

in various parts of this section, wintered here abundantly during the winter of 1919-20, but has not been seen since during the winter months.

The writer has been unable to connect the occurrence of these two birds during the winter of 1919-20 with prevailing weather conditions. During that winter the cold was as severe as during any of those that have followed it. The present fall is the mildest known in the vicinity for many years, very little frost having appeared, and streams and lakes being entirely free from ice at time of this writing. Still these two birds have apparently been gone from the region for a month or more.

**Lanius borealis.** Northern Shrike. A male taken on Fish Egg Island November 30, 1921, is the only example of the species seen in this locality to date.

*Craig, Alaska, November 29, 1922.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**A Winter Record of the Spotted Sandpiper for the Olympia Peninsula.**—On January 31, 1923, while walking along a rocky beach of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, about nine miles west of Port Angeles, Washington, I was surprised to flush a Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). The bird flew out over the water and down the beach a short distance where it alighted. I followed it back and forth over the rocky beach for some time, getting within a few feet of it on several occasions. On rounding a point another bird was found. On the return trip an hour or so later both birds were again noted and watched for some time. While I know this species has occasionally been taken on the Oregon and Washington coast in winter, this is my first record.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Oregon, March 15, 1923.*

**Predatory Brewer Blackbirds.**—Several years ago, in eastern Oregon, I encountered my first murderous blackbird. My attention was attracted to a pair of Brewer Sparrows that were frantically fluttering about a Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) that seemed to be trying to hide from the view of the world some object that was being held between the feet and hidden by the drooping wings. At intervals, when the sparrows permitted, vigorous blows were delivered at the victim, which seemed to be still struggling.

I forced the blackbird to relinquish its prey, which I found to be a fledgling sparrow, seemingly just from the nest, that had been all but brained by its assailant.

The second case of murderous assault was witnessed the past summer in Balboa Park, San Diego. A Brewer Blackbird was seen pounding a suspicious object, as described in the first instance, which when identified was found to be a young Green-backed Goldfinch only a week, or perhaps less, from the egg. The bird must have been taken from the nest, as it was far too small to have reached the rim and fallen over.

The murderer in the first instance abandoned its prey on my approach, but the second refused to give up what it seemed to consider its lawful dinner and several times flew with it to a distance of fifty feet, where it renewed its efforts to reduce the nestling to a size that would permit of its being swallowed.—A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, California, March 19, 1923.*

**The Clark Nutcracker at Pacific Grove, California.**—A Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) appeared in our dooryard on February 2, 1923, and another of the same bird was observed a few blocks distant on the 8th. We hope this may be the vanguard of a wave such as visited the Monterey region in 1919-1920.—A. B. and W. K. FISHER, *Pacific Grove, California, February 8, 1923.*

**Random Notes from the Southern Border of California.**—Mountain Plover. *Podiceps montanus*. None observed in the Chino region, but four seen in an alfalfa field near Brawley, Imperial County, January 2, 1923.

Ruddy Turnstone. *Arenaria interpres morinella*. One feeding with Black-bellied Plover on a mud flat in False Bay, San Diego, December 29, 1922.