

**The Varied Thrush in Wyoming.**—Mr. L. R. A. Condit, a well-known rancher of Barnum, Wyoming, has presented to the University of Colorado Museum an immature male Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius* or subspecies *meruloides*) taken at his ranch on Beaver Creek, near Barnum, at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains. I find no published record of this species for the state of Wyoming. Mr. Condit informs me that there were about twenty-five or thirty of the birds, of both sexes, presumably, from his account, all immature, and they remained about the ranch for over a week after November 9, 1919, when the specimen at hand was taken. This bird of the northwest has long been known as an occasional straggler into distant territory, seemingly having no regard at all for the artificial lines established by men to separate political subdivisions of the earth's surface. There is one record of a mature male for Boulder County, Colorado, and it has been recorded from Kansas, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, etc. Whether this is the true *naevius* or *meruloides* I should not dare say with the one specimen before me. The latter is said to nest in Montana and eastern Oregon. With these facts in mind, it is not surprising to find the birds in Wyoming, but its discovery there by Mr. Condit is one of many illustrations of additions to scientific knowledge due to the work and interest of observing laymen.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, December 27, 1919.*

**The Wood Ibis as a Winter Visitant to California.**—The Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) has been noted in southern California only during the summer, so it seems desirable to put on record the presence of at least one small flock, numbering eleven individuals, in the vicinity of Calexico, Imperial County, during the last two days of November, 1919. I saw these birds twice (once close enough to make identification absolute) while they were flying over, and the manager of my ranch stated that he had seen the flock every few days during the past six weeks. As there had been considerable cold weather with some ice previous to this date, it is safe to presume that the birds were not merely laggards from the regular summer invasion of the species of the Colorado Valley. This flock was reported to have spent considerable time in the alfalfa fields, which were not being irrigated because of recent rains. I regard this information as coming from a reliable source, and although this species is not known to feed on grasshoppers, nor indeed on anything which they do not secure from the water, what else could they be doing in an alfalfa field? It is not many years since this valley was put under cultivation, and it has had a very marked effect in modifying the bird population. Although the winter nights are chilly, the days are decidedly warm, and it would not surprise me if the Wood Ibis, as well as other species that have heretofore been considered warm weather visitants, gradually decide to resort to this section throughout the year.—A. B. HOWELL, *Berkeley, California, January 4, 1920.*

**Gulls Following a Train.**—It will be recalled that some years ago there appeared in THE CONDOR an article entitled "Goonies of the Desert" (Grinnell, CONDOR, x, 1908, p. 92), in which the actions of Ravens following a train were compared to those of seabirds in the wake of a steamer. The present writer recently was reminded of this comparison by circumstances comparable to, but still different from, either of those just mentioned. The Union Pacific Railroad for some years past has crossed Great Salt Lake on what is known as the "Ogden cut-off", partly a trestle and partly a fill, on which the track practically bisects the lake. On the afternoon of November 6, 1919, while I was sitting on the observation platform of the train as it started on this crossing, a number of gulls were seen gathering from all sides. They fell behind in just such a way as we are used to seeing them trail after the ferry boats crossing San Francisco Bay, and remained in attendance until the lake was crossed, a matter of some hours. The train travelled slowly and the birds had no difficulty in keeping abreast of it. Occasionally one lit on a telegraph pole for a few moments and then overtook us once more. None was seen to garner any edibles thrown overboard, but presumably they do reap a harvest of this sort at times. It was an odd combination—the attendance of these maritime birds upon this conveyance of the dry land.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 7, 1920.*