

date the birds were seen about five miles from Santa Barbara. This would indicate that this species is quite a common late summer transient through these waters.—HOWARD W. WRIGHT, *Stanford University, California.*

**Nesting Notes from San Diego County.**—On March 27, 1913, a pair of Pacific Horned Owls were found nesting about two miles down the Sweetwater River from Dehesa and upon rapping upon the tree the female was flushed. The three young were rather large and partly feathered. As the old bird left the nest a pair of Red-bellied Hawks set out in pursuit. One continued to chase the old owl, while the other hawk returned and robbed the nest of one of the young owls. This was torn to pieces and eaten in a nearby tree. The day before I had robbed the Red-bellied Hawk's nest of three eggs. This was located about a quarter of a mile up the river. On returning to the locality a week later there was only one young owl left.

On July 21, 1913, at Lemon Grove, while picking some fruit in a nearby orchard, I was surprised to hear the "purt, purt" of an Arizona Hooded Oriole in an adjoining palm tree. I was still more surprised on finding a partially completed nest swung to the underside of a lower leaf of the same palm. July 30 the nest contained one egg, with the female sitting. On August 4 I took the nest and 3 eggs, the latter varying considerably in incubation. This is the best marked set I have ever seen.

August 7, 1913, at Lemon Grove, a neighbor called my attention to a nest of Western Mockingbird not over twelve feet from his kitchen door and right over the sidewalk. It was in a cypress tree ten feet above the ground and contained four fresh eggs which I took. This was the fourth laying of this year known to me. The first, of four eggs too far advanced to blow, was handed to me by the same man April 9. It was taken from an ornamental pine tree near the front door. The middle of May I saw the old birds feeding young, and again the second week in July I saw them feeding young; but I think a pet cat caught this brood.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego, California.*

**Dry Season Notes.**—In this year of unusual drought the fish-eating birds are having a lean time of it in the interior and are often hard pushed to make a living. Wild ducks are to be seen frequenting shallow, alkaline ponds that they would turn up their noses at in ordinary years, and dabbling in the foul mud for what insect life there may be there. Farallon Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*) and White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) cruise about in a restless manner, endeavoring to "fill up their beak with food for a week" in the most unpromising places; while the herons scatter far and wide in hopes of picking up a stray minnow or frog here and there.

Ordinarily our rivers overflow their lower banks in the spring time, and the carp, minnows, etc., spread out into the submerged lowlands to spawn. The result of this is that as the waters recede in summertime the young fish collect in the small sloughs and depressions. The areas of the water surfaces shrink from day to day until finally there are left only small, evil-smelling pools so shallow that one can see the backs of the small fry sticking above the surface. The fishes are so numerous that they may be said to actually swarm. During this period the heron families grow fat in such spots, with no exertion whatever! But this year there has been no overflow, and those fish that spawned did so only in deep water; so the poor herons have to get out and "hustle" for a living, taking a chance at catching a few stray fish that are foolish enough to come into the shallow water near the banks of the rivers.

I was much astonished a few days ago, on September 19, 1913, to be exact, to see three California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus californicus*) come sailing over our house and light on the lake a few yards away. This is the first time I have ever seen this species in the interior, as it seems to stick to the seacoast almost exclusively. The birds were so near that there was no possible chance of making a mistake as to their identity.

Where the water-loving species of blackbirds nested this year I do not know, but certainly they have not been with us in their usual numbers, doubtless because there were no tule ponds or overflow lands for them to nest in. The Bicolored Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus californicus*) did breed to some extent in the dry weeds and small willows, but were not at all numerous at nesting time.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *Rancho Dos Rios, Stanislaus County, California.*

