

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Immature Song Sparrow in Full Song.**—On July 9, 1926, I was surprised to see and hear an *immature* Rusty Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia morphna*) in full song. The performance was also witnessed by Prof. M. E. Peck of Willamette University, an experienced observer. We were on the porch of a residence a few miles south of Portland, Oregon, when we noticed a young Song Sparrow attempting to sing. It was so close that there could be no question but that it was immature. At first the song was subdued in volume, as though the bird were merely trying out its voice. It fitted from branch to branch, attempting to sing a couple of times, till within about eight feet of us, then burst forth into full, unrestrained song, not by us to be distinguished from the song of an adult. This was repeated several times.—WM. E. SHERWOOD, *San Fernando, California, April 22, 1929.*

**The White-tailed Kite in Orange County, California.**—Recent records of the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) in southern California are so few that it seems worth while to publish the following observations. On February 22, 1924, a White-tailed Kite was seen in the willows near the mouth of San Juan Creek, about three miles south of San Juan Capistrano. On December 2, 1924, and again on the following day, one was seen hunting over a weed covered field, three-quarters of a mile northeast of Cypress; and on January 7 and 23, 1925, what was presumably the same bird was seen at the same place, sometimes in one of several small eucalyptus trees at the edge of the field and sometimes flying back and forth or hovering on vibrating wings. On January 6, 1928, one was seen flying steadily in a north-westerly direction, about two miles southeast of Buena Park; and on December 24, 1928, one was seen hunting over weed covered fields about two miles southwest of Buena Park.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, April 11, 1929.*

**Poor-will Noted in San Francisco County, California.**—On April 20, 1929, a Dusky Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii californicus*) was shown to a group of students by Dr. H. C. Bryant in southern San Francisco County. The bird was located under a bush, a mile from Daly City, in the canyon leading from the old pumping station to Lake Merced. It was so protected by its coloration that it was not easily distinguished. A search disclosed no nest. Finally disturbing it, a glimpse of white on the tail feathers was seen as it flew low over the bushes, alighting several times, each time on a bare spot on the ground. When flushed again, it came back to within a few feet of its starting point, completing a circle about 100 feet in diameter. There it settled down on an exposed sandy spot in plain sight of all, paying no heed to the group which approached within ten feet of it. The only signs of agitation were a blinking of the eyelids and a vibration of the throat, the latter making the white throat feathers ripple like a curtain in a breeze. There it was left, in view of all passers-by, but so camouflaged that only the quick eye of a bird student would find it.

After careful search I have found no record of a Poor-will for either of the counties of San Mateo or San Francisco. Could this have been a first instance of occurrence?—SELMA WERNER, *San Francisco, May 2, 1929.*

**A Record of the Red-breasted Goose in California.**—In 1893, while looking over some of the late additions to the collection of birds in the California Academy of Sciences, I saw a specimen of goose that was new to me as well as to the curator, Mr. W. E. Bryant. The label, in the well known writing of Lyman Belding, stated that it had been purchased in the local market. Mr. Bryant told me it had recently been prepared by himself and that he, so far, had been unable to identify it. There was no trouble in locating the species as *Branta ruficollis*, the habitat of which is given in the Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum as "Western Siberia, Northern Turkestan and Caspian Sea. Accidental in Europe and Egypt". Four specimens, only, were listed as in the British Museum, indicating that it was not then a common species in collections.

Mr. L. M. Loomis, who succeeded W. E. Bryant at about this time, refused to