

hundred individuals. My observations of the Vaux Swift have heretofore been made only within its breeding range; while this is my first observance of a migrating flock, such an immense gathering of this rather rare wilderness dweller is no doubt a most unusual occurrence.—H. H. SHELDON, *Santa Barbara, California, June 15, 1922.*

Nesting of the Spotted Sandpiper on the Russian River.—As the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) breeds but sparingly and locally along the larger streams of the coast belt and is thought to be a rare species in the coast region north of Santa Barbara (Grinnell, *Distributional List of the Birds of California*, p. 53; Grinnell, Bryant and Storer, *Game Birds of California*, pp. 431-437) a definite instance of its breeding on the Russian River may be of sufficient interest to record. During the period May 29, 1922, to June 2, 1922, I spent a few hours each day observing birds along the Russian River between Hilton and Cosmo in Sonoma County, California, and frequently saw one and sometimes two adult birds of this species flying along the river, always very close to the surface of the water and following the course of the river. These birds flew in the characteristic manner of this species, that is, without raising the wings above the back. They did not fly at all in the manner of sandpipers commonly seen along the shores of San Francisco Bay. Parties of people in boats or canoes did not disturb the course of flight except to cause the birds to swerve to avoid the obstacles by a few yards only.

Again during the period July 20, 1922, to July 26, 1922, I visited the same territory and saw the adult birds and two very small young on a pebbly beach on the right bank of the river about opposite Cosmo. The adult birds were seen flying as before but the young birds could not be induced to fly, although they ran very well and were very apt in hiding in the brush along the bank of the river and in concealing themselves among the stones. The adult birds exhibited the habit of constantly tilting or bobbing the tail, and symptoms of the same trait were slightly noticeable in the young. The food procured apparently consisted of insects, in pursuing which the tilting or bobbing of the tail was greatly accelerated.

I visited this particular beach every day on my last trip, except the first and last days, and found the birds there each time. Upon my approach one of the adult birds began calling and the two tiny young would scurry off along the shore until they found a hiding place. The opportunities I had of seeing the birds repeatedly at close range, the characteristic call note and the habit of bobbing or tilting the tail, leave me without doubt as to the identity of the birds. I also took the precaution of looking at skins in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The fact that the young birds were not yet able to fly is strong evidence that they were hatched not far from the point where seen, although it is said that adult birds of this species have been known to move their young to places of safety. One of the adult birds was always near the young, gave warnings of my approach, displayed evident anxiety when I was about, and when forced to fly returned to near the point of departure, so that there seems no inference but that I was observing a pair of adults and their young.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, August 6, 1922.*

Additional Capture of a Black-and-White Warbler in California.—On October 11, 1918, at a point near the seacoast about seven miles north of Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo County, California, I shot an immature female *Mniotilta varia*. The bird was sighted at early dusk working, nuthatch-fashion, around the base of a cottonwood and among some nearby driftwood. Although the place was shaded I could see with distinctness the contrasting black and white stripes on the head and back of the bird. The geographic location, more exactly, was just to the right of the road-crossing to the Evans ranch, in the bottom of the canyon of San Carpoforo (locally "San Carpojo") Creek and about half a mile from the ocean shore.

That the specimen in question (now no. 30083, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was a "bird of the year" was shown conclusively by the condition of the skull. The bird was very fat. It was in complete first-winter plumage save for the tail; only two of the rectrices (evidently belonging to the juvenal plumage) were of full length, the rest being only about half-way emerged from their sheaths. This condition was probably due to some accident, not being part of the regular molt program.

As to measurements, the bird is small: wing 61.8 mm., exposed culmen 11.5, tarsus 16.5. Ridgway's smallest wing-length for a female of the species is 65 mm. (Birds N. and Mid. Amer., II, 1902, p. 433). It would be useful to know the measurements of other Pacific Coast examples, to the end that the source of the birds wintering with us might be learned. As far as known now, the Black-and-White Warbler does not breed in either Alaska or British Columbia; it looks as though they must come to us across-lots from some area to the eastward or northeastward.

The present record is the seventh for the capture of *Mniotilta varia* in California; that is, the present specimen is the 7th taken; two of the earlier captures were recorded two or more times each. At least four other individuals have been reported as seen. Of course this is an unusually easy bird to identify in the field, by reason both of its conspicuous markings and its peculiar mannerisms. But even so, probably but very few of the total number of Black-and-White Warblers visiting California each year come to human notice.

As suggested by Mr. L. E. Wyman on a preceding page, the frequency with which this bird is observed in California seems to be increasing of late years. This may be due, as he says, to an actual increase in the aggregate number of the birds visiting the state annually. Of course some fluctuations are to be expected, though hardly, I should think, a continual augmentation. More likely, in my mind, the increasing number of records is due directly to the increase in the number and the alertness of ornithological observers.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, June 19, 1922.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union for 1922, being the fortieth stated meeting, will be held in Chicago, Illinois, the week beginning October 23. The public sessions will be held October 24, 25, and 26 in the new building of the Field Museum of Natural History, situated in Grant Park on the shore of Lake Michigan and within sight and walking distance of the business district and many of the best hotels. Since this will be the first stated meeting of the Union to be held west of the Atlantic seaboard, it is hoped that it may be widely representative of the whole country, with a good attendance from both East and West. The usual participants at eastern meetings, including the well known ornithologists of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, will be well represented; and it will be a particularly happy occasion if a good delegation is present from the Pacific Coast. From Chicago itself and from the states of the Middle West and South a large attendance is confidently expected. It is proposed to hold an exhibition of bird paintings following the example so successfully set at the Washington meeting in 1918. This feature will be especially developed and doubtless will be greatly appreciated by those who have not previously had opportunity to see a large and varied collection of original paintings of birds. Besides pictures to be exhibited by the artists themselves, it is hoped that pictures

owned by various members of the Union will be loaned for the occasion under terms which will entail no expense or risk to the owners. Correspondence in regard to this is invited by the Chairman of the local committee. The committee of arrangements consists of Wilfred H. Osgood (chairman), Percival B. Coffin, Ruthven Deane, O. M. Schantz, and R. M. Strong, together with the President and Secretary of the A. O. U., ex-officio.

Mr. A. C. Bent, of Taunton, Massachusetts, is at work upon the fifth volume of his *Life Histories*, relating to the ducks, geese and swans. He will be glad of contributions of information relative thereto and likely to be additional to the matter already accumulated.

The list of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Club which appeared in the last issue of *THE CONDOR* omitted, by inadvertence, the names of Donald R. Dickey, W. B. Judson, and Curtis Wright. These should have been included.

A good deal is being said in the daily press about an alleged hybrid between turkeys and fowls, which goes under the name "turkhens" or "turkens". A fertile hybrid between so dis-related birds would be rather surprising. The evidence at hand indicates