

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

smaller, perhaps unfinished, but of identical construction although unlined. Other available nesting sites on the cliff were occupied by nesting Pelagic Cormorants and a few Glaucous-winged Gulls.

It was not considered desirable to collect one of the birds hence subspecific identification was impossible. The race *cincinatus* is seen at all seasons along the British Columbia coast and the probabilities are that to this race belong the Bare Island birds. On the other hand there is a possibility of this being a northern outpost of *albociliatus*.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., July 10, 1928.*

Further Notes on Lowland Nesting of the Western Robin in California.—Since publishing the account of range extensions by the Western Robin (*Turdus migratorius propinquus*) in California two years ago (CONDOR, XXVIII, 1926, pp. 264-267), a number of additional lowland nesting records have come to attention and it seems desirable to place these on record. In several cases they apparently represent first nestings in the localities in question.

At Porterville, Tulare County, Mr. S. Halbert reports (under date of July 3, 1926) that the Robin nested in that city as early as 1916 or 1917 when a nest was seen 50 feet above the ground in a tall tree on Hockett Street. The first summer appearance at the Halbert ranch, 6 miles south of the city, was in August, 1924. It is not certain whether the birds nested that year, but in 1925 more than 20 nests were seen in a peach orchard. The orchards in that region are irrigated at intervals throughout the summer and the Robins follow the irrigation in seeking their food. In my previous account a typographical error assigns my records for Tulare and Fresno to 1916. The observations were made on May 30, 1926.

At Mills College, in the eastern part of Oakland, I saw Robins carrying food as if for young on June 17, 1926.

Mr. E. L. Bickford of Napa confirms my previous surmises concerning the breeding of the Robin at Napa. Under date of March 4, 1927, he wrote that "Robins have nested on my two-acre residence property in the heart of Napa for at least twelve years. I find entry in my notes of a brood hatching on my place on May 22, 1916. This date agrees with the known [first] dates of nesting in San Francisco." The same correspondent states that he believes from collateral evidence that the birds actually nested there before the date cited, but he has no positive record to that effect. Subsequently (on June 20, 1927) Mr. Bickford wrote that a farmer in Pope Valley, Napa County, had record of Robins nesting there in 1904. Mr. Emerson A. Stoner has furnished records of Robin's nests in Napa in 1923 on May 13 and June 10 and in 1924 on April 19. He also reports nesting at the base of Mount Saint Helena on the Lake County side on May 18, 1922, when a speckle-breasted young bird was seen—a rather early date for young out of the nest.

A pair of Robins nested this year (1928) in Davis, a nest and two adult birds having been seen by me at 4th and E streets on May 30, 1928. On June 10 I saw a pair of adults in attendance on two fully-fledged speckle-breasted young on a lawn opposite the nest site. Earthworms, in quantity, were being fed to one of the juvenal birds. Mr. Ernest D. Clabaugh reports having seen Robins on the University Farm quadrangle on two occasions in the latter half of June, 1928, and adults have been seen in town during July.

Near Winters, Mr. Chester Sackett reports that Robins were first noted as remaining through the summer in 1927, and that this year he found two nests, one with fledged young. In my own notes, I recently found record of a Robin seen near Knights Landing on May 21, 1912. At Marysville, Mrs. Ruth Risdon Storer reports having seen Robins on April 27, 1927, presumptive evidence for nesting, and this year Mr. Donald H. Graham advises me that adult Robins were seen feeding young about July first, near his residence on Seventh Street in that city.

These additional records but serve to strengthen the thesis put forth in my previous paper, that the "change" in nesting range is due to alteration by man of the original lowland habitat. It seems, however, that lawns (artificial damp grassland) are not a *sine qua non* for summer occurrence of the Robin in the lowlands, but that a second acceptable substitute is available in orchard lands subject to frequent irrigation.