

week of May or first part of June. Since this species is known to construct a new nest, if deprived of its first eggs, the present nest is doubtless a case of that kind. My notes show that Swainson Hawks were seen at this place on May 13, one of them soaring high above the river with nesting material in its talons.—A. D. Du Bois, *Dutton, Montana, August 12, 1918.*

Notes from Southern California.—Franklin Gull (*Larus franklini*). A fourth record of this bird comes from the same locality as the three specimens taken by Mr. J. E. Law (CONDOR, xvii, 1915, p. 96). This gull was taken by myself on October 29, 1917, from a great flock of Bonaparte, Western, California, Ring-bill and Herring gulls, feeding on the sewage where it discharges into the ocean at Hyperion, Los Angeles County. In plumage it is the same as the birds taken by Mr. Law, an immature, probably of the year.

European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*). On December 12, 1917, a clerk in one of the large public markets of Los Angeles called my attention to a pair of fine "Red-heads" exposed for sale along with numerous other ducks of various species on his counter. A quick sale followed, the birds proving to be of the above species. Both were in perfect adult plumage, marred only by absence of under tail-coverts, which had been stripped off in removing the entrails. The proprietor stated they had been shipped to him from Brawley, Imperial County.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). The passing of famed Nigger Slough, as a result of drainage work begun in 1916, removes the last considerable area of breeding-ground for fresh-water birds in southern California. The reduction of formerly extensive deep-water areas to wide stretches of oozy mud, partly covered by a thin sheet of water, appears to have coincided with an unusual visitation of Red Phalaropes to this locality. This species was first noted on the beach southwest of Los Angeles, May 23, 1918, where several birds were taken and quite a number seen, at very close range, feeding about the cast-up kelp. On the 27th, several were noted at Nigger Slough, in company with thousands of the Northern Phalarope. Frequent inspection of the slough during the following week showed considerable numbers of the Red species, in every stage of plumage from the gray winter to full breeding garb, but a rapid decrease of the Northern. Both were practically gone on June 8.

Birds taken on the beach were greatly emaciated, while those taken at the slough were generally in good flesh, some of them fat, and all approaching breeding condition.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California, June 15, 1918.*

When the Thrushes Cease from Singing.—In the California springtime we hear the sweet-toned ringing of the thrushes' song, that of the Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) for the most part, and of other varieties as well, in some restricted parts. We instinctively note the first of these seasonal outbursts of joy, but how many of us take note of when they cease?

At first adding to our enjoyment of blossoming nature we soon become accustomed to the amorous outpourings of our avian friends and calmly take them for granted as a pleasing part of the fresh spring atmosphere, so that when they cease it takes us some time to awaken to the fact. Many times have I resolved to keep careful watch for the moment when these ringing notes would no longer be heard, and yet the season went by with this unnoticed.

This summer, however, I have had exceptional opportunity to take note of what happened as regards two species of thrushes. Going to the Bohemian Grove, on the Russian River about ten miles above its mouth, in Sonoma County, California, upon July 6 (1918), I found that in the darker and less disturbed part of the grove—where my own camp is situated—the Monterey Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata slevini*) was quite abundant, frequenting the lowest hillsides and occasionally appearing on the floor of the canyon, and in full song. During the many previous years of my camping there, but an occasional note had been heard, while no individual had been actually identified. This difference in habits was probably due to the extreme dryness of the nearly rainless winter and spring, with water very scarce on the higher levels around the grove.

The attendance in Bohemia was very light this year on account of so many members of the club being either directly or indirectly connected with war service, and human neighbors seldom appeared; so that passing most of the time quietly in my camp offered unusual opportunity to note the bird-life round about. There were certainly more birds of various sorts in the grove than ever noted before.

