

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.

AMERICAN CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). At times these birds pass through Marin Co. in numbers, stopping for a short while to feed, often on the Tojon berries. As they are very shy and generally frequent the tops of the tall Douglas firs on the higher ranges they are difficult to obtain, but specimens have been taken on two occasions by C. A. Allen. Some years elapse without any being observed, but this does not prove that they have not been here, as their usual feeding grounds are seldom visited by any observer.

WESTERN EVENING GROSBEEK (*Coccothraustes v. montanus*). On October 14, 1898 a ♂ of this species was shot near Point Reyes Station, Marin Co., and sent to me. Their occurrence in this county has been reported to me before but as no specimens had been taken the reports were not verified.

MYRTLE WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*). This bird is much more common in California than most people have been led to suppose. There are a number in our collection from Marin and San Benito counties, though we have only collected them casually. I have seen a good many that have not been taken and find that at close range they can be sufficiently recognized by the superloral and postocular streaks to enable one to be moderately accurate in identification. That is to say, if a person were to shoot all that he saw with this characteristic he would find the majority of his birds to be *coronata*.

SEX OF WINTER RESIDENTS. It would be interesting to hear from different localities in regard to which sex predominates in some of the winter residents. For instance, here at San Geronimo, nearly every Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*) taken is a ♀ especially so in midwinter. All of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) taken here have been males. Almost all of the Dwarf Hermit Thrushes (*Hyllocichla aonalaschkæ*) also have been males, only three that I know of having proved to be females, one of these being a partial albino. We have several Thick-billed Sparrows taken here at different times and all ♀. These last are present some winters, but not all. How are the birds above mentioned in other localities?

JOSEPH MAILLIARD, San Geronimo, Cal.

An Account of the Taking of Four Sets of Eggs of the Ivory Gull.

FOUR eggs of the Ivory Gull (*Larus eburneus*) were brought home by Gustaf Kolthoff, naturalist to the Nathorst Swedish Expedition in the summer and early autumn of 1898, having been received from Captain Kjældsen of the ship Frithiof in exchange. Mr. Kolthoff writes "When we were going from King Carls-Land to Franz Josef-Land we met on the way the steamer Frithiof, owner the old ice traveller Captain Kjældsen, who had been there with the Wellman Expedition. Captain Kjældsen told me that when returning and sailing close to the coast they had, near Cape Oppolzer on the S. W. of Franz Josef-Land in 80.04 N. latitude to about 57° E. longitude, visited a little, low-lying, unnamed island, situated very nearly south of Cape Oppolzer, upon which were breeding a large number of 'Ice Gulls' (Ivory Gulls). The nests were on the flat ground, built of green moss, and

only in four cases was there still a single egg,—in all the rest were young, very small, half-grown and none so grown that they could use their wings. The four eggs were all strongly incubated. This was on August 4 and upon the 12th we met the steamer and I obtained all that Captain Kjældsen had—four eggs and one young bird. As I understood Captain Kjældsen the Wellman Expedition had left his ship before it visited Cape Oppolzer." Mr. Kolthoff adds "On the Spitzbergen and King Carls-Land coasts the Ivory Gulls had their nests on high cliffs where it is nearly impossible to reach them." Two of the above eggs are in the Upsalu Museum and the two others in my collection. The latter measure 2.29x1.69 and 2.25x1.68 inches.

A. W. JOHNSON, Waterside, Eng.

(The BULLETIN, though devoted to Pacific Coast ornithology, gladly gives space to the above notes on this rare and beautiful Gull. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Cooper Club, and is now enjoying a sojourn in his old home. ED.)