

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Southern California.—Dr. I. D. Nokes of this city has recently submitted to me for identification a specimen of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) collected by himself, with the added request that I place on record a statement regarding the capture of the bird. It was taken on June 26, 1915, in the northern part of Los Angeles County, on the road to Elizabeth Lake, at a point a little to the north of Boquet Canyon. The bird, flitting from fence-post to fence-post along the road, was first observed by Mrs. Nokes as something out of the ordinary, and she pointed it out to her husband, who promptly secured it. The specimen, in the flesh, was turned over to Dr. J. Hornung, employed as taxidermist in this Museum, who made it into a study skin for Dr. Nokes, together with the rest of the birds collected by him on that day.

The flycatcher on dissection proved to be a male, though in its small size, relatively short tail, and lack of concealed red crown spot, it has much the appearance of a female. Though adult it was evidently not a breeding bird. The plumage is rather worn, though not excessively so. On the top of the head, between the eyes, is a partly healed injury, such a wound as might be caused by flight against a telegraph wire or some such obstruction.

The capture of this individual adds a new species to the list of California birds, but in what sense this addition should be made is a matter in which opinions will probably differ. That it can be considered an extension of range, merely the wandering of an individual somewhat beyond the normal confines of the species as known at present, and consequently an occurrence the repetition of which may be confidently expected in the future, seems to me a matter of some doubt. I do not regard the capture in California of this Scissor-tailed Flycatcher as comparable to the previously recorded instances of such rarities as the Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Oven-bird, Magnolia Warbler, and certain others. The occurrence of individuals of these several species, as regards season of capture, known range of the forms, usual migration route, etc., may be regarded, though certainly extraordinary, as explicable as the voluntary actions of normal, unconfined individuals of the several species of birds. This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, it seems to me, belongs rather in the category of "accidentals" which are regarded with some suspicion as introductions directly due to human agency, fortuitous or intentional.

I do not mean to suggest by this that it is necessarily an escaped caged bird, for the species is obviously not one to endure captivity. Mr. F. S. Daggett has suggested one possible means of introduction that certainly seems worthy of consideration, namely, by accidental captivity within a box car used in transporting live stock. The swarms of flies in such a place would afford attraction to a bird of this species, and the distance between the place of capture and the nearest point in the known habitat of the species is not so great but what the bird might easily survive the trip. This is not put forward as an absolute explanation of the happening, but merely as one way in which it might have been brought about. The partly healed injury on the head of the bird certainly suggests some abnormality in the occurrence.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California.*

Supposed New Records for Santa Cruz Island.—Through the courtesy of our distinguished fellow-member, Mr. Joseph Maillard, and his friend, Mr. Arturo Caire, one of the present owners of Santa Cruz Island, I was permitted to spend nearly three weeks, viz., April 3rd to 22nd, with my son William, on this enchanted spot. We made camp at Prisoners Harbor and devoted ourselves chiefly to a study of the endemic Jay, *Aphelocoma insularis*, of which sixteen nests were found. Besides this we found time to make several excursions into the interior of the island, and one to the west end. A horizon of eighty species resulted, and of these, fifteen appear not to have been previously reported, viz.:

Gavia immer. Loon. A full-plumaged adult was sighted at Prisoners Harbor on the 14th and appeared several times thereafter at near ranges. Four others were seen close inshore on the south side of the island on April 19. There has been an unusual number of Loons, both senescent adults and non-breeding immatures, in the Santa Barbara channel and its tributary lagoons during this past season.

Gavia stellata. Red-throated Loon. A single individual in partial summer moult, first observed on the 9th, was repeatedly seen at Prisoners Harbor.

Colymbus auritus. Horned Grebe. A pair of these birds in semi-breeding plumage haunted Prisoners Harbor throughout the interval of our stay. Toward the last there were increasing signs of mating interest.

Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus. Lesser Snow Goose. Two winged birds are kept in an enclosure at the main ranch. These were obtained about a year ago, according to Messrs. Revell and Luchelli, from flocks which numbered thousands.

Larus argentatus. Herring Gull. Two birds were found associating with Westerns and Californias at the West ranch on April 13.

Asyndesmus lewisi. Lewis Woodpecker. A single bird haunted the roof of an old barn near the main ranch on April 4. He was not again seen.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. Several Robins were seen in a group of oak trees southeast of the main ranch,—for the last time on April 11.

Ixoreus naevius naevius. Varied Thrush. A single bird flushed in the chaparral at close range on April 5, and another was sighted on the day following.

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing. A flock of about forty birds appeared on the 11th near our camp, and they fed upon the berries of the Christmas Holly, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, for a week or more thereafter.

Vireosylva gilva swainsoni. Western Warbling Vireo. A single male was heard singing in the Valle Centrale on Easter Sunday, April 4.

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Two singing males just arrived from the south were picked up in a little canyon near the Sul ranch on the 19th.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Mr. Luchelli has an undated specimen, a male, which he took near the main ranch last year.

Spinus pinus pinus. Pine Siskin. Several times encountered in the Monterey pine belt, where it probably breeds.

Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli. Nuttall Sparrow. A certain proportion of crown sparrows seen at the west end of the island were of the "small black" type, unmistakable *nuttalli*.

Passer domesticus. English Sparrow. Woe the day! I could hardly believe my ears, at first, when the stridor of this ancient vermin assaulted them from the peak of a warehouse roof at Prisoners Harbor. The single bird, a female, sighted early in the morning of the 18th, had, possibly, just arrived from the mainland shore 25 miles distant. No others were seen during our stay.—WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California, July 30, 1915.*

A Foe of Johnson Grass.—On the afternoon of July 9, while busy digging out Johnson grass along a line fence, I was startled by an unusual bird song, and looking up I beheld a male Blue Grosbeak who sang between meals as he swayed on the pendant ripening heads of this obnoxious grass. This was the only bird of any species that I have observed feeding to any considerable extent on this altogether too abundant food supply. One would have thought to see him work that he, too, had heard the order of the horticultural commissioner. If "By their fruits ye shall know them", applies to birds also, then the farmer certainly ought to chalk down at least one big round credit for the Blue Grosbeak.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Escondido, California.*

Fork-tailed Petrels Delayed by Storm.—The heavy windstorm of April 29 and 30 along the California coast caught many of the northern birds migrating, and its effect in delaying the northward movement was very evident.

On the evening of April 30 my son Edmund, who attends school at Monterey, brought me a Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) which was still alive. This bird had been procured from a flock estimated at about two hundred birds that was stranded along the beach between the Monterey wharf and the Del Monte bath house. The birds appeared lost and helpless in the 60 or 70 mile gale that was raging, and could fly only short distances, when they would again alight on the beach.

Additional evidence on the effect of the storm on this species was found on May 9, when a dead Fork-tailed Petrel was picked up along the beach at Moss near the center of the semi-circle formed by Monterey Bay, and several miles out of the migrating route of most pelagic species.—O. P. SILLIMAN, *Castroville, California.*

The House Finch Again.—A further instance of the Linnet (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) occupying the nest of another bird was observed by me on May 31st last. A