

stick nearest the syrup pot. The hummers have been coming several years and Mrs. Rodewald thinks two of this year's pensioners are from two years back. At least one of them has the individual habit of perching upon the lip of the syrup cup (all of them know where it is kept and go to it and hover). Those that perch on the rim of the cup often sidle half way around at one move, to get a better position. To see this movement is to be impressed with the freedom and ease with which such foot work is accomplished.—ROLAND CASE ROSS, *Pasadena, California, September 22, 1924.*

**The Red-eyed Vireo as a Bird of Oregon.**—The first reference to the capture of the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*) in the literature on Oregon birds that I can find was in Shelton's Distributional List of the Land Birds of West Central Oregon, published by the University of Oregon (University of Oregon Bulletin, New Series, Jan., 1917, vol. XIV, no. 4, p. 37), in which an adult male was reported taken on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River near Oakridge on the west slope of the Cascade Mountains. The species was next brought to my attention during the summer of 1923, when Mr. William Sherwood, of Salem, Oregon, collected a number of them on the Imnaha River near Imnaha Post Office in Wallowa County near the northeast corner of the state. One of these specimens, an adult male, was taken on June 14, 1923.

On June 18, 1924, at Union, Union County, Oregon, my attention was drawn to a vireo song which, upon investigation, proved to be from a Red-eyed Vireo in a near-by cottonwood tree. This bird was seen at a distance of ten or twelve feet and positively identified. On July 6, 1924, in the company of I. N. Gabrielson, of Portland, I found a nest of this species in a wild crabapple tree on the banks of the Columbia River about twelve miles east of Portland. The nest was typical of the species and contained three fresh eggs. On this day, Gabrielson and I saw no less than seven Red-eyed Vireos and heard several more in about two hundred acres of well wooded river-bottom land. Two adult males were collected. On July 13, 1924, Mr. Gabrielson again visited this locality and took an additional adult male and heard several more.

In view of the above, it appears that the Red-eyed Vireo has recently become a fairly common breeding bird of Oregon. The species probably invaded the state from the north, as it has long been a common breeding species in the eastern part of the state of Washington.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 14, 1924.*

**The Anna Hummingbird Takes a Shower Bath.**—In connection with a former note on the bathing of hummingbirds (CONDOR, XXIV, 1922, p. 63) the following incident may be worthy of record.

On August 17, 1924, while watering my lawn at Alameda, California, I placed the sprinkler in position and had just turned on the water when an adult male Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) flew into and poised in the dense spray. After glancing about for a moment he gradually assumed a vertical position and spreading his tail, then slowly settled to the ground, meanwhile drawing the tail back until it nearly reached the horizontal plane, when he actually "sat" on the grass, the body erect and the tail spread out fanwise behind him. The wings continued to vibrate while in this position, but the strokes were much less frequent than when flying, being just sufficient to maintain a vertical balance. In a few seconds he began increasing the wing strokes and slowly ascended about a foot above the ground where he poised a moment and then repeated the entire performance several times, after which he flew to a wire overhead.

Thinking he might be "contemplating" another plunge I summoned an audience of several persons who arrived just in time to witness the rare spectacle of a hummingbird "sitting" on the ground in a rain storm! When the "point of saturation" was reached he darted away as suddenly as he had come.—F. N. BASSETT, *Alameda, California, August 22, 1924.*

**Western Tanagers in Berkeley in Midsummer.**—On July 28, 1924, a male Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) was seen in the top branches of a red plum tree located east of the University of California Infirmary and south of Stadium Drive. It flew from this tree into a locust tree about twenty-five feet away. It was not seen again that day.

On July 30, a male Western Tanager was seen in a plum tree neighboring the red plum tree. There was little if any fruit left on these trees, and neither time the bird

was seen did it show signs of feeding. An hour later it was seen in the same vicinity perched half way up in a small redwood tree. It flew out of the redwood tree towards the fruit trees.

On August 8, a male Tanager was seen again in the redwood tree. On August 9, three birds were seen at 6:55 A. M. This time two males and a female or immature bird were flying about. At 8:30 A. M. on the same day, observations were made for an hour. Six Tanagers were seen—three males, two juvenile birds, and one female. Two of the males were very pronouncedly and clearly marked; the third had only a little red on the head and the yellow part back of the red and on the under parts, instead of being clear yellow, looked, particularly on the breast, gray tipped or dirty. This latter bird or a similar one was seen on August 16, also a female or juvenile bird—identification of the duller bird was not definite.

The birds were observed to be feeding on yellow plums; also on bees flying through the air, possibly some other insects, but I recognized two as bees. There are a good many bees in this vicinity just now, due to a red eucalyptus which is blooming, hollyhocks, and golden-rod. It was also reported that the Tanagers were feeding on some Rowan berries about seventy-five or one hundred feet away. I did not see them, however.—MILDRED KELLOGG, *Berkeley, California, August 18, 1924.*

**Western Bluebird Nesting in Berkeley.**—On May 8, 1924, while looking for nests in the pasture to the south of the University's upper dairy barn, I saw a pair of Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*). The female was soon observed to enter a hole in an oak tree, and this upon investigation was found to contain young which were only three or four days old. The entrance to the nest was ten feet above the ground and was about two inches in diameter. The cavity was about ten inches deep and lined with grass and fibers.

On May 30 the young were banded by the writer and given Biological Survey Numbers 124331,-32,-33,-34. On June 8 the nest was again visited and the young were found to be fully feathered and almost ready to leave. This was the last day the young were found in the nest.

This is the first recorded instance of the Western Bluebird nesting in Alameda County since 1886. In Belding's "Land Birds of the Pacific District," page 262, T. S. Palmer, reporting from Berkeley, says, "I know of only one instance of its breeding here. Last seen, March 18, 1886."

The only other record is in 1876 and is found in "The American Naturalist," volume 10, page 90. This is by J. G. Cooper in an article entitled, "California Garden Birds." He says, "A pair of Western Bluebirds, *Sialia Mexicana*, had raised a brood of young under the roof of the adjoining house, and all of them frequented the garden much after May 4th. In the garden at Haywood [= Hayward] 18 miles southeast of San Francisco."—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, *Berkeley, California, August 18, 1924.*

**The Dickcissel and Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Montana.**—On June 28, 1921, I collected a male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) a short distance east of Miles City, Montana. My attention was first attracted to the bird on June 26 by its call which was new to me. July 4 I saw ten singing males and two females of this species and on July 10, twelve males, and found a nest containing four eggs. On my next visit, the 17th, two of the eggs were hatched, the other two eggs being added. I also found another nest on this date with one egg; visiting this nest again on the 24th, I collected a set of four eggs which are now in the collection of the University of Montana. Other specimens of the Dickcissel collected were two on July 4 and one on July 10, all males. The birds were found frequenting irrigated lands on the O. C. Haynes and adjoining ranches; none was observed except on irrigated lands. Young and females were seen August 7, but the males had apparently ceased singing and were not again found about their usual haunts.

Some of the favorite resorts of the male Dickcissels while singing were in the cottonwood trees and weedy thickets along the fences skirting alfalfa fields; but birds of both sexes were found to be more plentiful in a cultivated orchard of wild plums, of about two or three acres, which was over-run with a tall, rank growth of sweet clover. The two nests were in this orchard and were placed in thickly leaved wild plum bushes about two to three feet from the ground. On July 17, I found the sweet clover