

young ones hid between some willow roots on the bank of the stream. I went some distance away and watched. As soon as they thought I had gone they swam out onto the lake and joined the mother bird.

I took one of the young birds as a specimen and later identified it at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, as a Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). I believe this constitutes a new southern breeding record for this species of duck.—WILLARD F. GRINNELL, Berkeley, California, January 8, 1925.

Goldfinches' Manner of Drinking.—A curious psychological difference between the Green-backed and Lawrence goldfinches, which are nearly identical in habits and often flock together while feeding, is seen when a choice of different sources of water supply is offered. The Green-backed Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria*) always prefers to drink from a dripping faucet or from running water, with the bird-bath as a last resort. I do not recall ever having seen a Lawrence Goldfinch (*Astragalinus lawrencei*)

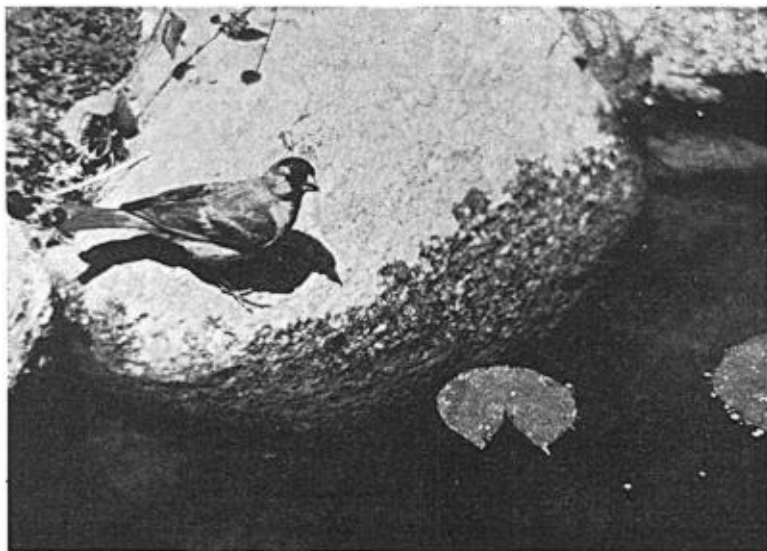


Fig. 20. LAWRENCE GOLDFINCH BESIDE POOL. AZUSA, CALIFORNIA; JUNE 19, 1924.

drinking from a faucet, but it makes its visits to a quiet pool or basin. This difference may not be true of all localities, but I have noticed it for a number of years at Azusa, where both species are abundant during the spring and early summer months. The Willow Goldfinch, which is less common, shares the Green-back's preference.—ROBERT S. WOODS, Los Angeles, California, September 27, 1924.

Food of the Harris Hawk.—My own impression of the Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*), confessedly from other than observational sources, has for some time been rather uncomplimentary to the species, so far as food habit is concerned. Coues, in his "Key", gives the impression of a sluggish hawk of questionable food habits. The bird was supposed to have a rather long and rather slender tarsus, which would give the impression of reduced raptorial habit. This reputed tarsal character has made the species one of the urgent desiderata in my own studies of the Rancho La Brea fossils, but it has successfully eluded me for a decade or more.

A field trip taken to the Pot-holes region of California during the closing week of 1924 brought an opportunity to study this hawk and resulted in two stomach examinations. At least five individuals were observed in life and they proved quite alert and very wary. One that was seen by A. J. van Rossem and Alden Miller at Yuma, dashed actively at a Ferruginous Rough-leg in an attempt to drive it from the neigh-

borhood. Duck hunters about a shallow lake in the Colorado River bottom referred to the species as "the big black hawk that catches ducks", and this impression seemed quite firmly grounded in their minds. For this reason stomach examination was attended with considerable interest. The first, a male, contained feathers and bones of a Green-winged Teal. The second, a female, had the stomach filled with feathers and bird bones, among which were the entire foot and tarsus with part of the tibia of a Gilded Flicker. This latter species was, at this season and locality, very shy, and kept pretty well to the thick timber, so that the hawk must have employed a considerable measure of agility and speed to capture it. Such ability is scarcely liable to lie dormant, so the Harris Hawk may properly be considered as an appreciable factor in the limitation of the bird population in the Colorado River area of California.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California, Southern Branch, Los Angeles, January 12, 1925.*

Unpublished San Diego Records.—While cataloging the Frank Stephens collection of birds and mammals, which was presented by him to the Natural History Museum, San Diego, I have found the following specimens, not hitherto recorded, which appear worthy of notice.

Ashy Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*): no. 2566, Natural History Museum Collection; male; taken April 20, 1916, by Frank Stephens on the Coronado Islands, Mexico; incubating one egg. I sent this specimen to Mr. H. S. Swarth, who in turn submitted it to Mr. Leverett M. Loomis, and both identified the bird as *Oceanodroma homochroa*. This is the most southern breeding station of this species yet recorded. Another specimen of *O. homochroa*, and so labeled, no. 2149, female, was picked up by Mr. Stephens on the beach south of Coronado after a storm, May 2, 1915. This specimen, interesting from the fact that it was found this far south so late in the season, tends further to establish *O. homochroa* as a breeder on the Coronado Islands.

Monterey Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata slevini*): no. 1701, Natural History Museum Collection; male; taken by Frank Stephens April 4, 1877, at Campo, San Diego County, California. There appear to be no specific migration records of this species for this region.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, November 21, 1924.*

Bird Notes from Wheatland, Wyoming.—In carefully noting the remarks of the authors of the two publications put out by the University of Wyoming on Wyoming birds ("Birds of Wyoming" by W. C. Knight, and "Birds of Wyoming" by Grave and Walker), I find certain species of rather common occurrence in this section that are not mentioned as such in these bulletins. The increase possibly is due to the extension of irrigation and farming in this section. Knight puts the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) in his hypothetical list, and Grave and Walker note it as an uncommon resident. This rail is common on the Wheatland Flats in practically every marsh that is wet enough to grow cat-tails, cress, and marsh grasses. One fact noted in its nesting that differentiates it from the Sora (*Porzana carolina*) is that it builds its nest exclusively in thick bunches of marsh grass over shallow water, while the Sora builds in the rushes over water at least six inches to two feet deep. The Virginia Rail seems to be about twice as common a bird as the Sora. In a marsh about four acres in extent, beside the Colorado and Southern Railroad, two miles north of Wheatland, I found on May 14, 1924, six Virginia Rail nests, as follows: one with eleven eggs, one with nine eggs, two with eight eggs, one with seven eggs, and one with three eggs. On the nest containing the eleven eggs I was successful in catching the female with my hands before she left. These rails are much slower to flush than the Sora, which I rarely find on the nest at first discovery. In addition to the above six Virginia Rail nests, I found three Sora Rail nests as follows: one with eleven eggs, one with nine eggs, and one with three eggs. The Sora is mentioned by Knight as a possible breeder. Grave and Walker found only one man (Metz, of Sheridan) who reported it as a common summer resident. I have but one record from as high an altitude as the Laramie Plains. June 10, while hunting for Wilson Phalarope nests back of the Wheatland Reservoir, we flushed a Sora from a bunch of grass in a marsh, and from her actions judged she had a nest or young, but careful search disclosed neither. In and about the Wheatland Flats, elevation 4700 feet, wherever marshes occur I find the Sora and Virginia rails in about the same proportion as in the instance cited.