

here at that time of year I was in doubt as to its identity. Later, the Western Tanagers came at their usual migration season from April 15 to about May 15.

January 14, 1926, I had just a glimpse of a green and yellow bird that I thought might be the same one, but saw no more of it so I could not be certain. February 1, 1927, what appeared to be the same bird came again to the feeding table. After that it came regularly every hour or two each day. It ate fruit mostly but occasionally took cracker crumbs. The bird was so shy that when we put a trap on the table to catch it for identification or banding it would not enter; it would reach in for food but would not put a foot inside.

I talked with Mr. Abbott and Mr. Huey of the San Diego Society of Natural History and on February 23 they came out to see it. Neither of them felt sure of its identity. Since it looked and acted just like the one that had been here five years before, we thought it was the same bird and probably could not live much longer anyway, so Mr. Huey was allowed to shoot it. It proved to be a female Western Tanager and was in perfect spring plumage. Mr. Huey remarked, "What is it doing here at this time of the year?" Mr. Abbott replied, "When it found this garden with its guavas, avocados, cherimoyas, and other tropical fruit it probably considered it a safe stopping place."

The skin and data are in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History.—MRS. T. F. JOHNSON, *National City, California, June 4, 1928.*

**Another Hooded Merganser in San Diego County.**—The Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) is sufficiently rare in this part of California to warrant recording the capture of a handsome male of this species during the past duck-hunting season on Sweetwater Lake, San Diego County. The bird decoyed late in the afternoon of December 4, 1927, to a stool of "sprig" and was shot by Edwin J. Johnson and Harry Benbough, Jr., both of San Diego. It was mounted by Ted Huff, local taxidermist, and is now in possession of Mr. Benbough.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, May 18, 1928.*

**Migration (?) of the Black-headed Jay.**—Among the phenomena which can be detected only by banding is that of migration *with replacement*, which is otherwise indistinguishable from permanent residence. The Black-headed Jay of this region, *Cyanocitta stelleri annectens* (Baird), seems to be a case in point, though we may wait long for further evidence to define and limit its movements.

These birds are present in this district throughout the year, not only as pensioners about human dwelling-places, but in a natural state in the most remote and snow-laden valleys. Since we had records for every month, it had never, until recently, occurred to us to question the permanent residence of the individuals, though we had commented upon the fact that small groups of perhaps half a dozen birds frequented our yards and corrals during the autumn, before returning, as we supposed, to the shelter of the green timber, where they are familiar neighbors all winter. Last fall (1927), when we finally learned how to trap this species, this little group resolved itself into a series of short visits by forty-four individuals,—visits which averaged, in so far as the dates of "repeats" are significant, less than three days in duration, if we omit a single pauperized bird which stayed forty-two days. So much for our ability to know one bird from another!

It was natural to infer that we were being used as a point of assembly or way-station for systematic migration. By rare good luck this was substantiated by the capture of one of our banded jays on October 24, or fifteen days after it had left us, at Vavenby, B. C., about 130 miles to the south in a straight line, through little-known, and, humanly speaking, most inaccessible mountains. That this bird may not have followed such a route is suggested, however, by the presence during the fall in Barkerville (25 miles south and west), and the final capture there on December 17, of another banded jay which had left us on September 27. Its long delay in this high and inclement mountain village may be explained by the lavish feeding it received at several hands.

The height of our ambition in this connection would be to have a *winter-banded* bird caught at some more *northern* point during the summer, but for a variety of reasons the chances of this are nil. The north is nearly unbroken wilderness, and

the birds which are here in winter do not assemble for banding in numbers.—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR B. MCCABE, *Indianpoint Lake, Barkerville, B. C., May 7, 1928.*

**An Oven-bird in Santa Barbara County, California.**—On Sunday, May 13, 1928, while walking with Dr. H. O. Koefod on the Brinkerhoff Ranch, near Los Olivos, in the Santa Ynez Valley, I was surprised to hear the song of an Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). We located the bird in a group of live oaks at the edge of a dry stream-bed. We sat down under one of the trees and watched the bird for half an hour as he walked daintily over the dry leaves under the trees, showing his orange crown and pink legs. At intervals the bird repeated his characteristic song, which sounded out of place among Plain Tits, Western Gnatcatchers and Lark Sparrows.

A previous record for the Oven-bird from California is that of two birds seen (and one taken) by Mr. Dawson on the Farallon Islands, May 29, 1911.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Santa Barbara, California, June 21, 1928.*

**Observation on the Food Habits of a Desert Sparrow Hawk.**—After all that has been written in favor of the Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*) it is interesting to note that the frequent response, that is, alarm or warning calls, of small birds when one appears near at hand is, sometimes at least, justified.

On the afternoon of April 30, 1928, about 4:30, while watching some Black Phoebes that were nesting under the eaves of a house in South Pasadena, I saw them suddenly exhibit signs of fear; and a moment later a Sparrow Hawk (there could be no mistake in its identity) hovered for a moment near the nest, then flew in under the eaves and, taking one of the young from the nest, flew away carrying the bird in its claws. The Phoebes made no particularly desperate efforts to drive off the enemy.

About twenty minutes after the first observed visit, the hawk appeared again, but seeing human beings quite close at hand flew away. During the next hour it made several appearances, but each time it was frightened away by our too close proximity. Suspecting from the Phoebe's actions that the last fledgling had been taken, the nest was examined and found to be empty. Soon after examining the nest we moved to a greater distance and within a few minutes the hawk re-appeared, went to the nest, searched for young, taking almost a minute to make sure that nothing had been overlooked, then flew away and did not appear again during the next hour.

A few minutes after the hawk's first visit, a Mockingbird, attracted no doubt by the distress calls of the Phoebes, flew close to the nest. Both Phoebes attacked furiously, one seeming to ride the Mockingbird's back for a moment. The Mockingbird made no attempt at retaliation so far as could be observed.—RAYMOND B. COWLES, *University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles California, May 15, 1928.*

**Cormorants Nesting on Bare Island, British Columbia.**—Bare Island, in Haro Strait close to the village of Sidney, on Vancouver Island, has long been known as an important nesting ground for Glaucous-winged Gulls, Pigeon Guillemots and, to a lesser extent, Pelagic Cormorants and Tufted Puffins. In the summer of 1927 the colony was increased by one pair at least of *Phalacrocorax auritus*, first detected by Mr. Walter Burton of Victoria, British Columbia. On July 19, accompanied by this gentleman, the writer visited the island in order to verify the identification, as this constituted a new breeding record for British Columbia.

The location proved to be a small ledge some twenty feet from the top of a cliff which forms the northwest corner and the highest portion of this rocky island. The nest, roughly two feet in diameter, was composed of fir branches, those which formed the rim having the green leaves still attached. The entire upper surface, rim and cup, was lined with gull feathers. The female was brooding two eggs, and on being flushed, readily returned to the nest after a short flight to sea. On one occasion observers were able to approach within a few yards before the bird launched into space, and the diagnostic yellow gular pouch was plainly seen. Two other empty nests of this species were found in similar situations. These were