

had been cut from between the rows and removed, after which date the orchard was abandoned except by two pairs of the birds. Previous to this cutting five or six pairs apparently nested in or near this small orchard. The next summer, on June 16, 1922, the first bird was observed, singing, in this orchard. The Dickcissel is not recorded in Saunders' Birds of Montana; evidently the present one is a new record for the state.

On July 10, 1921, I collected a male Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*) about two miles south of Miles City, Montana, in a brushy patch of small cottonwoods near the bank of Tongue River. This appears to be the first record of this species for Montana. Mr. Aretas A. Saunders mentions the finding of an egg, apparently *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*, at Flathead Lake, west of the Rocky Mountains, on July 3, 1900, by Mr. P. M. Silloway (Birds of Montana, Hypothetical List, p. 174). From measurements taken before skinning, I believe my specimen to be *americanus*; length, 276 millimeters; wing, 136; culmen, 24.

On February 27, 1921, I collected a male Rocky Mountain Creeper (*Certhia familiaris montana*) in a cottonwood grove near the Yellowstone River, Miles City, Montana. There seems to be no previous record for Custer County and none in eastern Montana in the prairie region since the specimen in June, 1860, between Forts Union and Benton, as recorded by Cooper (see Saunders, Birds of Montana, p. 158).

The Western Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) occasionally winters in Custer County. On January 30, 1921, I saw two birds of this species in a cedar gulch on Sunday Creek a few miles north of Miles City; and on November 11, 1920, I observed one eating wild-rose hips in a sheltered piece of woods at Fort Keogh, Montana, on a cold, windy day after a snow-storm.—CHAS. F. HEDGES, *Los Angeles, California, August 3, 1924.*

The Gambel Quail in San Diego.—An adult female Gambel Quail (*Lophortyx gambeli*) was trapped in Balboa Park, San Diego, by Mr. F. F. Gander of the San Diego Zoological Society on September 18, 1924. The identification was made by Mr. Clinton G. Abbott of the Natural History Museum and myself, with the living bird in hand. Every chance of the bird having escaped into the park has been checked as far as possible, and it seems established that she must have wandered in from the desert. Mr. Falconer and I are planning some experiments which will be interesting if we have any luck, as we have also captured her mate, a Valley Quail, presumably also her mate of last year. Mr. Gander tried last season to trap her, but without success.—GRIFFING BANCROFT, *San Diego, California, September 23, 1924.*

Nuptial Flight of the Black-chinned Hummingbird.—In the May, 1920, issue of the CONDOR, Mr. Richard Hunt describes very explicitly the nuptial flight of the Anna Hummingbird, giving a diagram of its flight and as accurate a translation in words of its song as is humanly possible. It happened that the writer, at an early hour on June 25, 1924, was hunting in a small patch of river-bottom woods near San Diego and observed a male Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) performing the nuptial flight. The female was perched on a dead, horizontal limb about five feet from the ground and the male took flight from a position approximately twenty feet above her on the twig of a cottonwood, against the trunk of which I was quietly resting. With a bold sweep and a whizzing noise made by the flight, which resembled that of the Costa Hummer except that the tone was not so intense, he passed very close to her and headed up to a point about fifteen feet above. There, while the upward motion died until a complete stop was reached, he seemed to pat his wings together underneath him, causing a sound much like that of a bathing bird flopping its wings in the water after they have become thoroughly saturated. After a second downward swing, with the whizzing noise, he rose to another point about fifteen feet up, where again the wing flopping performance was repeated. This U-shaped figure was repeated five different times, and, at each stop at the apex, the flopping of wings was indulged in, after which the bird again sought his perch on the cottonwood above his mate. I was close enough almost to hear his wing beats as he sped to and fro, and I watched the pair for three minutes, when they both flew off of their own will, without being disturbed. At no time during the minute and a half duration of the nuptial flight was there any vocal demonstration, though both birds were rather vociferous when perched.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, August 4, 1924.*