

## ***Western Birds* abstracts Vol. 38. No. 4.**

### **STATUS OF THE BROAD-WINGED AND RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS DURING FALL MIGRATION IN SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO, 1995–2006**

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**ABSTRACT:** Twelve years of counting raptors during fall migration near Boise, Idaho, yielded 214 Broad-winged and 9 Red-shouldered Hawks, revealing these species as much more frequent in Idaho than previously known. The Broad-winged Hawk is an uncommon, annual fall migrant in Idaho. The Red-shouldered Hawk is at least casual, possibly nearly annual, during fall migration. These data match increased sightings from other western states that have likely resulted from a combination of increased observer coverage and possible range expansions and/or numerical increases for both species in the West.

### **INSECTS PREDOMINATE IN PEREGRINE FALCON PREDATION ATTEMPTS IN ARIZONA**

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**ABSTRACT:** We compare two methods of collecting data on food habits (observations of predation attempts [ $n = 131$ ] and analysis of prey remains at eyries [ $n = 809$ ]) for Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) in Arizona. White-throated Swifts (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) were pursued in at least 38% of the predation attempts on birds but constituted 22% of the avian diet (by number) from prey remains. Insects constituted 1% of prey remains from eyries but were targets in 69% of observed attacks on prey. Insects, primarily cicadas (*Cicadidae*), were especially important numerically to breeding females guarding their nest cliffs. These observations suggest that insects may be much more important than formerly supposed in the Peregrine Falcon's diet in other regions when and where large insects are aloft.

### **COLONIZATION OF THE BROWN BOOBY AT CORONADO ISLANDS, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO**

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**ABSTRACT:** In 2005, we documented the colonization of Middle Rock, Coronado Islands, Baja California, Mexico by the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster brewsteri*)—a significant northern extension of the species' breeding range possibly related to warming trends in the northeastern Pacific Ocean. Confirmed nesting in 2005 was preceded by an increase in sightings at sea along the northwest coast of Baja California and California in the 1990s and early 2000s and attendance at Middle Rock since at least 2002. In 2002, we observed Brown Boobies on Middle Rock in incubation postures attending two Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) nests containing one gull egg each. One of these gull nests was attended for at least 33 days at the exact site where a single Brown Booby nest was confirmed each year from 2005 to 2007. In 2005 the nest successfully fledged a chick but in 2006 failed for unknown reasons. In 2007, two nests fledged single chicks. Excluding juveniles, documented attendance of at least 6 boobies in 2002, 7 in 2006, 12 in 2006, and 35 in 2007 suggests that the colony will grow further.

#### **AN APPARENT HYBRID BREWER'S× BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW**

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**ABSTRACT:** An apparent hybrid between the Brewer's and Black-chinned Sparrows, found in the Cuyamaca Mountains, southern California, in 2007, was closest in plumage to Brewer's Sparrow but outside that species' range of variation. It sang intermediate songs. The bird, and two other possible hybrids, occurred in areas extensively burned in 2002 and 2003. In these areas the numbers of the Black-chinned Sparrow increased spectacularly following the fires and Brewer's Sparrow occurred in the breeding season sporadically, outside its historic breeding range.

#### **NOTES:**

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES ON LEUCISTIC EARED GREBES AT MONO LAKE**

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#### **CARCASS SCAVENGING BY A BLACK-NECKED STILT AT THE SALTON SEA, CALIFORNIA**

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**CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN NESTING ON ISLA ALCATRAZ, SONORA, MEXICO**

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**COMMENSAL FEEDING OF GREAT EGRETS WITH BLACK-TAILED DEER**

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**BOOK REVIEW:**

**The Singing Life of Birds**, by Donald Kroodsma. 2007. Houghton Mifflin, New York. 482 pages, numerous black-and-white figures, accompanying CD. Paperback, \$16.95. ISBN-13: 978-0-618-84076-2.

**FEATURED PHOTO:**

**NOTES ON PLUMAGE MATURATION IN THE RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD**

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