

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Kaeding Petrel in California.—The note by Dr. Grinnell in the January-February issue of the Condor (vol. xx, 1918, p. 46), in which he concurs with Oberholser's conclusions concerning the white-rumped petrels of the California coast, is of considerable interest to California ornithologists. It leaves us with a blank space in our avifauna opposite the name *Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi*. I have in my collection a petrel which I have always considered to be *kaedingi*, and Mr. George Willett, whose acquaintance with the petrels on their breeding grounds is large, has also considered the specimen to be of that race. Dr. Grinnell has recently examined the same skin and concurs in this subspecific determination. He kindly furnishes me with a copy of the measurements as taken by himself:—Wing 142.7 mm.; tail 73.8; forking of tail 14.0; culmen 14.6; tarsus 21.2.

The specimen was taken at sea between San Clemente Island and San Diego at a point charted by the navigating officer, a graduate of Annapolis Naval Academy, as 32 degrees 32 minutes north latitude. Where the International boundary intersects the coast line below San Diego, there stands a monument recorded as 32 degrees 31 minutes 58 seconds north latitude (Am. Practical Navigator, U. S. Hyd. Office). Except for some unrecognized human error, the subspecies *O. l. kaedingi* must be restored to the avifauna of California with two seconds to spare.—LOYE MILLER, *State Normal School, Los Angeles, California, September 23, 1918.*

First Occurrence of the Dwarf Cowbird in the San Bernardino Valley, California.—The long days of late June and early July, with the extra hour of daylight given by the daylight saving law, gave me some time in the evenings, after supper, to inspect various thickets in the bottom lands of this section. The time was well spent and resulted in the discovery of the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*) at several points within six miles of Colton.

Dr. J. Grinnell examined the bird collected and pronounced it of this species, and the first record of a cowbird being taken in the San Bernardino Valley. Mr. R. B. Heron, the veteran collector of the valley, examined the specimen and stated that he had never seen any of the birds or their eggs hereabouts. My investigations would indicate that there are a few cowbirds here this summer and that they are causing considerable damage to other small birds.

The following notes on the subject may be of interest:

June 20, 1918. Nest of Traill Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli trailli*) in a thicket several miles east of San Bernardino with two Traill Flycatcher's eggs and a young bird. The young bird looked large for this species, and I returned several days later to find it much larger in size, while there were two dead flycatchers trampled to death in the bottom of the nest. I killed the young cowbird.

June 23, 1918. Nest of California Least Vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*) in a thicket in East San Bernardino, with four vireo eggs and one of the cowbird. On June 20 the nest had contained only the four fresh eggs of the vireo.

June 26, 1918. A nest of California Least Vireo in a willow thicket between Riverside and Colton contained three eggs of the vireo and one of the cowbird.

June 27, 1918. A nest of California Least Vireo in a willow thicket in East San Bernardino contained two eggs of the vireo and one of the cowbird. On June 25 there had been two eggs of the vireo in the nest in perfect condition; on the 27th one of the eggs had a small hole in it, probably the work of the cowbird.

June 28, 1918. On June 26 I found a nest of Traill Flycatcher between Colton and Riverside with two eggs of the flycatcher and one egg of the cowbird. One of the flycatcher eggs, being badly dented, was removed from the nest. On June 28 only the cowbird egg remained in the nest. On this same day I noticed a California Yellow Warbler feeding a large cowbird which I later collected.

Another nest of Traill Flycatcher containing one egg of the cowbird was collected, as it had been under observation some days and no eggs of the flycatcher had been deposited. It is possible that the flycatcher eggs had been destroyed by the cowbird.

June 30, 1918. In a willow thicket between Redlands and San Bernardino I found a nest of California Least Vireo with one large-sized young cowbird. The two foster parents, not one-third the size of the cowbird, made much fuss because I tried to rid them of their charge.

July 2, 1918. A nest of the Traill Flycatcher between Colton and Redlands which had contained two fresh eggs on June 30 was apparently deserted, and one of the eggs had two large holes in it. I lay the blame for this on the cowbird. This same date a

nest of Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) contained two eggs, one of which had a small hole in it. I blame the cowbird for the damage. This nest was in East San Bernardino.

