

here, within about three miles of the place at which the one recorded by Mr. McGregor was captured. Both albinos are in my collection.

CHASE LITTLEJOHN, Redwood City, Cal.

Notes from Los Angeles Co., Cal. *Uria troile californica*. On Nov. 3, 1900 in a box of birds in the flesh, sent me by Mr. Lee Chambers from Santa Monica, I found a California Murre ♀. The bird had been found dying on the beach and was in a greatly emaciated condition. I believe that this is an addition to our county list as I can find no record of its occurrence here.

Coccythraustes v. montanus. On Oct. 21, 1900 I saw an Evening Grosbeak in the Arroyo Seco Canyon, but failed to secure it. On Dec. 7 on Mt. Wilson I heard the loud call note of one, but did not even see the bird. On Dec. 13 I heard the same note in the wash issuing from the Arroyo Seco Canyon, and was fortunate enough to secure the bird, an adult female.

Junco hyemalis. I shot a male Slate-colored Junco on Mt. Wilson, Dec. 6, 1900. Another, also a male, was seen the day before; both were observed in flocks of *J. h. thurberi*

Helminthophila celata. Three warblers that I have shot at Los Angeles (♂ Sept. 17, 1900. ♀ Oct. 30, 1899; ♀ Oct. 8, 1896) have been identified by Mr. Ridgway as belonging to this species. I have seen specimens of this bird every fall in the vicinity of Los Angeles, usually in company with *H. c. lutescens*, from which its grayish head renders it readily distinguishable.

Ammodramus sandwichensis bryanti, An *Ammodramus* shot by me at San Pedro Dec. 10, 1899, has been identified as Bryant's Marsh Sparrow by Mr. Ridgway. I have one or two others taken about the same time, apparently similar, so it may be found to be of regular occurrence here in the winter, though not recorded before.

H. S. SWARTH, Los Angeles, Cal.

Notes from San Luis Obispo Co., Cal. While at Morro on the San Luis Obispo coast I discovered three sets of Snowy Plover's (*Ægialitis nivosa*) eggs on August 1, two sets being of three and one of two eggs. All were heavily incubated at this date and would have hatched in a day or two. The eggs were laid on the sand above high-water mark in slight hollows.

During April, 1900, I had the good fortune to record Cabanis' Woodpecker (*Dryobates v. hyloscopus*) for this county by taking two sets of eggs, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$. One of the nests which I found was peculiar in that it had *two* entrances, one about five inches below the other and to one side, but each entrance seemed equally used. In 1899 I obtained a set of *D. nuttalli* from the same tree, a dead cottonwood. This addition to the list now gives the upper Salinas valley six breeding species of *Picidae*.

While at Morro, Nov. 25, 1900 I saw two Bald Eagles. One flew away but the other circled about and finally pounced upon a White-winged Scoter which it carried up the beach and started to devour. At our approach it dropped the bird, which waddled toward the water and swam away apparently unharmed. On Nov. 24 I captured three Scoters alive. They were far up on the beach and apparently were unable to fly from a "ground start". All captured were birds of the year and fully feathered.

CHAS. S. THOMPSON, Paso Robles, Cal.

Notes on the Dwarf Hermit Thrush and Other Notes. On the 11th of December, 1900 I witnessed a rather amusing, yet interesting performance by watching a Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla aonalaschkæ*) securing his dinner. Being confined to the house by illness, I was looking out of a window into our garden for something in the bird line, when I noticed a thrush on the ground under an English walnut

tree. The ground was covered with leaves and the bird would hop up to one of them, nervously jerking his tail and occasionally "flirting" his wings, and selecting a leaf he would suddenly grasp it in his beak and throw it quickly out of his way, and at once make a grab for the angle-worms underneath, sometimes almost falling over backward in his efforts to draw them out of the ground. I watched him for sometime and saw him throw some of the leaves at least fifteen inches. He was very successful, securing one or more worms from beneath every leaf he turned over, and I should like to know by what faculty he could determine beneath which leaves the worms were hidden?

On the 6th of October, 1900 I shot three specimens of the Willow Goldfinch from a flock of perhaps 100 birds. One of them, a young male, shows a rather odd coloration on the crown, where occurs a patch of pure white as large as a dime. Otherwise the plumage is normal.

August 25, 1900 I noticed a Roadrunner on one of the principal residence streets of Santa Clara. After "pacing" down the street a short distance it took a short cut through a fence into a flower garden where it was lost sight of. This was rather an unexpected visitor, but imagine my surprise one morning in November to see an American Coot calmly walking down the street in front of me. I followed closely for over 100 yards and although the bird did not seem to be injured, it acted as though thoroughly "lost". The nearest water where the birds are found is three miles away.

WM. L. ATKINSON, Santa Clara, Cal.

Western Evening Grosbeak at Hayward, Cal. The early morning of December 29, 1900, brought in a new record for this part of Alameda County (Haywards), if not for the county at large, no other records as yet having been made of the Western Evening Grosbeak, (*Coccothraustes v. montanus*).

The birds' loud, whistling notes first attracted my attention, as they flew into an almond tree, seeming to rest from a long flight. Some twenty birds were in the flock and only one was shot before they were off, calling as they flew. The one collected proved to be a female in the winter plumage, of grayish color, showing a few yellowish-green feathers in one side of the neck. The crop was full of willow buds, showing that they had lately fed, no doubt among the creek willows below the orchard.

This form of the Evening Grosbeak is found commonly every winter through the Santa Cruz Mountains of the coast range, across the bay west of Haywards. I found them common among the pines at Monterey, Cal., in the latter part of November, 1896, particularly in the early morning, or at day-break.

W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal., Jan. 1, 1901.



Anent an Innovation.

On another page will be found a 'snap-shot' of Dr. C. Hart Merriam. Believing that even the more staid members of our ornithological circle may enjoy seeing some of our prominent ornithologists in moments of relaxation, *Squib* has ventured to inaugurate this series. So many persons are on their good behavior at the photographer's, that we ordinarily see the 'exception' rather than the 'rule'. The original snap-shots being too valuable to trust with the engraver, this series will appear redrawn with slight modifications. And lest some poor man should take us too seriously we beg to assure the world that we "josh only our friends".

"SQUIB."

"Pied Pipers of Santa Barbara" by Martinetta Kinsell, in October *Land of Sunshine*, is a good example of an extreme type of popular ornithology. It is a well written article, but of a gelatinous consistency that affords little mental pabulum. The germ of truth is about as elusive as a cork inside of a bottle. Perhaps it is not a serious attempt; we sincerely hope not. W. K. F.

The *Western Ornithologist*, whose promising career confined itself to three issues, has we regret to say, sought a resting-place in the journalistic graveyard. Thus many creditable and deserving journals are proving steadily the futility of the 50-cent "bird magazine."

The leading feature of December *Bird-Lore* is a popular article on photographing White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*) in their native haunts, illustrated by six superb photographs of the ptarmigan in summer and winter plumage by the author, Mr. E. R. Warren. The photographs are certainly among the most notable published in ornithological magazines during the year.