

ters. The same remarks apply with reference to the feature of coloration set forth in the diagnosis. The steely blue rather than brassy tone of the metallic sheen is easy enough to see in the coast-district birds; but it begins to fail in the birds from the Sierran foothills. To express the situation in another way, *Euphagus cyanocephalus cyanocephalus* intergrades with *E. c. minusculus* over a rather wide belt of country adjacent to and including the Sierra Nevada.

Berkeley, California, May 31, 1920.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Feeding Habit of the Cedar Waxwing.—The following observations, disclosing a habit of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) which was unfamiliar to the writer, may perhaps be of interest to others. The note-book entry was made in the Flathead Forest, near Belton, Montana.

August 17, 1915, at Ouzel Creek, on the Middle Fork trail: I watched a Cedar Waxwing feeding berries to her full-grown young. After descending to a service-berry bush and remaining there a few seconds, the bird flew up to a dead tree, followed by the young birds, which sat in expectant attitudes near her. The parent had a red (unripe) berry in her bill and she fed this at once to one of her family. She then poked her head toward the young again, gave a little gulp, and behold! another berry was in her bill. This she gave to a youngster near her and at once produced another berry in like manner; then another and still another, until she had fed them five whole berries in succession. Although each berry was brought forth with a distinctly visible gulp it apparently did not involve much effort.—ALEXANDER D. DU BOIS, *Chicago, February 8, 1920.*

A Plague of Rufous-crowned Sparrows.—From about the middle of November, 1919, to the middle of March, 1920, there was a flock of Rufous-crowned Sparrows (*Aimophila ruficeps*) around my home in Eagle Rock. The birds were exceedingly troublesome because of the damage they did to plants. A small area of lawn close to some shrubbery was picked almost bare around the edges, the clover being eaten first and then the grass. It was necessary to cover young seedlings with wire netting to prevent complete loss; older plants were badly injured. Buds on bamboos were eaten during the colder part of the year, and for a few days later in the season, the birds were to be seen eating the buds of fruit trees, but they left before much harm had been done. The flock of *ruficeps* numbered about twenty. The sparrows kept together much as quails do and would fly or run from one place to another at the same time.

It may be of interest that "white-crowns" were really uncommon about the place this year until the rufous-crowns had disappeared, when both the Intermediate and Golden-crowned Sparrows became fairly abundant. This is the first year that sparrows have been troublesome in any way, though I have often wondered why we escaped the depredations so commonly committed. I have never seen a *ruficeps* about the grounds until this winter, but have heard them singing on the brush-covered hillsides. Perhaps the visitation of rufous-crowns should be looked upon as an honor, but from one point of view it was certainly a nuisance.—C. O. ESTERLY, *Eagle Rock, California, March 29, 1920.*

Winter Nesting of the Ground Dove.—The Mexican Ground Dove (*Chaemepelia passerina pallescens*) has been noted as a rare spring visitor in this vicinity (Brawley, Imperial County, California) since 1912, in which year it was first seen on February 1. A pair was seen on March 30 of that year, and one of the birds shot for identification. It has been seen on several occasions since, but no nests have been found until this year.