

the fact worth telling about if he has encountered more than a half dozen birds together, and during ten years of field work, I have never seen more than ten at one time. Hence, it was with considerable excitement that I found a flock of a hundred and fifty-one of these birds and a lone goose (presumably *Branta canadensis canadensis*) making themselves at home in Crane Lake, which is situated at the upper end of Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County. I examined them for some time through ten power glasses while most of them were within a hundred and fifty yards of me and the public road. Although automobiles were passing continually, the swans were unconcerned, and while a small company was sleeping on the shore, the head and one foot of each tucked out of sight, others were standing on their heads in the shallow water, or indulging in violent altercations, craning their necks to the fullest extent, rushing at each other and making a great racket. Still others were swimming about with necks curved into the characteristic posture. The scene called to mind accounts of the abundance of game in the old days and was a sight that I never expected to witness.—A. B. HOWELL, *Berkeley, California, January 4, 1920.*

**Unusual Conditions for Southern California.**—The closing months of the year 1919 have proven of especial interest to bird students in southern California because of the greater or less displacement of a number of species of birds from their average fall and winter ranges. It is to be hoped that all who have noted such unusual conditions will record their observations so that some more comprehensive view of the situation as a whole may be attained. The following notes are offered as a contribution toward this larger view.

On August 29, a male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra rubra*) in summer plumage came to the fig tree in my yard in the city of Los Angeles. The bird was twice seen and later secured. It uttered the typical call note of the species and seemed not at all shy. The specimen was submitted to the editors of THE CONDOR and was referred by them to the subspecies *rubra*. The only other record of the subspecies for the state was from the same locality in March of the same year (Condor, XXI, 1919, p. 129).

The Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) was noted on August 29 and on later dates among the sycamores in the Arroyo Seco within the city limits. The Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa olivaceus*) again spends the winter in the city. California Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus californicus*) were early in arrival and were unusually abundant in numbers. Sierra Red Crossbills were seen but will be recorded by others who took specimens. There have moved down from the Transition Zone, probably of the adjacent mountains, a number of Mountain Chickadees (*Penthestes gambeli baileyae*), and a colony of Blue-fronted Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*) both of which species have been in the vicinity for some months. Two specimens of the latter species were taken from a group of five seen at one time.

Finally, on December 22, an adult male Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina montana*) was taken just outside the city limits near my place. The specimen is the darkest I have ever seen. It was feeding on an open hillside where some scrubby cascara and elder bushes chanced to be growing. It was very fat and the crop was filled with the shelled kernels of cascara seeds.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, January 20, 1920.*

**Notes From the Region of Lake Tahoe.**—At Grass Lake in Glen Alpine Canyon, this summer, I took a specimen of the Sierra Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*) which had in its crop two pupae of some lepidopterous species. The pupae were more than ten millimeters in length so could not well have been taken as a mere accompaniment of other food. I had supposed the crossbill limited in its diet to the seeds of coniferous trees.

The distribution of *Leucosticte* is so consistently given as above timber line, that I felt some surprise at finding a family of the Dawson Leucosticte (*L. tephrocotis dawsoni*) at an elevation of only 7800 feet, just below Lake Lucile (see Pyramid Peak quadrangle). Abundant timber is found above that point in the immediate vicinity, and two juvenals were taken from a small tamarack pine within fifty yards of where an adult