

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.

On November 22, 1919, a dove was seen in my yard and on the 25th a dead specimen was found in an irrigating canal. I was very much surprised on December 21 to find the half of a small white egg-shell and after considerable search to find a Ground Dove brooding a single young in its nest in a eucalyptus tree. The nest was well built for a dove's nest and being set on some lodged bark was well hidden from view from the ground.

The nesting birds were not disturbed and two weeks later the two old doves and the young were discovered feeding on the ground. They soon flew to a tree where the young bird was fed by regurgitation, but by one of the parents only. No time was available for observation until the following Sunday when the three doves were again seen feeding, and later all three flew to an umbrella tree where the young dove was fed by both parent doves. The young dove after being fed once hopped onto the old birds back then down to the limb on which the old dove was perched; then, when not being fed, it extended its wing out over the parent dove and gently tapped the back of its parent until it was fed again. It then flew to where the other parent dove was perched, where it went through the same actions. Whether this is typical of the behavior of young Ground Doves I am unable to say.

Two Ground Doves were seen pursuing one another through the trees on January 16, 1920, to all appearances mated. A second nest of this species of dove was found on the 22nd of January. This nest contained but one young bird which left the nest the next day and has not been seen since. This nest was also in a eucalyptus tree, about 18 feet from the ground, and was a rebuilt Mourning Dove's nest. This second nest was watched, and on February 14 was seen to have a sitting Ground Dove on it. The two eggs it contained were collected the next day and found to have been incubated already several days. —JOHN C. FORTINER, *Brawley, California, February 29, 1920.*

**Calaveras Warbler in San Benito County, California.**—The Calaveras Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla gutturalis*) is well known in high altitudes along the Sierras in California, where it breeds over an extended range, and it is found also on the higher mountains north of Lake County and in the migrations on the lowlands in southern California. It has seldom been noted, however, on the ocean side of the great valleys or along the coast north of Santa Barbara. Two records only in this area between Santa Barbara and Lake counties are all that I remember having noticed; one made by Joseph Grinnell just back of the Berkeley campus on September 9, 1912, when two individuals were seen by him at close range (*Condor*, xvi, 1914, p. 37), and one for San Benito County, where two birds of this species were noted on April 20, 1899, by the late Mr. T. E. Slevin and myself, as we were collecting together near Paicines, one of the birds being secured by him (*Condor*, III, 1901, p. 126).

This year, on April 17 (1920), in company with Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, of the Department of Palaeontology, California Academy of Sciences, a number were noted about four miles southeast of The Pinnacles, on Bear Valley Creek, as near as we could make out from our map. Dr. Hanna and I had motored from Hollister to "The Pinnacles", a rather striking mass of rocks where a great "fault" has occurred, about 30 miles south of that town. It was a cold, windy day, and having one long stretch of very badly cut up road to negotiate we arrived late at our destination. At one particularly inviting spot on Bear Valley Creek we were inclined to stop, but the delay we had experienced decided us to push on as we did not then know how much longer it would take us to reach our objective point. Reaching this spot about three o'clock in the afternoon on our return, however, we concluded that we had time enough to spare for this work and so stopped at a place where the little stream ran between a small meadow and a brushy hillside, with willows and cottonwoods on its banks—an ideal place for warblers. The first bird that caught my eye was a Calaveras Warbler, and further search developed the fact that there was quite a number of individuals of this species moving about. The high wind made it very difficult to distinguish these warblers from some of the other species among the constantly moving leaves and branches of the trees, but we certainly saw twenty-five or thirty of them, at least. They were very restless and seemed to be moving up stream in a northerly direction, often leaving the trees along the stream to fly up into the brush, or vice versa. The difficulty of identifying them quickly in the midst of fluttering