

Food of the Burrowing Owl in Western Nevada.—On June 8, 1939, A. C. Hawbecker and I picked up approximately a dozen pellets (some broken material) around an occupied Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) nest, about three miles northeast of Yerington, Nevada. These were subsequently analyzed by Mr. Charles Miller, with a small amount of help from me.

The following items of prey were found, each named as completely as the identifications were carried:

Mammalia		Orthoptera	
<i>Thomomys</i>	1	Locustidae	1
<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	3	Heteroptera	
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	4	Pentatomidae	1
<i>Sylvilagus</i> (very young)	1	Coleoptera	
Reptilia		Unidentified	3
<i>Pituophis</i> (young)	1	Carabidae	2
Amphibia		Silphidae	11
<i>Scaphiopus</i>	30	Elateridae	16
Arachnida		Buprestidae	1
Scorpion	1	Tenebrionidae	7
Insecta		Lucanidae	1
Odonata		Curculionidae	2
Agriionidae (?)	1	Hymenoptera	
		Formicidae (?)	8

Of the seven whole pellets, four contained spadefoot toad remains. No remains of birds were found. It thus appears that these owls had appetites like those reported by Sperry (Wilson Bull., 53, 1941:45) rather than those observed by Neff (Condor, 43, 1941:197-198).—R. M. BOND, *Piedmont, California, February 11, 1942.*

Water Birds Influenced by Irrigation Projects in the Lower Colorado River Valley.—

Perhaps few regions in the United States offer greater inducements to the ornithologist than does the lower Colorado River Valley near Yuma, Arizona. Because of various water developments in the past and the continued expansion of such operations, the original arid desert constantly is being converted into productive farm land. To effect this change have come the necessary lakes, canals, sloughs and drainage ditches of which the Laguna Diversion Dam and Imperial Canal, the Imperial Diversion Dam and All-American Canal, and the proposed opening of the several-thousand-acre Gila Project are outstanding examples.

Because of the lack of continued bird study in the Yuma area in the past, the effect that these changes may have had on the ornithology of the region is difficult to ascertain, but it is felt that it has been considerable. Although there probably has been a decrease in populations of certain species, the presence of abundant water in so arid a region has undoubtedly caused increases in those dependent on this factor.

During the winter and spring of 1940-41, the writer had occasion to make a series of visits to most of the areas near Yuma which have been influenced by this development. Although no specimens were collected, recent records are so few that it is felt notation should be made concerning significant observations of positively identified species. Special thanks are due to Mr. Allan R. Phillips for his aid in furnishing information on the status of various species.

Gavia arctica. Pacific Loon. On April 19, 1941, an adult was observed at close range on Mittry Lake (Laguna Dam), Yuma County, Arizona. This is apparently the first record for this species in this state.

Podilymbus podiceps. Pied-billed Grebe. Winter records were obtained on December 1, 1940, December 22, 1940, and February 9, 1941. On April 6, 1941, an adult with two very small young was seen on a small lake approximately three miles northwest of Somerton, Arizona, and on May 11, several two-thirds grown young were seen on Mittry Lake.

Egretta thula. Snowy Egret. Several seen on December 1, 1940, three recorded on December 22, 1940, and eight observed February 8, 1941, show this bird to be a not uncommon winter resident although previous published records for the area have not been found.

Ixobrychus exilis. Least Bittern. Two were seen at Lake Haughtelin, a small lake approximately three miles south of Bard, Imperial County, California, on October 5, 1940. There is a specimen in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology taken 2½ miles northeast of Fort Yuma, California, on December 29, 1940. One was observed on the small lake northwest of Somerton on April 6, 1941, and still