

NEVADA RECORDS OF ROSEATE SPOONBILL

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In the summer of 1977 there was a major flight of Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) into the lower Colorado River valley of Arizona and California (Witzeman et al., Am. Birds 31:1171-1176, 1977; McCaskie, Am. Birds 31:1188-1192, 1977). At least 12 individuals reached southern Nevada. The first reported was an immature on 5 June at the sewage ponds of the Nevada Test Site, Nye County (Castetter and Hill, West. Birds in press, 1979).

On 28 June I collected one of two individuals discovered on 27 June at the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA), Clark County, by Area Manager Roy Horsely. The specimen was deposited in the University of Nevada, Reno Museum of Biology (UNMB 1838, immature female, ovary 16×6 mm, no molt, light fat, weight 307 g). Horsely observed one to two immatures at OWMA intermittently between 28 June and 31 July.

At 2300 1 July Richard Voss was driving north on U.S. 93 about 48 km north of Las Vegas, Clark County. Near an area known as Gunsight Pass, he discovered four immatures standing in the middle of the highway. He stopped and was observing the birds when a passing truck put the birds to flight, striking two of them. One specimen (Donald H. Baepler 1478, immature female, ovary 18×8 mm, no molt, no fat, weight 208 g) will be deposited at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The other specimen is in the Nevada State Museum (NSM 1655, immature female, ovary 18×8 mm, no molt, no fat, weight 197 g).

The specimens described above are the first for Nevada. In addition, there were several sight records of spoonbills in the summer of 1977. On 11 July M. Vincent Mowbray found two in Las Vegas Wash, Clark County. George Austin found two on 22 August at Bowman Reservoir, Logandale, Clark County, and another the same day at OWMA. All birds observed were immatures.

I would like to thank George Austin, Roy Horsely, Vince Mowbray and Richard Voss for use of their records; Richard Voss for recovering the specimens; George Austin and Donald Baepler for specimen preparation.

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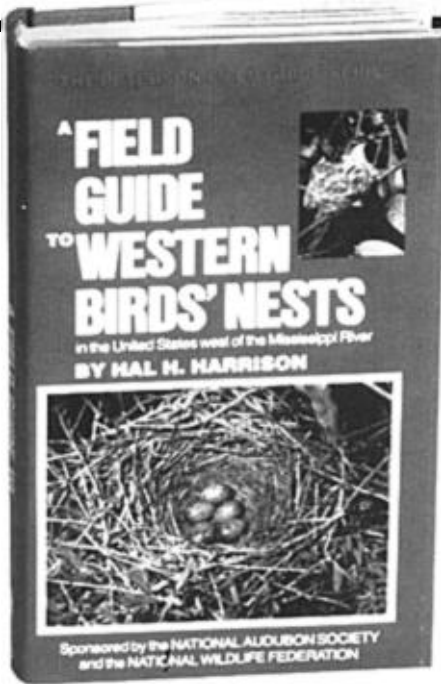


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