

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.

Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk. *Archibuteo ferrugineus*. An adult in the normal plumage near Brawley, Imperial County, January 2, 1923.

Western Vesper Sparrow. *Pooecetes gramineus confinis*. Common near El Centro and Calexico, January 2, 1923. Subspecies not determined.

Lark Bunting. *Calamospiza melanocorys*. A flock of about twenty near Westmoreland, Imperial County, January 3, 1923. This occurrence in connection with those noted at Thermal, January 1, 1922, seems to indicate that some Lark Buntings winter in this locality. There has been no rain in Imperial County this year, and there was no evidence of any migration.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, January 6, 1923*.

Lewis Woodpecker in Eastern Oklahoma.—On December 24, 1922, while on the golf course of the Oakhurst Country Club, eight miles southwest of Tulsa, Oklahoma, I noticed a large black woodpecker flying out over one of the fairways and returning to a large oak after each flight. I at once determined that it was a Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) and mentally put it down as a new migrant for my local list. By the time I had made a complete circuit of the course and was near the same spot again, the occurrence of the bird had been given more thought and a decision reached that it was of more than local importance. So I delayed the game a little and got under the favorite observation tree, about 25 feet from the bird itself. The peculiar reddish underparts, the gray collar, the black wings and upper parts, and the comparatively larger size than that of the Red-headed Woodpeckers with which it was loosely associating rendered identification absolutely certain—the species being one with which I am familiar through both observing and collecting them in California. It was quite out of the question to obtain a gun and collect this bird on the crowded golf course that day.

This record is not the easternmost for the species, because A. Wetmore has recorded the bird from near Lawrence, Kansas (Condor, XI, p. 208), which station is some forty minutes of longitude more easterly than my station, but the occurrence is a new one for eastern Oklahoma.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Tulsa, Oklahoma, January 1, 1923*.

The White-winged Dove in Santa Barbara, California.—On November 8, 1922, while my wife and I were studying birds at Hope Ranch, Santa Barbara, a White-winged Dove (*Melopelia asiatica trudeaui*) flew across the road in front of us at a distance of not over twenty feet and alighted in a live oak a short distance from the road. We observed the bird for about fifteen minutes as it moved about the tree. He was not particularly shy, so we had an excellent view of him. We made a search for him the following day but did not find him again.

The weather for some days previous had been somewhat stormy, with strong winds from the southeast.

As far as we have been able to ascertain this is the first recorded occurrence for this locality.—HENRY E. PARMENTER, *Santa Barbara, California, January 19, 1923*.

Fishing Activities of the California Brown Pelican.—For the past few years I have been much interested in the fishing habits of the California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus californicus*). So far as I have noticed, these birds always fish by diving. My impression is that they ordinarily dive when gliding at a height of thirty to fifty feet above the water; but I have seen them dive from greater heights, as well as from a position barely clear of the water. At either of these extremes, the dive is almost invariably hasty and awkward as though occasioned by an unexpected opportunity to catch fish.

After striking the water these pelicans always execute a half-turn so that they appear above the surface facing in the opposite direction from that in which they entered. I have never been able to see clearly, but it seems that this half-turn is due to a sidewise sweep of the head upon entering the water.

A few months ago I was much astonished one morning to see something like a yellowish toy balloon under the throat of a bird which dived near me. I had never seen any indication of much distention of the throat pouch before, and it was an instant before I realized that the balloon effect was due to extraordinary distention of that organ by water. Although I carefully watched many birds, I did not again see such an exhibit