

in any direction, but in a few minutes after a horse or other large animal gives up the ghost they may be descried like specks in the æther, nearing by circles to their prey, when as yet one would not suppose the effluvia from the carcase had reached above a hundred yards. This renders it probable that their sight as well as sense of smelling is very acute, but that the latter can guide them entirely without aid from the other, I am certain, as I have started them from carrion within the edge of the forest under bushes which must have precluded the possibility of their seeing the carcase before they alighted on it."

Douglas sent a pair of California Condors to London. He gives the latitude and longitude of Fort Vancouver as the locality where they were taken. These were placed in the museum of the Zoological Society where they presumably remained till the museum was broken up in 1855. They are not in the British Museum, and it would be interesting to know if they still exist.—J. H. FLEMING, 267 Rusholme Road, Toronto, Ontario, February, 18, 1924.

Dotted Canyon Wren in Oregon.—On February 21, 1924, I collected a male Dotted Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus*), about eight miles southeast of Ashland, Oregon. The specimen was identified by Mr. Stanley G. Jewett, who told me that this species has probably not yet been reported from this part of Oregon.—WM. E. SHERWOOD, Ashland, Oregon, February 26, 1924.

Another California Record for the Gray-headed Junco.—I shot a Gray-headed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus caniceps*) in La Puerta Valley (eastern San Diego County), November 3, 1923. It was alone and not wild. The specimen is now no. 44256, Mus. Vert. Zool., Berkeley.—FRANK STEPHENS, San Diego, California, March 6, 1924.

What Birds Hold Food With the Feet?—It has been of interest to me to note certain perching birds holding their food with the foot, after the manner of birds of prey. The California Jay has a habit of clutching an object firmly while working at it with the bill. Certain other perching birds have been seen doing this; but is it habitual?

In the *Auk* of July, 1918 (p. 360), an instance is given of the Orchard Oriole eating berries held in the foot. Vernon Bailey (Handbook of Birds of the Western United States, p. 463), relates how a Verdin clutched a lycium berry and picked out the pulp, resting the tarsus across the twig.

During the fall season I have found the Bailey Mountain Chickadee feeding on the fallen pine nuts, probably of Jeffrey and sugar pines. Whole flocks engage in hopping about the ground, making considerable stir in the dead dry leaves. When a seed is picked up in the bill it is de-winged and carried to a limb, board or other hard surface, upon which it is placed and then held there by grasping with one foot. In a short time a hole is formed by very vigorous pounding, and enlarged by breaking out the edges. Through this small opening the seed is eaten bit by bit.

A Plain Tit I watched at another season held some object against a limb while pounding it.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet placed a long worm-like larva under one foot and stretched it by pulling with the bill. After repeating the stretching process from another limb, the larva was shaken, run through the bill sidewise, and swallowed.—ROLAND CASE ROSS, Pasadena, California, March 6, 1924.

A Wintering Ground of the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow.—The race of fox sparrow known as the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca brevicauda*) breeds in California on the Trinity and Yolla Bolly ranges, at 5000 feet and over, and in the Coast Range as far south as Snow Mountain in the northwestern portion of Colusa County. The latter range extends in a scattering way southerly, or southeasterly, through Napa and Sonoma counties, until it peters out just north of the San Francisco Bay region.

The Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow has been taken in midwinter in Marin County on various occasions (Mailliard, CONDOR, III, pp. 71-72; XIV, pp. 63-67; XX, pp. 138-139), and I have taken individuals of this race on Mt. St. Helena, Napa County, early in the spring and late in the fall, under conditions which made me think that these birds had chosen this locality for their winter resort. On this foundation, it has been my belief that a mid-winter examination of favorable localities would develop the fact that this fox sparrow regularly winters in this part of the Coast Range. For one

reason or another this examination was not undertaken until the present winter, when, toward the end of January (1924), I passed a couple of days on Howell Mountain, Napa County, at a place called "The White Cottages," eight miles from, and about north-northeast of, the town of St. Helena.

I had been informed that there is plenty of manzanita and other brush in this locality, and had concluded that it would be just the place to find fox sparrows in an ordinary winter, and possibly also in this extraordinarily rainless one. Upon looking over the vicinity, however, I found that the manzanita is the tall, spindly kind, not adapted to the wants of this sparrow, save for that growing in one spot, a few acres in extent, on a knoll just above my cottage.

This patch was good fox sparrow brush, consisting of chemisal, ceanothus, and manzanita, quite thick in places, and in it were some half-dozen of the birds for which I was searching, the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow. Two of them were secured for positive identification, another was shot but not retrieved, and glimpses were obtained of two or three others whose large bills and grayish coloration made it practically certain they were of this race. No individual of the *Unalaschcensis* group—with reddish color predominating—was noted at this time.

While it would have been more satisfactory to have obtained more specimens to prove my theory that this fox sparrow does winter along the Inner Coast Range, I was fortunate in finding any of these sparrows at all. The season had been such an abnormally dry one that almost the only places where one might expect to find birds were in the neighborhood of the few springs or streams which had not dried up, and there had been no water in the immediate vicinity of "The White Cottages" until the rain just previous to my visit. Birds of any species were exceedingly scarce on Howell Mountain at this time. I was told of some springs near which a number of birds might be found, but they were too far away for me to reach.

