

TOWNSEND SOLITAIRE. *Myadestes townsendi*. Rare and irregular mid-winter visitant. One individual observed February 26, 1909, among bay-trees along the lower Strawberry Creek. In January, 1911 (4th to 24th), and in February and up to March 15, 1913, single individuals were repeatedly seen in the pepper trees along the west side of the foot-ball bleachers (J. G. and H. S. S.).

RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*. Common summer visitant, occurring in the larger city gardens as well as along the stream-courses on the lower Campus and up in the hills. Arrives late; dates of first observation: May 3, 1904 (A. S. A.); May 1, 1909 (J. G.); April 15, 1911 (A. S. A.); May 3, 1912 (J. G.); April 21, 1913 (A. S. A.). In full song from a few days after arrival until about July 10, after which the birds become extremely quiet. Noted in numbers up to the first week in September. Latest record: September 24, 1908 (J. G.). Nest with four small young by stream near Faculty Club June 23, 1909.

DWARF HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla guttata nanus*. Common winter visitant, appearing in wet weather all over the Campus and through the town, but in dry weather restricted to the shaded canyon sides and wooded ravines. Dates of first seen in the fall: October 16, 1906, and October 16, 1907 (A. S. A.); October 15, 1908, and October 6, 1910 (J. G.); October 4, 1912 (A. S. A.); October 4, 1913 (H. C. B.). Latest spring dates: April 14, 1912 (J. G.); April 17, 1913 (H. C. B.).

WESTERN ROBIN. *Planesticus migratorius propinquus*. Irregularly common mid-winter visitant. At times considerable numbers come to the tall pines near the Center Street entrance at about sundown to roost for the night. Earliest recorded dates of observation in the fall: November 5, 1907 (A. S. A.); November 13, 1910 (J. G.); November 12, 1911, November 4, 1912, and December 14, 1913 (H. C. B.). Last seen in the spring: March 25, 1911 (J. G.); March 15, 1913 (H. C. B.).

VARIED THRUSH. *Ixoreus naevius naevius*. Irregularly common mid-winter visitant. Most numerous as a rule in tracts of bay, but at times affecting live-oaks and even brushy hillsides. Some dates of first observation are: December 1, 1906 (A. S. A.); November 16, 1911 (J. G.); November 16, 1913 (A. S. A.). Late spring records: March 27, 1911 (T. I. S.); April 5, 1912, and March 15, 1913 (J. G.).

WESTERN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. Rather rare and sporadic winter visitant. Reported as having been seen on a few unspecified dates about the hill-tops within the Campus domain. February 1, 1913, a large flock was observed on the hillsides near the rifle range (H. C. B.). February 23, 1913, a company of a dozen was seen in flight along a North Berkeley hillside (J. G.).

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Some Notes on Sea Birds from Los Angeles County, California.—On October 11, 1913, at Hyperion Beach, Los Angeles County, a single charge of no. 10 shot into a flock of terns brought down four of the birds. Two of these proved to be of the more common species of the region, *Sterna forsteri*, and the other two of the less common *Sterna hirundo*. Willett in his notes on the latter species in *Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 7*, appears to consider it advisable to record actual takes of the birds, thus implying its relative scarcity. It would seem proper, therefore, to record this common flocking of the two species with the suggested equality of numbers. The writer's identification was kindly checked up and concurred in by Mr. H. S. Swarth.

On November 22, 1913, the writer picked up on the beach at Hyperion a specimen of the Slender-billed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). The bird was perfectly fresh and could not have drifted a great distance before being cast upon the sand. Willett mentions but one previous record for this species from southern California, a single specimen taken by A. W. Anthony near San Diego in 1896. The present specimen was much smeared over with oil, which seemed to have been on the feathers some time and which may have been a contributive factor in its demise. Mr. Grinnell, Mr. Swarth and Mr. Willett have examined the specimen and concur in the identification.—LOVE MILLER, *Los Angeles, California*.

**A New Record for Oregon.**—Having recently acquired a small collection of skins taken last year in Oregon by Mr. George L. Hamlin, I find among them two of the Harris Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*. One, a male, was taken February 1, 1912, at Medford, Oregon; and the other, a female, at the same place on the following day. Both are in the post-juvenile, or first winter, plumage.—W. LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California*.

**Occurrence of the White-tailed Kite in Central California in 1913.**—In the belief that even fragmentary notes concerning rare or disappearing species will prove of decided interest in the course of time, I offer the following notes in regard to the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), a species once numerous in west-central California.

On August 27, 1913, at 5 P. M., two White-tailed Kites were seen circling over a meadow near a line of willows bordering the Russian River near Forestville, Sonoma County. The birds were not over one hundred yards from the train, from which Mrs. Grinnell and I obtained a most satisfactory view of them.

On October 15, 1913, at 8:20 A. M., three White-tailed Kites flew close over the duck-blind which I was occupying, on the Suisun marsh near Cygnus, Solano County. I saw individual birds twice again the same morning; and Mr. W. W. Richards, owner of the duck-preserve upon which my observations were made, informed me that he frequently sees the same sort of bird about the marshes there.

With no doubt whatever, the present rarity of this hawk in California is due to its associational preference for marshes, where its habit of flying slowly back and forth at a moderate height above the ground on the lookout for meadow mice and insects make it an easy target for the thoughtless gunner. In my experience the average sportsman is still unenlightened enough to shoot down any sort of "hawk" that flies his way, provided game is not at the moment expected.

The above records, together with those of Mr. Howard Wright in *THE CONDOR* for September, 1913 (page 184), indicate that there are yet a few of these beautiful and harmless birds at widely separated stations within the state. I had not myself seen the species previously since 1903, near Palo Alto.—J. GRINNELL, *California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.

**Vermilion Flycatcher in the San Diegan District.**—On October 1, 1913, while shooting on the Olympic Gun Club grounds, about one mile west of Westminster, Orange County, California, I saw six Vermilion Flycatchers (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*). They were all females or else immatures, as there were no red males among them. Last winter, however, during the duck season, about half a dozen of the birds were seen at different times, and among them several males in brilliant plumage. It accordingly seems possible that careful search in the right places might prove this species to be not quite so rare a winter visitant west of the mountains as we have heretofore believed.—W. B. JUDSON, *Los Angeles, California*.

**A Second Nest of the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch.**—On the 21st of July, 1913, while climbing the North Palisade (the second in height, as it is also one of the most difficult of the Sierran peaks, altitude 14,254 feet) in company with a dozen other members of the Sierra Club, my attention was called to a Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis dawsoni*), flitting from point to point across the face of the rock wall. I soon traced it to a niche about ten feet above a narrow ledge along which our future course lay, and which fronted a sheer drop of 200 feet. By dint of a little friendly boosting, the niche was investigated, and I found the female Rosy Finch brooding five young birds about three days old. The nest, which was only three feet in, was of very substantial construction, such as enabled it to endure momentary removal and careful replacement. Unfortunately, neither time nor light nor equipment sufficed for adequate photography. The elevation of the nest was perhaps 13,600 feet.—W. LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California*.