep, dry, oak-covered hills surround some open fields and extensive groves of redwoods in the bottoms. The area of the current records is very similar to typical kite habitat. It consists of extensive open grass prairies with tongues of brush and trees projecting into them along numerous creeks and sloughs. Marsh areas are abundant. These conditions extend more or less regularly along the coast of northern California to above Crescent City. However, no kites were observed or reported by anyone north of Dows Prairie nor were careful observations by the author in the vicinity of Crescent City and Lake Talawa productive.

The extension of the range is of interest but the fact that so many individuals were noted in an area where the bird had not previously been reported is unusual. Although the White-tailed Kite can be confused with several small gulls because of a similarity in general coloration, it is easily identified by its characteristic hunting habits and stance when perched. It is difficult, therefore, to explain why it has not been previously recorded in the Humboldt Bay area unless the assumption is made that it was not present there prior to 1952. Because of rigid protection, this species has been on the increase in California. The occurrence of so many individuals in the Humboldt Bay area may be due to dispersal from southern areas where an increase in population size has been noted. This dispersal is probably of very recent date and the birds may be in the process of reoccupying a portion of their former range from which they were driven by persecution.—J. BRUCE KIMSEY, *California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California, January 10, 1955.*

**A Recent Record of the Pileated Woodpecker in Marin County, California.**—There do not appear to be any recent records of the occurrence of the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) in Marin County. Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:230) in their "Distribution of the Birds of California" cite old records for this species in the counties north of San Francisco Bay and note its occurrence "even, casually, to Larkspur and Lagunitas, Marin County." The writer has

spent many days in the field each year during the twenty-nine years of his residence in Manor, Marin County, without ever having encountered this species. For many years he keenly desired to take individuals of this woodpecker for the purpose of studying behavior patterns in captivity. In June, 1953, a nesting site was located in Lake County, California, and three nestling males were obtained and hand-reared. Unfortunately all three birds died from a mycosis resulting from thrush infection of the mouth and throat. In June, 1954, three additional nestlings, two males and one female, were taken from another nest in Lake County and were successfully reared. These examples currently are in splendid health and are under observation as subjects of sociological and other behavior studies.

On September 12, 1954, Mrs. Kinsey heard a wild Pileated Woodpecker calling near the northern ridge of the canyon in which our residence is situated. This species has characteristic call patterns which may be heard at great distances. The wild bird was being answered by the captive woodpeckers, and after a considerable period of time it was observed in flight from the northern to the southern rim of the canyon.

In the morning and again in the afternoon of October 10, 1954, and in the morning of October 12, 1954, the writer heard and saw a Pileated Woodpecker in the canyon. At no time was he able to approach close enough to determine sex. Whether these observations and that made by Mrs. Kinsey on September 12 were of the same individual is unknown.

The Pileated Woodpecker is reputed to be a permanent resident throughout its range. The writer feels, however, that the birds observed in Manor were migratory vagrants which were attracted down into the canyon from the northern and southern ridges by the calls of the captive birds. A careful watch will be maintained during the forthcoming breeding season to determine, if possible, whether there still may be resident individuals of this woodpecker in Marin County.—ERIC CAMPBELL KINSEY, *Manor, Marin County, California, December 29, 1954.*

**Spring Record of Ross Goose from James Bay, Ontario.**—In the autumn of 1953, an adult female Ross Goose (*Chen rossii*) was collected at the mouth of the Harricanaw River (51° 10' N 79° 47' W; Cooch, Condor, 56, 1953:307). At that time, Indians hunting in the area reported seeing similar birds in the spring of the year. In early May, 1954, a Ross Goose was accidentally killed at Hannah Bay, Ontario (51° 15' N 79° 50' W). The head was skinned out and given to Mr. P. H. Watt, Indian Affairs Fur Supervisor, Moose Factory, Ontario. This represents the fourth definite record of the Ross Goose in the Hudson Bay area since July, 1953. Bag checks were made on nearly 3000 geese during the 1954 hunting season, but these did not yield any additional specimens of Ross Goose.—GRAHAM COOCH, *Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Canada, December 3, 1954.*

**Inca Dove and Ground Dove Recorded at Corona, Riverside County, California.**—A pair of Inca Doves (*Scardafella inca*) was seen on October 1, 1954, feeding on a dirt road between orange groves at Corona, Riverside County, California. The birds flew directly away when approached within 50 feet by car; they then circled back and landed on the ground in a grove about 35 feet away. The only recent record of this species for California is that of Monson (Condor, 56, 1954:229-230), who reported observations of four individuals at Parker Dam, on the California side of the Colorado River, Imperial County, in November and December, 1948.

At 2 p.m. on October 22, 1954, six Mexican Ground Doves were seen in a small ravine filled with downed eucalyptus trees from which the leaves and small branches had been burned. The birds were seen daily until November 20, 1954. They fed and watered in an adjacent lemon grove. A specimen was collected and sent to the University of California at Riverside. It proved to be a young bird of this year; its sex was not determinable.

The Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) has but recently been reported breeding in Anaheim, Los Angeles County (Comby, Condor, 56, 1954:104-105). Prior to this report it was known in southwestern California only as a casual vagrant (Grinnell and Miller, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:186). The foregoing record from Corona is apparently the second from Riverside County.—NORMAN H. MELLOR, *Idyllwild School of Conservation and Natural Science, Idyllwild, California, November 1, 1954.*