

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*)

collecting material from the seed balls on a sycamore tree. I watched her for a few moments and soon located the nest in the upper branches of an oak tree. It seemed to be completed, or very nearly so. I did not look into the nest until December 30, at which time I found two incubated eggs, so without a doubt, the bird had fresh eggs on the 21st of the month.

The bird sat tightly. The nest being in such a position that I was unable to reach it, I took a small twig and attempted to lift the determined little creature from the nest. She fought the branch, pecking at it and raising her wings in an excited manner, but would not leave until I actually lifted her off. Even then she settled back before I could see into the nest to catch a glimpse of what she treasured so highly. After repeating this operation three times, I succeeded in getting a good look. This last time, she flew to a branch eighteen inches or so from the nest and made a queer little protesting, scolding note and fluttered around within an inch or two of my head, while I bent the small branch, to view the interior of the nest. I was able, in this way, to get a thorough look just before the bird settled back on the nest.—ROBERT H. CANTERBURY, *Blaksley Botanic Garden of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, February 2, 1929.*

Notes on the Avifauna of Santa Catalina Island.—In checking over my notes kept during the past year on Santa Catalina Island, I find several records that are additions to the known avifauna of the island, and a few random notes that are of interest.

A new influence has entered into the bird life of Catalina Island within the past three years by the development of a fresh-water reservoir at Middle Ranch, near the center of the island. A lake was formed during 1925-26 by damming Middle Ranch cañon a short distance below the old ranch houses, in order to supply domestic water to the city of Avalon. A heavy rain in February, 1926, filled the lake to its present level. The body of water is approximately half a mile long and from forty to one hundred yards wide. It is probably sixty feet deep at the dam end and extends back to a marshy flat some sixty yards long and forty wide. This flat is overgrown with willows and cat-tails. Two hours of bird study at the lake a short time ago added four new birds to the island list.

Including the following additions, thirty birds have been added to the island list since the publication of Howell's "Birds of the Islands off the Coast of Southern California" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 12, 1917). The list now numbers 124 species.

Aechmophorus occidentalis. Western Grebe. One seen feeding in Avalon Bay, January 26, 1929.

Stercorarius parasiticus. Parasitic Jaeger. Two birds seen near Empire Landing, feeding after some terns, October 21, 1928.

Larus californicus. California Gull. Common around the island during the winter.

Larus philadelphia. Bonaparte Gull. Five in winter plumage seen in Avalon Bay, January 2, 1928.

Anas platyrhynchos. Mallard. Twenty birds were seen on the Middle Ranch lake, January 27, 1929. These birds are domesticated and were introduced by the Santa Catalina Island Company in February, 1927, when fifteen birds were placed on the lake.

Dafla acuta tzitzihoo. Pintail. Seven males and one female were seen on Middle Ranch lake, January 27, 1929. According to the ranch superintendent one or two birds were around the water last winter. The present flock had been on the lake more than a week before my visit.

Plegadis guarauna. White-faced Glossy Ibis. A mounted specimen in the shop of Mrs. Parker, the local taxidermist, was shot at Middle Ranch during the spring of 1927.

Fulica americana. Coot. On September 27, 1928, a bird was caught on the streets of Avalon in a weakened condition. Close examination showed no injuries, but the bird was unable to fly more than a few feet at a time. On January 27, 1929, eighty birds were seen on Middle Ranch lake, where they had been for several weeks, according to the ranch hands. A few birds were also present about a year ago, they said.