

The Pacific Harlequin Duck Breeding in Oregon.—Although the writer has noted this duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus*) as a fairly common fall, winter, and spring species (September 9 to May 18) along our seacoast for a number of years, no authentic inland records have been noted. Neither does the available literature at hand show that the species has ever been even suspected of breeding within the state of Oregon.

On July 21, 1925, on the west fork of the Willowa River in the Willowa National Forest near Frazier Lake, an adult female with her brood of downy young was encountered and watched for some time with considerable interest by the writer and Elmer Williams of Portland, Oregon. When discovered, both the parent bird and the young were feeding in an open stretch of swift, clear water; but soon they took refuge by swimming rapidly downstream where they attempted to conceal themselves in a tangle of brush and limbs of a large spruce tree that had fallen across the stream. While thus partly hidden, four young about a third grown, but still in the downy plumage, were distinctly seen. Others may have been hidden in the brush.

Thorough investigation along our alpine streams may prove the Pacific Harlequin Duck to be a tolerably common breeding species, since mountaineers have often told me of ducks seen along streams at high elevations, both in the Cascades and in the Blue Mountains.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 28, 1925.*

California Tufted Titmouse Feeds on Sunflower Seeds.—I have some very large Russian sunflowers, seven feet high, with a single head nearly a foot across. The other day a pair of the California Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) invaded the place and, sitting on the edges of the great heads, began taking off the florets and then pulling out the seeds, taking nearly all there were from four heads. This they did with great cleverness, crushing the seeds and eating the kernels just as the Russians do, throwing the shells on the ground, and leaving the seeds that contained no kernels. I did not know that this type of bird had such a habit, but since have learned of other birds, including other titmouses and nuthatches, feeding on sunflower seeds when obtainable.—DAVID STARR JORDAN, *Stanford University, California, August 17, 1925.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

At Los Angeles, California, in the early spring of 1926, the Cooper Ornithological Club will hold its first formal annual meeting, devoted to the discussion of ornithological subjects. It is hoped that every member far and near will plan to be present. All are invited to contribute to the program. Plan your spring outing when Nature is at her best, with Los Angeles as the focal point. Detailed plans, with dates, will appear in the forthcoming January issue.

The well-known village of Sisson in Siskiyou County, California, is henceforth to be called Mount Shasta City. It seems that the name of a pioneer settler has no longer any romance about it; or rather, that an enterprising chamber of commerce has decided that Mount Shasta City will be more alluring to the tourist trade. This is bound to make trouble when it comes to the geography of plants and animals.

For back in the early days of California there existed a Shasta City, not in Siskiyou County as now restricted, but in Shasta County. Indeed, at one time Shasta City was the most important town of all northern California. Early naturalists visited the place and made collections there, so that "Shasta City" figures in our distributional literature. It is true that Shasta City is now practically deserted. But the new "Mount Shasta City", of location in an entirely different life-zone, will be bound to occasion confusion, even total misinferences, when collections of plants and animals so labeled begin to be distributed abroad. For naturalists at a distance cannot be expected to keep track of such shifts in place names. Geographical nomenclature *ought* to be held inviolable. A law of priority is needed in this regard, from a scientific standpoint, quite as much as in the naming of animals and plants.