

were stuck to the feathers inside, the Bush Tit's nest must have been taken from the tree by the hawks and torn open afterward. On April 7 the hawk's nest held two eggs but the Bush Tit's nest was not then a part of the lining.

During the winter of 1896 I saw what I supposed was a Mountain Bluebird, but not until last winter was I positive that *S. arctica* could be placed on my list of Sonoma Co. birds. On December 8 I saw two and they were common in January and February, and several were seen on March 9. They remained in large open fields and seemed to find plenty of food as a male shot on Jan. 18 was in fine condition.

In the March-April BULLETIN Mr. Slevin speaks of seeing some Swallows at Point Reyes on Dec. 31 which he took to be the Violet-green. I think the birds were Tree Swallows as I have never seen the Violet-green until late in February, while the Tree Swallow has been noted every month in the year. In winter they can often be seen flying about some warm springs along the foothills at the edge of the marsh off San Pablo Bay.

HENRY W. CARRIGER, Sonoma, Cal., April 16, 1899.

Eastern Junco and White-throated Sparrow in California. I have the pleasure to record the capture of three specimens of *Junco hyemalis* in California. The first, a male I took at Battle Creek on October 23, 1898. The other two were found at St. Helena, a male on the first of last February and a female three days later. Through the kindness of Mr. W. E. Bryant I may record four specimens of *Zonotrichia albicollis* for this state. One was taken at Los Angeles, Feb. 25, 1897 and is mounted in Mr. Bryant's collection. Three taken at Santa Rosa now belong to me. Dates of two are Oct. 13, 1898 and Nov. 23, 1898. The third one has not yet been forwarded to me. There appears to be no difference between these and eastern specimens of *Z. albicollis*.

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR, Palo Alto, Cal.

Notes from Alameda, Cal. WESTERN BLUEBIRD: For the last seven or eight years I have not met this never common bird as formerly. On frequent trips through the county and Contra Costa County in spring I have noticed from three to ten on each trip during the past five years and at times saw none at all. It is a sparse breeder in Alameda County. An acquaintance of mine took a set of eggs in this town about fifteen years ago.

The last Dwarf Hermit Thrush was seen, rather heard, April 6, a few miles from here. It was unusually common this winter. One made itself at home about my woodshed and became quite tame, eating grubs and bore worms when I was splitting wood.

Western Robins were very scarce up to January. In February they were quite abundant, singing freely. I heard one singing in December.

One Varied Thrush noted April 12, they have nearly all departed now. Observed the first one on Sept. 27.

A few Western Golden-crowned Kinglets wintered here in the live oaks and evergreens. I observed them occasionally from October to March. The Ruby-crowns were common, as usual, this winter, but not gregarious like the Golden-crowns.

On Sept. 27 I heard the "call" notes of a Russet-backed Thrush, and although the bird remained hidden, I knew I was not deceived by its indistinguishable voice. The late date is commentable.

Nuthatches are rarely observed any year. Perhaps they do not occur at all some years in this immediate locality. They were often seen this winter. A Red-breasted was the first one seen, Aug. 30. Took one Sept. 5 and one Oct. 10, and a Slender-billed Nov. 11. The last birds seen were in the middle of February. All the birds ever seen here were seen within a radius of 300 yards.

I have observed the Western Winter Wren here only several times. Took one Oct. 6.

Plain Titmice are fast disappearing and are growing quite uncommon. Further back in the hills is where civilization has driven them. Young were found in two nests April 8.

The American Pipit in winter appears to be as much at home in town as the urban English Sparrow. After a rain they can be found singly or in small bunches along the pavements in the densest part of town looking for worms.

Took a ♂ California Creeper Jan. 14, making the first one I ever saw in the county.

Parkman's and Vigor's Wrens are seen almost the year around. Last winter (1897-8) a Parkman's remained about my garden and the winter before last (1896-7) a Vigor's wintered near by. Neither species passed this winter here.

In January I took a ♂ Tule Wren from the salt marsh near here. Several of the crown feathers and one wing primary (secondary) were pure white.

Peculiar Eggs of California Shrike and Other Notes. In the San Joaquin Valley about twenty-eight miles southeast of Stockton, on May 23, 1898, I found two nests of the California Shrike in a grove of locusts near the road, both containing eggs partly incubated. One egg in the set of four is pure white, with a faint greenish tint, marked at the larger end with a black scrawl, and over the surface are a few obscure specks of light brown. The other three are typical specimens although one is lightly marked. The set (?) of two also contains an almost unmarked specimen.

On June 15, 1897 near Soquel, Santa Cruz Co., Cal. I took a nest of the Western Wood Pewee containing three fresh eggs. On examining the nest after reaching camp I was surprised to find two more eggs beneath the lining, in which the contents were partly dried. They differ much in size and color from the other eggs and do not seem to have been laid by the same individuals.

MILTON S. RAY, San Francisco, Cal.

Notes from Marin and San Benito Counties, Cal. In BULLETIN No. 2 are some interesting notes from different sections of the state concerning the appearance of birds unusual in the localities mentioned. It strikes me that it would be beneficial to the students of ornithology if such notes were supplemented by additional ones from persons who have been in position to make observations upon the species mentioned in different localities at corresponding dates, as this would assist very materially in studying distribution and habits. Accordingly I will endeavor to make a start in this line by adding my notes to those of the last issue.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*). Mr. Otto Emerson speaks of these birds having appeared in Alameda Co. in September 1898 and mentions their occurrence in Marin County. At that time they were very abundant here, the first having been observed on Aug. 29 when two or three were seen. A few days later they were very numerous, frequenting almost altogether at this time the fir and cypress trees on the ranges. In October they became less abundant and toward the middle of the month were found feeding among the live oak trees, even in the valley near the house. By Nov. 1 they had all disappeared. This bird has never to my knowledge, been recorded in Marin Co. before. I saw a few in San Mateo on Nov. 6.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes torquatus*). These birds breed to a greater or less extent, seemingly depending upon the season, at Paicines, San Benito Co., Cal., where we have taken several sets. On the first of last October a large number of immigrants must have come in as they were far more numerous than those breeding there would account for by natural increase. My brother and I collected a beautiful series at this time of birds of the year in different plumages, some of which were exceedingly interesting.