

known. Gallagher (*op. cit.*:493) concluded that it is doubtful that land crabs cause much harm to birds on Christmas Island.

Kirby (*op. cit.*:196) stated that around November several species of migratory ducks ordinarily arrive on Fanning Island, but these were not observed directly by him. Migratory ducks were relatively abundant on Fanning Island during October through December and March through May in the several years prior to 1959 (Keith MacCredden, personal communication). Tong Ting Hai (personal communication) recalls observing numerous ducks, presumably exhausted from migration, falling on the grounds of the populated Fanning Island Cable and Wireless station, unable to resume flight. Since 1959 only a few ducks have been observed. Certain ducks tend to congregate on the freshwater lakes about 0.5 mile east of Napari (Tong Ting Hai, personal communication). On 24 July 1963 I surveyed a series of lakes between Napari and Napanaiaroa, comprising a total length of about one mile, and found no ducks.

Kirby (*op. cit.*:196) remarked that Bristle-thighed Curlews were mercilessly hunted with shot-guns on the flats of Fanning Island. Shorebirds are now common to abundant on the atoll but are wary of humans. Perhaps this is because they have been hunted during the past several years. During the day dragonflies, ants, and houseflies (around dwellings) are the dominant insects, butterflies and beetles seldom being seen. Hutchinson (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 96:1, 1950) gave a thorough account of guano deposits on oceanic islands, including Fanning Island, where guano was very rich and taken commercially from 1877 to 1879.—GERALD J. BAKUS, *Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, 4 May 1966.*

**Winter Breeding of the Western Grebe.**—Nesting records of the Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*, in southern California are rare. Grinnell and Miller (Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 27:39, 1944) report only two records here. One nesting occurred at the Salton Sea, Imperial County, and one at Mystic (= San Jacinto) Lake, Riverside County. Nokes (Condor 19:24, 1917) found the nest at Mystic Lake on 13 May 1916. This nest contained three eggs "far advanced in incubation."

Crouch (Audubon Field Notes 10:409, 1956) reports two additional nestings. One immature flightless Western Grebe was found dead at the Salton Sea on 13 June 1956. Nests were observed at Sweetwater Lake, San Diego County, on 5 May 1956. Nine nests were counted on 17 May, but all were apparently unsuccessful.

On the morning of 25 February 1966, with an ornithology class from San Diego State College, I saw a downy gray Western Grebe on the back of a swimming adult at the south end of Sweetwater Lake, San Diego County. The other pair member swam nearby, and when the youngster got off once to swim, the adult brought its bill near the immature bird but did not feed it. The small size of the immature bird indicated an age of two weeks or less. Gerald Collier and I saw the Water Glide and Nodding courtship of another pair of these grebes. About 20 other Western Grebes were on the lake.

Palmer (Handbook of North American Birds, p. 102, 1962) and others give egg records from May into July. Incubation lasts "about 23 days" according to Bent (Life Histories of North American Diving Birds, p. 5, 1919). The nesting of the pair I saw must then have started in late January, making this the first winter nesting of the Western Grebe yet reported, only the second nesting record for San Diego County, and one of the few nesting records in Southern California.—DARRELL T. LEE, *Department of Zoology, San Diego State College, San Diego, California, 10 March 1966.*

**An Unusual Nesting of a Goshawk in Southern New Mexico.**—Nesting records for the Goshawk (*Accipter gentilis*) in the southwestern United States are extremely rare. Historically, as much of an authority on nests and eggs as Bendire (Life Histories of North American Birds, pp. 196–199, 1892) thought that the breeding range extended south in the western United States only to about latitude 38° in California and, inland, possibly south to Colorado. More recently, Marshall (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 32, 69, 1957) mentions only one brood observed during his three-year study of breeding birds of southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico and adjacent México.