

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Note on the Food of the Western Robin.—In front of the Biological Station building at Flathead Lake, Montana, a small spring seeps into the lake, making a damp spot in the sand of the lake shore. Here, in the month of July swarms of butterflies congregate to drink. The butterflies are principally of two species, *Papilio rutulus*, a large yellow and black one, and *Papilio eurymedon*, an equally large one in cream color and black. These butterflies became so absorbed in their drinking that they could be easily approached and sometimes picked up in the fingers. One day, I was much amused to notice that a Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) took advantage of this and found them a ready source of food supply. The bird would approach and watch until one fluttered its wings, and then would seize it and swallow it wings and all. I watched it for some time, and noticed that the yellow butterflies were the only ones eaten, although the others outnumbered them almost three to one. Whether the brighter color attracted the bird to these, or the others were distasteful, cannot be said with certainty, but I believe the former to be the case. A chipmunk, which also fed on these butterflies, caught and ate both species, carrying them to the shelter of a log, where it discarded the wings, leaving them in a large heap.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *New Haven, Connecticut*.

Slight Extension of Range of San Diego Titmouse.—On December 19, 1915, at least two San Diego Titmice (*Baeolophus inornatus murinus*) were noted with a flock of Bush-tits (presumably *Psaltriparus minimus minimus*) among the junipers on the high mesa at the south edge of the Mohave Desert, the exact spot being approximately five miles south and four miles west of Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California. The mesa at this place is about 3800 feet altitude and less than a mile farther south drops off abruptly into Cajon Pass, through which there would be no physical barriers to the localities on the other (south) side of the western portion of the San Bernardino Range, regularly inhabited by this subspecies. The junipers end a half mile north of this record, where typical Lower Sonoran vegetation immediately replaces it. One of the two birds was taken, an adult female (no. 4587 coll. J. E. Law) and has been pronounced "*murinus*" by J. Grinnell after comparison with the series of both "*inornatus*" and "*murinus*" in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

The weather was at this time, and had been recently, entirely normal, clear warm days and crisp frosty nights, and the birds seemed to be very much at home, as were the bush-tits. Flocks of the latter and at least one "*murinus*" were observed on the 20th. Unfortunately no bush-tits were collected, for this is near the recorded desert limit of its range as well.—J. EUGENE LAW, *Hollywood, California*.

Nature of the Occurrence of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Humboldt County, California.—It would appear from Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 11 (p. 135) that the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*) continues to be known from California upon but very scanty basis. Since the undersigned was concerned in the first one of the three known instances of occurrence, it may be of interest to present additional details.

On July 1, 1897, our party found this Grosbeak so abundant in the orchard at Myer's, Humboldt County, California, as to be a pest. The people on the ranch made a business of shooting the birds to keep them from eating all the fruit. Males and females were present and were seen by us, and, as elsewhere recorded, specimens were saved. Can it be doubted that they were breeding that summer and that a considerable colony was present in that region? While it may be true that the species is a "sporadic visitant" in California, it would seem certain that, in the year in question, either a flock of considerable size had gone astray and reached the Myer's ranch or that we had to deal with a colony of several years' standing.—C. H. GILBERT, *Stanford University, California*.

Additional Notes on the Birds of Kootenai County, Idaho.—

Marila valisineria. Canvas-back Duck. Rare fall visitant. A young male, found with its neck broken, floating in Lake Coeur d'Alene near a boat house, March 10, 1915, may have struck piling or a building in the dark, causing the accident. Reports that Canvas-back Ducks have been taken on the lake for several years past have come to my notice, but this is the only specimen I have examined.