

stray Rufous-winged Sparrow suddenly appeared and took a bath in our small bird pool! It stayed five minutes in a cholla to fluff and preen. We saw it again on the 15th; on the 19th it drank and bathed. On February 15 it tried to drink from the frozen pool; then it went to the drip at the pump. Again on March 14 and 17 it came to drink. It was last seen on March 31; its origin and destination remain unknown.—ANDERS H. ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, July 7, 1964.*

Pyrrhuloxia Feeding on Cactus Fruits.—On December 10, 1956, a male and a female Pyrrhuloxia (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*) were observed feeding on the fruits of the Christmasberry cholla (*Opuntia leptocollis*) growing in a cactus garden near the old tick office building at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, approximately 30 miles southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico. The pair made several flights to the cactus and were seen carrying away several of the small purplish fruits. While many studies have reported on the food habits of *Pyrrhuloxia*, I can find no record of their using the fruits of this cactus. Martin, Zim, and Nelson (American Wildlife and Plants, 1951) list grain and grass seeds as the principal foods of these birds.—LOUIS N. LOCKE, *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, September 14, 1964.*

American Oystercatcher on Anacapa Island, California.—On May 24, 1964, I observed several Black Oystercatchers (*Haematopus bachmani*) on the north side of Anacapa Island, off the coast of southern California. These birds, quite to be expected on this island, were noisy, giving their whistling calls in an excited manner. Most of them appeared to be paired birds, and judging from their actions, they may have been nesting. However, also in this area, on the north side of the easternmost island, where there is a naval installation, I saw an American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*). The bird, seen from about 175 feet offshore, stood for a while, giving everyone in our party an excellent view. Soon it departed, flying along the edge of the water for quite a distance and then returned, calling while in flight. According to Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:133) this type of oystercatcher occurred formerly as a vagrant and apparently as an occasional resident north to Ventura County. They also state that none has been recorded since 1910 in California although it has been found south of the Mexican boundary.

Kenyon (Condor, 51, 1949:193–199) observed oystercatchers in Lower California in April and May of 1946. He found Black and American oystercatchers interbreeding quite commonly and observed several nesting pairs where one bird was black and its mate a pied oystercatcher. It is not possible to determine whether the bird we saw was an American Oystercatcher or a hybrid of the two forms.—WALDO G. ABBOTT, *Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, August 25, 1964.*

Eagle Versus Fish.—While doing a deer count on Mitkoff Highway, 33 miles south of Petersburg, Alaska, my wife and I were surprised to see a large bird, partly submerged in the water, violently flapping its wings. On closer examination through a 7 × 50 monocular we could see it was a mature Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) with a large fish in its talons. From the size of the fish and the time of the year, there is a strong possibility that it was a king salmon, but this is only conjecture as we were unable to examine the fish closely.

As we watched the eagle it appeared that it was trying to fly with the fish in its talons, but the struggle the fish was putting up coupled with its size made it impossible for the eagle to fly. The longer we watched the clearer the picture became: the eagle, realizing that it was unable to fly with the fish, was dragging it toward a sandspit, about one hundred yards away, that had been exposed by the low tide. The eagle would struggle with the fish for several minutes then it would rest and the fish would try to shake itself free. Several times during the rest periods the fish would jump out of the water and seemingly knock the eagle about in a violent fashion. After approximately 15 minutes the eagle was able to drag the fish onto the sandspit and after a brief rest began pecking at it. At this point we were forced to leave the scene, but it was apparent that the eagle had won the battle.—JOSEPH R. BLUM, *Petersburg, Alaska, June 22, 1964.*