

tion. This is my first record for this species at Big Bear Lake though it occurs quite commonly ten miles to the east among the piñon pines.

My first record for the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens*) for Big Bear Lake was a single bird near Pine Knot on July 14.

On September 1 a Road-runner (*Geococcyx californianus*) crossed in front of my car on the main road through the pines on the north shore of the lake near Camp Juniper. I believe that this is the first record for this bird for Big Bear Lake. To me the bird seemed very much out of place in this Transition association.

On July 5 an American Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*) was seen flying along the shore of Big Bear Lake near the Moon Camp. It was carrying a fish in its talons. This bird is of rather uncommon occurrence for this region.

During the latter part of August and early September, Pintail Ducks (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoo*) were unusually abundant at Baldwin Lake, and several large flocks were seen on Big Bear Lake. Many were shot on the opening day of the season, October 1, but the greater number left soon after the bombardment started.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, January 20, 1929.*

Lesser Yellow-legs in Willamette Valley, Oregon.—On November 21, 1928, I found two Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) feeding in shallow water of a small slough running into the Willamette River, near its mouth. It was a sunny, warm day and the birds permitted me to approach within twenty yards but worked away when I tried to get nearer. They were there when I left, as I did not flush them. These two birds are the first of this species I have seen in the Willamette Valley.—ED. S. CURRIER, *Portland, Oregon, January 10, 1929.*

Blackbirds Feeding on the Forest Tent Caterpillar.—At Rollings Lake, British Columbia, on June 5, 1925, it was observed that Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) were busily feeding on the forest tent caterpillars that partly had defoliated the poplar trees along the lake shore. Both species nested in the vicinity; the redwings in two small tule marshes that fringe the lake shore; the Brewer Blackbirds in stumps, on the ground, or in crevices of dead poplar trees that stood close to the lake. Blackbirds of both species also were seen flying from the infested trees to their nests and back again, presumably carrying the larvae to their young.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., January 15, 1929.*

A Shower of Grebes.—During an early morning hour (about 2 A. M.) of December 13, 1928, residents of Caliente, Nevada, were awakened by a heavy thumping of something falling on the roofs of their houses. Those who were curious enough to step outside and investigate the unusual occurrence found scores of water birds in the new fallen snow. The next morning, several thousand eared grebes (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*) were found on the ground and flat roofs of business houses throughout the city.

Mr. E. C. D. Marriage, Editor of the Caliente Herald, and formerly secretary to the Cambridge University (England) Natural History Society, writes that "literally thousands of these birds were found in every portion of the town and outskirts." In a personal communication to me he says, "We saved thousands by putting them in the creek; most of those that died were crippled in some way; they were forced out of the air by the heavy density of the snow which bore them to the ground, thousands being buried under the snow, and working themselves out in the morning. I watched hundreds coming up through the snow. Many flew off at noon, going southwest. Hundreds were killed by hitting the wires, houses, and trees. Caliente had the main bunch, but they were scattered for twenty miles every way."

In a later issue of his paper, this Editor asserts: "Many thousands of the birds have remained in the vicinity of Caliente in the Meadow Valley Wash and other streams and ponds. Thousands died, and Deputy Sheriff Frank Palmer is superintending the work of clearing the streets and the flat roofs of the business houses of the dead birds which died when they hit the buildings and trees of Caliente, the dead birds being stacked in big piles and hauled away." Numerous other reports confirm the Editor's account.