**Note on the Guadalupe Caracara.**—During the past summer Captain Charles E. Davis, of Los Angeles, has made several trips to Guadalupe Island, off the coast of Lower California, for the purpose of taking moving pictures of the sea elephants found around the island, and also to capture alive some of the younger animals. In a conversation with the

writer he made a statement which seems of sufficient interest to repeat. Hearing that the island had been visited by two men who had killed several of the sea elephants, which he had been at some pains to protect, he at once hastened to the spot to ascertain the amount of the damage. On landing on the beach where the killing had been done, he found the place reeking with the decomposed remains of five or six of the animals. He had already remarked to me upon the noticeable scarcity of birds along the shore of the island, as compared with the abundance of water birds elsewhere, but he further stated that as he landed several gulls flew up from the carrion, and with them two or three dark-colored birds, which he described as apparently crosses between an eagle and a turkey buzzard. This remark, coming from a man ignorant of a caracara, without prompting from myself, and not dwelt upon by him afterward, is at least suggestive of the possible persistence up to the present time of the supposedly extinct Guadalupe Caracara (*Polyborus lutosus*).—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California.*

**Sharp-shinned Hawk Nesting in Arizona.**—On May 30, 1907, I collected a set of four eggs of the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) from a nest in a small fir tree in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, at an altitude of about 6,800 feet. Incubation was begun. The female sat very close and hung around close by while I collected the egg.—FRANK C. WILLARD, *Tombstone, Arizona.*

**Note on the Ashy Petrel.**—On August 3, 1913, I visited the Painted Cave on Santa Cruz Island and made a thorough search for the "nests" of the Ashy Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*). I could find nothing but a few egg shells, which would indicate that the birds either bred earlier, or else did not breed there at all this season.—HOWARD W. WRIGHT, *Stanford University, California.*

**Three New Birds from Eastern Oregon.**—In working over a collection of bird skins from Harney County, Oregon, collected by Mr. Wm. L. Finley during the summer of 1908, I found specimens of the following birds which I believe have never been put on record as occurring in this State. The identifications were made by Mr. Joseph Grinnell and Mr. H. C. Oberholser.

*Empidonax griseus.* Gray Flycatcher. Two adult specimens in worn summer plumage taken in the open sagebrush country near Wright's Point, about fifteen miles south of Burns, on June 25, 1908.

*Amphispiza bilineata deserticola.* Desert Sparrow. Two adult males taken at Wright's Point on June 24 and 25, 1908.

*Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola.* Willow Thrush. One adult male taken in the willows along Silvie's River near Burns on June 24, 1908.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon.*

**Spotted Owls in San Diego County.**—On June 22, 1910, while hunting on Palomar Mountain, San Diego County, California, a strange object was seen moving in an oak tree about sixty feet above the ground. On closer observation its identity became more uncertain; although I whistled several times it did not move. I finally decided to shoot and was astonished at the downfall of a dried gray-squirrel carcass. The animal had evidently been killed or had died lying crossways on a large limb. Its tail waving in the wind was the feature which had attracted me.

At the same moment of the gun's explosion a large bird was seen to flop on the next limb directly above where the squirrel's dried carcass had hung. Not being able to recognize the bird I decided to watch, and after a few minutes an owl was seen to cautiously peep over the edge of the limb. It eyed me first with one black eye and then the other. I shot it, and on picking up the specimen was surprised to identify a full-plumaged Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*).

The following year, 1911, on the same date, June 22, and in the same locality, a party of us had planned to go to a nearby hillside where tiger lilies were known to grow, and, being rather on the lookout for specimens, I took my gun. All of us were busily engaged in digging the bulbs of the lilies, when a sudden "ow-w-w-ow" brought me to my feet, gun in hand, and after cautiously peering in all the surrounding trees a Spotted Owl was seen perched near the top and very close to the trunk of a small cedar tree about forty feet high. Not wishing to shoot the bird to pieces my aim was made a little to the side. The shot dropped a wounded bird and while I was occupied in extinguishing its life a clamorous call from a member of the party proclaimed the location of a second owl. I quickly dropped the first bird, grabbed the gun and soon had two owls to my credit. The last one was also perched near the trunk and very close to the top of a small fir tree about 60 feet high.

These birds were in moult, one having a single tail feather, and the other none at all; they were a pair and probably had raised a brood early in the spring. Further examination made positive that this spot had been their roosting place for some time past. The stomachs of these birds were entirely empty, giving no evidence of what their food might have been in this locality.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego, California.*