On February 29 and March 1 (1924), I visited the range on the east side of Napa Valley at a point about 12 miles by road north of the town of Napa. There I found quite a large brush-covered area, some hundreds of acres in extent, that was of the character especially attractive to the genus *Passerella*. This spot was fairly level, but at rather a low altitude in which to look for the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow, it being only about 1000 feet above sea level.

We arrived at this locality early in the afternoon of February 29, in the heat of a warm, dry day. Very few birds of any species were visible, but traces of fox sparrows, in the way of scratchings among the dead leaves under the bushes, were quite evident. Later in the afternoon several of these birds were seen and one was taken that proved to be the Yolla Bolly form. Two or three more of these "gray-backs" were noted at close range, but they were either too close or too active to be secured. As the search for a night's lodging in this vicinity was unsuccessful, the return over the rough road to Napa was made before dark.

The same locality was again visited early the next morning, March 1, when fox sparrows were found to be relatively abundant. The great majority of them were, however, of the *Unalaschcensis*, or reddish group. In fact, no individual of the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow was secured during the morning, although a few were seen which I am positive belonged to this race.

My experience seems to show that the Yolla Bolly is more shy than most of the other forms of fox sparrows, as it usually fails to take any interest in certain squeaky sounds made by an observer, except in the mating season, whereas other forms respond most readily. On this occasion some judicious "squeaking" attracted individuals of the *Unalaschcensis* group to such an extent that they came at times within a few feet of me, sneaking from bush to bush until they could get a look at the source of the sound, or at other times appearing suddenly on the top of some bush and acting in an excited manner. The Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrows, on the contrary, seemed to take no interest in my efforts to attract them, and I have had the same experience on occasions other than during the mating season, when all varieties are easily excited.

Probably Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrows were more numerous at a higher altitude on the range than that of the place over which I was working, this being at a lower elevation than any in which I had ever taken this sparrow. Time was not available, however, for investigating the higher parts of the range, as my plan was to visit that afternoon the range on the west side of Napa Valley, and the weather had become threatening.

A visit to the westerly range turned out to be a failure, because one of the roads crossing it at a point where there might be the proper sort of brush for my investigations was blocked and a great area in the region of Hood Mountain, which was one of my objective points accessible by road, had been recently swept clean by fire and there was no brush left to investigate.

As rain came on in the afternoon and my time was limited, I returned to San Francisco, at least satisfied that the winter range of the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow extends along the Mt. St. Helena Range as far south as it finds suitable cover, which is almost to Carquinez Straits.

It is rather remarkable that there are no records of the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow from east of the San Francisco Bay region, and none from south of it until Santa Barbara County is reached (Swarth, Revision of the Avian Genus *Passerella*, U. C. Publ. Zool., XXI, p. 166), in spite of a good deal of this country having been covered by well-known collectors in times past.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 5, 1924.*

Turkey Vultures Near Gridley, California, in Mid-Winter.—On the afternoon of January 13, 1924, I was out in a small boat on the Feather River in Butte County, California, with Mr. Gerald J. Chalmers, who resides on a ranch 3 or 4 miles south of East Gridley. We drew the boat up on a sand bar on the right bank of the river at a point about two miles south of East Gridley and stopped to look for a flock of Wood Ducks, which he had seen in that vicinity a few days before. To the south of us a short distance, four Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) were soaring over the river and not far away to the north three Western Red-tailed Hawks were flying together in circles. In a short while the vultures and hawks joined in one flock and continued for several minutes to circle about over our heads, flying just above the tree tops and about 150 feet away. This estimate of distance is a mere guess because it is very difficult to be at all accurate when looking straight up at a bird. The vultures were at any rate so near us that we could see them turning their heads as they examined the landscape. We could plainly see their white bills and (through field glasses) naked heads. This observation is of interest as showing a northward extension of the reported appearance of Turkey Vultures in mid-winter in the Sacramento Valley.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, January 28, 1924.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

THE CONDOR is not copyrighted. Anything and everything in it may be copied out and published elsewhere, with no legal bar to so doing whether or not permission has been obtained. A main purpose, we take it, of our magazine is service as a channel of record and dissemination of knowledge about birds. It is *expected* that worthy information appearing in THE CONDOR for the first time will *not* stay there forever, but will shortly be used by writers elsewhere—in monographic accounts and in books. At the same time there is a factor involved in the further published use of original materials that should be heeded—the ethical duty to make acknowledgment of original sources. This is customary and proper *until* such time as the portions of knowledge in question become so widely spread as to be considered *common* knowledge. There is no definite line here; but one's sense of propriety can

probably be relied upon to dictate when specific acknowledgment is or is not in order.

The English work entitled "A Practical Handbook of British Birds," which has been in course of publication by H. F. & G. Witherby (326 High Holborn, London) since March, 1919, is now completed. The whole work runs to over 1,500 pages of text, and gives no less than 350 text figures, besides 30 colored and monochrome plates. This was a co-operative undertaking, each of the several authors being responsible for information in his special field. These authors are: Dr. Ernst Hartert, Annie C. Jackson (Mrs. Meinertzhagen), Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, Mr. C. Oldham, Mr. Norman F. Ticehurst, and Mr. H. F. Witherby, the latter acting also as editor of the whole work. As we stated in a former notice