

The farmers nearer the Fraser suffer as much as we do, and, in spite of being further from the mountains, more than most of our nearer neighbors. We know of one ranch where for years a barn door has been used as a deadfall, and the birds fed to hogs by bucketfuls. In another case great numbers are shot, and as many as thirty-five birds have been picked up as the result of enflading a row of vegetables with a single charge of shot. As the typical associations of the Canadian Zone are left behind, and the greater drouth and summer heat of the river flats approached, the nuisance decreases. From the immediate vicinity of Quesnel we hear a few scattered complaints of moderate losses, but a short distance southward, within touch of the long arm of Transition Zone conditions, which stretches so far up the valley, all knowledge of the trouble seems to disappear, though we do not know where it may recur.

What of the "Peace River Block," a successful agricultural venture on latitude 56° N., and the immense new agricultural northlands of Ontario?

These visits of the siskins are by no means sporadic, like the well-known "cross-bill-years", of ancient record, but, nowadays at least, are as regular as the recurring seasons themselves. Mr. Harry Boyd, of Cottonwood, to whom we are indebted for much interesting material on the siskins, recalls their descents as long ago as 1884, though they seem to have been less regular in the early years. It may be that the habit of seeking cultivated districts will prove a cumulative adaptation, as many, more welcome adjustments of avian and human economy have proved to be.

Methods which depend upon destruction will always be useless. One must live in typical Canadian and Hudsonian surroundings, and learn to be conscious of the continual, unobtrusive presence of the siskins in the tree-tops, to realize how immense their numbers must be. Most of their great breeding ground will never be invaded. No war of extermination will thin their ranks perceptibly.—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR BOLLES MCCABE, *Indianpoint Lake, British Columbia, January 6, 1929.*

Hooded Merganser at Salton Sea, California.—On November 27, 1928, I was hunting along the north end of Salton Sea near Mecca, Riverside County. A Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), in female plumage, was found dead on the shore. The bird had evidently been dead some time and in its poor condition could not be preserved. There seem to be few records for this species in southern California.—J. STEVENSON, *Los Angeles, California, February 15, 1929.*

Slate-colored Fox Sparrow at Alameda, California.—On November 15, 1928, I found a dead fox sparrow on a street in Alameda, California. Later the specimen was submitted to Mr. H. S. Swarth who pronounced it *Passerella iliaca schistacea*. This appears to be the only record for the occurrence of this race in middle-western California.—FRANK N. BASSETT, *San Francisco, California, March 27, 1929.*

Golden Eagle in Death Valley.—On December 27, 1928, while passing through Death Valley, the writer saw a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtos*) perched in a dead tree by Bennett's Well. The bird rose and flew away when we were still a hundred yards from it, but identification was unquestionable.

A flock of some fifteen Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*) was noted on one of two small ponds at this oasis, as well as a group of unidentified ducks, while along the grassy margins was an assemblage of five or six Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) which disported themselves in customary noisy fashion. These might have accounted for the presence of the eagle.

Bennett's Well lies some 250 feet below sea level near the south end of the valley, and appears in no way unsuited to the needs of this eagle. However, there seem to be no previous records of its occurrence there.—E. L. SUMNER, JR., *Pomona College, Claremont, California, February 12, 1929.*

The Pasadena Screech Owl near Victorville, San Bernardino County, California.—On April 22, 1928, the same day on which the Sage Thrasher was found nesting in the near vicinity of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California, I collected a

screech owl along with other specimens. After a close examination, the bird proved to be a typical representative of *Otus asio quercinus*, and establishes that race as spilling over on to the Mohave plateau from the San Diegan district. It is, without a doubt, a resident breeder of the thick Joshua tree belt in that locality, as this bird was a male with well developed testes, and the ground under the roosting place from which the owl was shot, was strewn here and there with a few uneaten and undigested pieces of food.

Thus it seemed that this bird spent the day in the Joshua tree, hunted at night, and returned in the morning to the same roost where he remained "on guard", and that a female was on the nest on this date, probably with eggs, considering the close seclusive sitting of the male and the apparent waste of food. There were quite a number of likely looking nesting cavities in the near-by Joshua trees, but for the lack of sufficient time, a little investigation availed nothing.

The bird is now number 654 in my collection and is apparently the first recorded specimen of the Pasadena Screech Owl taken on the desert slopes.—J. STUART ROWLEY, *Alhambra, California, January 8, 1929.*

The English Sparrow and the Western Horned Owl.—In the spring of 1925 I located the nest of a Western Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus pallescens*) within two hundred yards of a farmhouse, near Aurora, Colorado. I visited the place about once a week as the young grew but had to observe the nest at a distance in order not to attract attention of those who would put an end to the owl family. The English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) which made the farm the center of their activity were often heard among the trees in the vicinity of the owl's nest. On April 24, I noticed a sparrow on a branch near the nest, which was reconstructed from that of a Magpie. On May 3, the young were nearly full grown and one of them had left the nest. I climbed up within a few feet in an unsuccessful attempt to photograph them. While there I saw an English Sparrow come out of the side of the owl's nest, perch on a twig a moment and then fly away.

When I visited the place a week later, the young owls were gone and the nest had fallen to the ground. Upon examining it, I found in the side a mass of plant twigs and fibers about four inches in diameter which represented the sparrow's attempt at a nest. There were no signs of its having contained eggs or young. Desert Sparrow Hawks, Lewis Woodpeckers, Red-shafted Flickers and Magpies nesting in the immediate vicinity were not disturbed, to my knowledge, although individuals of those species were brought to the young owls for food.—LEON KELSO, *Aurora, Colorado, February 25, 1929.*

Double-crested Cormorant in Yellowstone National Park.—On July 20, 1928, Mr. C. Brooke Worth, of St. Davids, Pennsylvania, visited Molly Island in the southern part of Yellowstone Lake, Yellowstone National Park, and there found the nest of a Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*), containing two long, dirty, whitish eggs. These eggs were about two inches long, and originally there had been five eggs in the set. The nest was large and deeply pitted, and made mostly of the shed primary wing feathers of California Gulls. It was placed on the ground comparatively near to the nests of the many California Gulls nesting on that islet (see Skinner, Condor, XIX, 1917, pp. 177-182). One of the birds was seen swimming on the lake at some little distance out from Molly Island.

This is certainly the first record for both the bird and the nest in Yellowstone National Park. A. A. Saunders, in his *Birds of Montana* (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 14, 1921, p. 31) lists a half dozen occurrences of this bird in Montana, and W. C. Knight gives one or two records for Wyoming in his *Birds of Wyoming*. With the establishment in late years of reclamation reservoirs, with the usual drowned trees therein, records in Montana and Wyoming are becoming more numerous; but even so, this record for the Yellowstone is a noteworthy one.—M. P. SKINNER, *Long Beach, California, January 25, 1929.*

Early Nesting of the Anna Hummingbird at Santa Barbara, California.—On the afternoon of December 21, 1928, when on the way home from a botanizing trip afield in Rattlesnake Canyon, I noticed a female Anna Hummer (*Calypte anna*)