On the morning of July 20 I was suddenly struck by the absence of song, and from that moment nothing further was heard from the Monterey Hermit Thrush save for an occasional call note, the softly whistled "kooit". One or two were later seen on the ground near my camp and were approached, as they were feeding about, to within ten feet, making identification certain beyond a doubt. Being fairly sure that their song was heard on July 19, and absolutely so as regards the 18th, I can state positively that the singing stopped abruptly on the evening of either the 18th or 19th of July in this locality, and this in spite of the fact that a few birds must have been nesting very late in the season, as evidenced by a female taken on July 7 with the yolk of an egg in the oviduct.

The song of the Russet-backed Thrush did not cease as abruptly as that of the other, but was continued in a desultory manner for a few days and gradually died away, becoming less and less pronounced until it ceased altogether.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California, August 9, 1918.*

A New Bird for Santa Catalina Island.—Howell in his "Birds of the Islands off the Coast of Southern California" (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 12, 1917), suggests that there has been relatively so little ornithological work done on these islands that a visit of several weeks to any one of them is almost sure to add one or two new migrants or winter visitants to the list. Proof of the statement is found in the fact that a stay of two days at Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, disclosed the presence of a bird hitherto unrecorded for any of the islands in the Santa Barbara Channel. The bird discovered, the Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), happens to be a summer visitant instead of a migrant or winter visitant. On June 12, 1918, I was on the south side of Descanso Canyon, just back of the new St. Catherine Hotel, getting better acquainted with a Dusky Warbler, when my attention was directed to a bird with conspicuous white patches on the wings, flying about some elderberry trees in the bottom of the canyon. Closer inspection disclosed a "Silky Flycatcher," and a moment later a second bird of the same species was seen. The graceful flight and the flycatcher habits left no possibility of mistaking the identity of the birds. The only other striking observations were regarding the tameness of Mourning Doves which fed within a few feet of the passersby; the common presence of the Mockingbird, heard everywhere; and the abundance of the Raven, five being seen in flight at one time.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, July 1, 1918.*

Late Snowy Owl Dates.—In regard to the migrations of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) last winter (1917-18) it may be of interest to report some late dates on which the species was observed by the writer and Mr. D. E. Brown of Seattle. These owls were seen daily at Westport, Grays Harbor, Washington, during the week of April 8 to 14, 1918.

The first owl seen at this time was shown to us by Mr. H. A. Dusenbery, who stated that they had been in that vicinity all winter. The first owl collected was taken by Mr. Brown on April 9. It was a large female, quite fat and with a full stomach. The contents of the stomach consisted of duck feathers, but it was impossible to tell of which variety. Another Snowy Owl was collected by Mr. Wilmer Dusenbery on April 11. This bird, again a large female, had the entire foot, tarsus, and upper leg bone of an American Coot (*Fulica americana*) in its stomach.

Just previous to collecting this bird, Mr. Dusenbery had shot a few sandpipers, and the owl on seeing this had come over to get some. Its foot was within eighteen inches of one of the specimens when it was shot. Mr. Dusenbery said that this was of common occurrence when the owls were plentiful during the winter.—STANTON WARBURTON, JR., *Tacoma, Washington, May 17, 1918.*

The Virginia Warbler in California.—On August 1, 1917, Mr. Halsted G. White, while carrying on field collecting for the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, secured a specimen of the Virginia Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*) at 9200 feet altitude near McCloud Camp, on Cottonwood Creek, east flank of White Mountains, Mono County, California. The bird is in process of molt from juvenal to first annual plumage. There are many of the juvenal feathers still remaining about the head and on the belly, and, of course, the flight feathers belong to the juvenal plumage. The annual plumage is so nearly complete elsewhere as to exhibit plainly the characteristic markings of the species—yellow crissum, yellow rump, and yellow patch on chest. The specimen is no. 28593, Mus. Vert. Zool. The age of this bird, and general "geographic reasoning", makes it seem not unlikely to my mind that this warbler, now for the first time recorded from California, occurs regularly as a breeding species on the White Mountains.—J. GREENELL, *Berkeley, California, August 25, 1918.*