

The Traill Flycatcher, California Least Vireo, and California Yellow Warbler suffer even more than this report would indicate. They not only have the most parasitized nests and the most Cowbird eggs per nest, but a large number of nests of these species were absolutely destroyed by the Cowbirds (at least I blame the destruction to them), and such nests were not considered in making the survey.

The parasitized nest of Plumbeous Gnatcatcher was taken in the Coachella Valley west of Mecca. This is the first Dwarf Cowbird egg that I have found in that district, although there is a record of the birds having been taken at Mecca a few miles east. I have not discovered any Cowbird eggs in the seventy miles between Redlands and Thermal and it will be of interest to see how long it requires for them to spread to this territory.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, November 24, 1927.*

A Third California Record of the Rusty Blackbird.—During a recent stay on Santa Rosa Island, California, Mr. Paul E. Trapier found a specimen of Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) dead in the barn at the Vail Company's ranch headquarters. The specimen was a female and was found on November 6, 1927. It is now in the Dickey collection.

I am aware of no California record of this bird since the publication of Grinnell's Distributional List of the Birds of California (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 11, 1915), in which Dr. Grinnell cites the two occurrences which had come to his attention at that time. The lack of records during the intervening years confirms the opinion that this bird is only the rarest of winter visitors to the State. It is interesting to note that two of the three captures of this species in California have been made on one or another of the Channel Islands.—DONALD R. DICKEY, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, November 26, 1927.*

Bird Notes from San Diego County.—The following items from the southern end of the State add to or amplify information hitherto published relative to a few California birds.

American Pintail Duck (*Dafla acuta tzitzihoa*). Ornithological literature does not record the nesting of the American Pintail farther south than Los Angeles and Riverside counties. A casual remark by E. H. Glidden, San Diego County game warden, referring to the young "sprigs" that had been raised on Lake Henshaw was therefore of considerable interest to me. At Glidden's suggestion I wrote to J. Kitchin, resort manager at this lake, and, under date of August 28, 1927, he replied: "It is certainly my pleasure to confirm Mr. Glidden's statement about sprig ducks hatching here on Lake Henshaw. I have had years of experience with sprig or Pintail Ducks and certainly know the difference between them and others. Last year, 1926, there were many hundred sprig hatched and raised on the lake and I caught some twenty babies and raised them to grown birds, when Glidden compelled me to turn them loose. This year I do not believe there were more than forty nests of sprig all told, but what few there were all hatched out, as I saw many mothers with eight or ten little fellows each around the lake." Lake Henshaw, at an elevation of 2720 feet, is the latest of the reservoirs to be created in San Diego County, and, when full, will be the largest. The dam was completed for the first impounding of water early in 1923, and it evidently did not take the pintails long to discover that this spot was particularly suited to their needs. They are not known to nest on any of the other eight large reservoirs in San Diego County.

Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Major Brooks' note in the CONDOR, XXIX, 1927, p. 245) on the breeding of immature hawks was read with interest at a time when such a situation had come under our observation for the first time. On June 26, 1927, there was brought to the Natural History Museum in San Diego a family of Cooper Hawks, consisting of a male in adult plumage, a female in immature plumage and two live young. They had been secured that day by Archie Flint, Jr., at Poway, San Diego County. In answer to a letter from us seeking confirmation that the female unquestionably belonged to the "family", Mr. Flint wrote: "On June 25 my father informed me of the nest and the following day I took my shot gun and watched the nest until the old bird arrived and I shot it. It was the female. In about two hours the other hawk came to feed the youngsters and I shot him. Both male and female were shot on the side of the nest feeding the young."

Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*). My note in the CONDOR (xxix, 1927, p. 73) listed the only records of the Sabine Gull off San Diego County, which were for the years 1905, 1925 and 1926. The year 1927 can now be added, for on September 18, 1927, J. W. Sefton, Jr., shot an immature female off Point Loma, which is now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. He said there were about twenty-five of the birds all together, but as he believed they were Bonaparte Gulls he collected only one. A week later he was again on the ocean, but no Sabine Gulls could be seen.

Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*). On the same day (September 18, 1927), Mr. Sefton observed a habit of phalaropes that seems of interest. He said that a slight breeze caused ripples on the ocean, but that there were "dead spots" where the water was smooth and oily-looking. These areas, caused perhaps by passing fish boats or by some peculiarity of the wind, were in ribbons from ten to a hundred feet wide and from a hundred to a thousand yards long. In these dead spots, and only there, phalaropes were congregated in countless thousands. He said that the effect was that of "rivers of phalaropes" on the surface of the ocean. As usual, the birds were fearless and allowed him to run his motor-boat within a few feet of them. When they took wing, they would fly from one dead spot to another. Mr. Sefton stated that both Northern and Red phalaropes were intermixed, but the one specimen that he collected was one of the former species.

Desert Quail (*Lophortyx gambelii gambelii*). One would expect this quail to occur in suitable areas of eastern San Diego County, but it is a fact that there appear to be no definite records of its capture within the County limits, and the bird is not included in Frank Stephens' "An Annotated List of the Birds of San Diego County, California" (Transactions, San Diego Society of Natural History, vol. 3, no. 2, 1919). I recently was in Borego Valley during the open season for quail and learned from residents that the Desert Quail is common there. At my request, Fritz H. Meyers shot a pair, which are now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. They were taken on December 5, 1927, near his home in Borego Valley, which is inside San Diego County by a margin of 12 to 14 miles from both the north and east boundaries.

Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*). This woodpecker, usually associated with timbered sections, is known to wander after the breeding season, but one would hardly expect to find it directly on the ocean front. My surprise was therefore great when, on September 24, 1927, I saw one of these birds in the built-up section of La Jolla, City of San Diego. It was flying from yard to yard in front of some houses facing the ocean, and seemed rather disconsolate as I watched it for some time.

California Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis cana*). Alaska Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*). On December 21, 1927, while making a San Diego "Christmas Bird Census" for the magazine Bird-Lore, Laurence M. Huey and I encountered two unexpected winter visitants. The Alaska Pileolated Warbler was in a bougainvillea vine close to the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, and was uttering a single, rather loud call note. The bird, an adult female, was obtained and is now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. The California Black-chinned Sparrow was on a shrubby hillside near Lincoln Acres on the outskirts of San Diego. It was an adult male in bright plumage and was observed through binoculars by both Mr. Huey and myself for some time.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, December 24, 1927.*

Fourth Known Occurrence of the Harris Sparrow in California.—For some time I have been banding birds in my yard, which is located in the Kensington Park district of Berkeley. On November 21, 1927, at 10:30 a. m., my wife took a bird out of the trap, that I was unable to identify. It was associated with a flock of Golden-crowned Sparrows.

Upon taking the bird to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, it was identified by Dr. Joseph Grinnell and others there as an immature specimen of a Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). I then put band number 611057 on it and liberated it near where it was captured. It has not been seen since.

This species is a rare straggler in California, having been recorded only twice by specimens, and once by a sight record. The first specimen, an adult male, was