

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Audacity of a Sharp-shinned Hawk.**—On the morning of October 28, 1928, in a line of bird banding traps in operation at Woodacre Lodge, Marin County, California, a wire netting, funnel type trap, 24 x 36 inches in size, was placed on the ground on the sunny side of a long pile of cordwood, the interstices of which afforded comforting protection to a flock of Golden-crowned Sparrows. Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter velox*), although nearly every trap had over it a cover made of 2-inch mesh wire netting to allow small birds to enter but to keep out cats, quail, etc., had been making efforts to get at the birds in some of the more exposed traps, but had succeeded only in causing more or less panic among the captives.

On one of my rounds that morning the trap at the woodpile was found to contain some sparrows. After removing the protective cover I was standing over the trap, with my feet rather wide apart for better balancing, with my soft hat in hand gently "shooing" the captive birds into the small catching box at the farther corner. In the midst of this operation I was startled by a feathered bolt, as it were, flashing past me from behind with incredible speed, that brushed my right knee as it passed and came suddenly to a full stop on top of the trap and only a few inches from my hand, with both talons trying to grab a sparrow through the wire netting.

I was so taken by surprise that almost involuntarily I struck at the hawk with my hat to save the birds from possible injury. This was an unfortunate impulse, for it would have been much better to have kept still so as to watch further developments, as the birds were not in any actual danger except through fright. Possibly my khaki-colored clothing blended sufficiently with the woodpile to make me inconspicuous, or else the hawk, a very small one, was made so bold by hunger as to be indifferent to the presence of a human being.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, October 31, 1928*.

**British Columbia Records of Certain Unusual Sparrows.**—We report the following more or less unusual records of sparrows in British Columbia during recent years.

*Zonotrichia querula*. Two immature birds captured and banded at Indianpoint Lake, September 24, 1926.

*Zonotrichia albicollis*. One individual captured and banded October 7, 1926, at Indianpoint Lake. Our neighbor, Mrs. Joseph Wendle, of Bowron Lake, also permits us to record the capture by her of two of this species during the spring of 1928, one on May 11, the other on May 14.

*Spizella pallida*. An immature male collected at Indianpoint Lake, October 9, 1928.

*Melospiza georgiana*. An immature male collected at Indianpoint Lake, October 9, 1928.

Mr. J. A. Munro has very kindly examined detailed large-scale photographs of the Harris Sparrows, and finds the identification unquestionable. Similar photographs of our White-throats were not very successful, but Mr. Munro finds identification from them "reasonably certain".

At the time of publication of Brooks and Swarth's "Distributional List" (September, 1925), only "eight or ten specimens" of the Harris Sparrow had been recorded in British Columbia, the northernmost of them at least 200 miles south of our record. By the same date only three White-throats had been recorded, only one Swamp Sparrow, and two Clay-colored Sparrows.—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR BOLLES MCCABE, *Indianpoint Lake, Barkerville, B. C., October 15, 1928*.

**Notes from Napa Valley.**—The Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) has been nesting at my two-acre residence in the heart of Napa for some years past. This year there were two pairs, not far apart, one about 18 feet up in a hanging string of English Ivy; the other in the forks of the outer branches of an elm, about 25 feet from the ground.

Nuttall Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) was noted as resident at Samuel