

closed the third bird still in it. Desiring to secure a photograph of a young Tolmie Warbler, I hastened for my kodak, and on returning found that the laggard, too, had left the nest. It was found in the grass nearby; but after a short time it fluttered into the bushes where the others had already gone. The noisy demonstration by the parent warblers did not last very long, and after it had subsided nothing more was heard from the Tolmie family except the singing of the male at intervals from the brush around camp.

To sum up the important points I learned in regard to the nesting of this family of Tolmie Warblers: The nest was discovered on June 13, 1915, and at the time of finding contained four, probably fresh, eggs; two eggs were hatched on June 23, eleven days after the discovery of the nest; a third egg hatched on June 24, twelve days after the discovery of the nest; the fourth egg proved infertile; the three young birds left the nest on July 2, nine and eight days, respectively, after hatching.

Oakland, California, February 15, 1916.

SOME DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON CALIFORNIA BIRDS

By H. E. WILDER

IT IS to be expected that Grinnell's most welcome *Distributional List of the Birds of California* will call out numerous records of birds found beyond the limits therein defined. Many of us have withheld notes bearing upon distribution for reasons of diffidence, indifference, or sheer inertia, but most of all for lack of just the knowledge now supplied in the above mentioned publication. Even though such contributions lack elaboration of detail they may still be worth while so far as they go. Several such cases are detailed beyond, as of possible interest in this connection.

Mergus americanus. American Merganser. As there seems to be no record of the nesting of this fish duck in the coast region of northern California, it may be worthy of mention that it occurs at all seasons along the rivers of Humboldt County. The young have often been observed before they were able to fly.

Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi. Harris Hawk. Confirming Mr. Dawson's report of finding this Arizona species common along the Colorado River, I found them in numbers in the river bottom near Palo Verde during the first three days of December, 1902. Like ourselves, they were evidently seeking shelter in the timber from the terrific sand-storm that prevailed, and were sitting all about in the trees. As the wind abated they took wing, and ten to twenty could be counted in the air at a time. Two specimens were taken.

Aquila chrysaetos. Golden Eagle. More common in portions of the humid coast belt north of Marin County than is indicated by the records. It is a source of considerable annoyance on the sheep ranches of Humboldt and Mendocino counties, and I see the birds occasionally within a few miles of the coast.

Aluco pratincola. American Barn Owl. Although not reported heretofore from the coast region north of Marin County, this owl is, nevertheless, rather common in the dairy region of Humboldt County, where moles and gophers for its sustenance abound.

The birds are frequently seen about our home at Carlotta, and when living at Fernalde we observed them about the tower of the town water-tank, where a colony of them lived and made the night hideous with their cries.

Strix occidentalis caurina. Northern Spotted Owl. Rare enough, but hardly limited to the two specimens now in the Museum at Berkeley. On January 11, 1913, I secured a

fine male of this species three miles southeast of Ferndale, Humboldt County. It was sitting in a fir tree, and was discovered while I was looking for a wild cat that the hounds had treed. This, with another specimen taken near Eureka, is in a private collection in that city. In July, 1899, while fishing for trout in Shackleford Creek, near Quartz Valley, Siskiyou County, I saw a Spotted Owl sitting in a maple tree but a few feet above my head. It showed no fear, and could have been secured had I so wished.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea. Burrowing Owl. Though according to Grinnell this little owl has not heretofore been recorded from the northwestern coast belt, nor from the interior north of Lake County, it nevertheless is found in suitable localities in Humboldt County. It is occasionally seen in the Mattole and Eel River valleys, and a hunter of my acquaintance shot one in December, 1915, in the sand hills along the ocean below Ferndale. For a year or two we used to see one sitting beside his burrow close to the road, as we drove from Carlotta to Alton.

Sphyrapicus varius daggetti. Sierra Red-breasted Sapsucker. On December 1, 1902, I collected a male sapsucker in the lowlands along the Colorado River near Palo Verde, that is doubtless referable to this species, though not exactly typical. It seems to be the only record from that section.

Calypte anna. Anna Hummingbird. It is rather a surprise to find that this hummer (first reported from Humboldt County by Mrs. C. M. Wilder in 1913) is a regular winter resident in limited numbers. We see them every winter, and this season had a handsome male about our flowers almost daily till a killing frost occurred during the holidays, when it disappeared. A friend living at Ferndale, near the coast, reports seeing one up to this time (February 1).

Tyrannus vociferans. Cassin Kingbird. A kingbird that I take to be *vociferans* is seen occasionally in the Humboldt region in summer, and from the fact that it breeds here is worthy of notice.

Euphagus cyanocephalus. Brewer Blackbird. So far from being "rare in the northwest coast belt", this species is abundant in Humboldt County, being found by the hundred throughout the dairy region. A large flock is almost constantly in sight from my home at Carlotta, and I have seen the birds in numbers as far in the interior as Kuntz, in Trinity County. A few Red-wing Blackbirds, possibly referable to *Agelaius phoeniceus caurinus*, are at times seen with the Brewer Blackbirds.

Carlotta, Humboldt County, California, February 1, 1916.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The House Finch in the State of Washington.—The A. O. U. *Check-list of North American Birds* makes no mention of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) as occurring in the state of Washington, neither can I find any record elsewhere to that effect. While gathering materials for our book, *The Birds of Washington*, neither Mr. Dawson nor myself encountered this species, although it seems probable that it was present in the state to some extent at the time. It is of interest, therefore, to report that this finch is a moderately common resident in certain portions of both Yakima and Benton counties. The only two stations from which I have had the birds recorded are North Yakima, in Yakima County, and Kiona, in Benton County. Both localities are situated on the Yakima River, in what may be considered the Upper Sonoran Zone.

My attention was first called to the subject by Mrs. G. Ross Pike, of North Yakima, who assured me early this year that the House Finches were common residents of that city, nesting in bird boxes and in vines growing against houses. Skins collected by F. R. Decker, of Kiona, and sent to D. E. Brown, of Seattle, were then forwarded for comparison to H. S. Swarth at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California. Mr. Swarth writes me, "The two House Finches are exactly like others from various parts of the range of the species." No specimens were taken at North Yakima, but the nesting habits, song, and description of the birds seem adequate identification, together with the skins from Kiona, which is only about sixty miles distant.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington.*