July 4, 1918. Nest of Lazuli Bunting with two bunting eggs and one of the cowbird. This nest had been under observation for several days. In this same thicket in East San Bernardino a nest of either Lazuli Bunting or Western Lark Sparrow contained two eggs of the cowbird. It apparently had been deserted. This nest had been under observation for some days.

July 5, 1918. A nest of Traill Flycatcher southwest of Colton contained two eggs of the flycatcher and a cowbird egg partly buried in the lining of nest.—WILSON C. HANNA, Colton, California, September 16, 1918.

First Flights of a Young Golden Eagle.—Miss F. E. Schuman, a student in my biology classes, in whom I have the greatest confidence, reported to me an observation that was of such interest that I asked her to write the facts down for publication. I offer them to CONDOR readers at face value.

"Last summer while my father and I were extracting honey at the apiary about a mile southeast of Thacher School, Ojai, California, we noticed a golden eagle teaching its young one to fly. It was about ten o'clock. The mother started from the nest in the crags and, roughly handling the young one, she allowed him to drop, I should say, about ninety feet, then she would swoop down under him, wings spread, and he would alight on her back. She would soar to the top of the range with him and repeat the process. One time she waited perhaps fifteen minutes between flights. I should say the farthest she let him fall was 150 feet.

"My father and I watched this, spellbound, for over an hour. I do not know whether the young one gained confidence by this method or not. A few days later father and I rode to the cliff and out on Overhanging Rock. The eagle's nest was empty."—F. E. Schuman.

If not a School of the Woods this would seem at least to be a School of Aviation!—LOYE MILLER, State Normal School, Los Angeles, California, September 23, 1918.

Some Texas Bird Notes.—The Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*) was found in small numbers during April, 1918, on several large ranches near Matador, Motley County. This locality must register very nearly the northern limit of its dispersal, for beyond, the region is very unsuited to turkeys, being almost destitute of suitable cover. The few now occurring keep to the oak "motts", and are given more or less protection from vagrant hunters. The ranchmen themselves never kill the hens.

During my stay at Rio Hondo, Cameron County, in the month of January, 1918, the Beardless Flycatcher (*Camptostoma imberbe*) was ascertained to occur in the growth along the Rio Chloral. This particular location is some ten miles nearer the coast than Harlingen, where I found it in 1916. Confirming my previous experience, the characteristic call was the most frequent clue to its presence. Even at that early season the species was paired, and possibly this holds throughout the year. Later, more than two months were spent along the Rio Grande, within the same county, and often as near as eight miles to the Rio Chloral, but I failed to meet with it again.

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*) were plentiful in the vicinity of Roaring Spring, Motley County, April 18, 1918. On this date a norther was blowing, and the temperature was below freezing. Many individuals were found seeking shelter low down in the oak "shinnery" so characteristic of the region.

Sennett White-tailed Hawk (*Tachytriorchis albicaudatus sennetti*) has suffered a serious reduction in numbers, in the lower Rio Grande region, within the past few years. I am certain that I did not see more than two or three individuals during a visit lasting over three months during 1918. About the only hawk that has maintained itself in normal numbers there is the Harris (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*)—oddly enough the most easily approached of any of the larger raptors of that region.

Several characteristic species of the hill country of the state were met with at Menard, in the county of the same name, during a visit from April 23 to May 17, 1918. The Texas Jay (*Aphelocoma texana*) was found, but in scant numbers and was confined to the short draws opening into the valley of the San Saba River. Hereabouts it is only in such situations that juniper grows, a tree very intimately associated with the distribution of that bird. I discovered a nest with young, perhaps a week hatched, on May 1.

That form of vireo now designated as *Vireo belli medius*, was fairly common in mixed oak and mesquite brush, mostly about irrigating canals, in the valley; but rarely was it to be found in heavy timber along the San Saba River. First seen May 2. The Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*) and Rock Sparrow (*Amophila ruficeps eremoea*) were initially recorded on May 7 and 9, respectively. Their late appearance was due probably to the unusual drought, which delayed the hillside and mesa vegetation, to which both species are so strictly confined during their presence within our borders.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, Taos, New Mexico, May 28, 1918.