

Hawk is no mean hunter. Furthermore, he plucks his kill almost as completely as does a falcon, even wrenching out the strongly attached primaries.

Mr. John Cole was a member of the party and was good enough to climb to the nest and report the contents.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, April 25, 1930.*

Valley Quail and Sharp-shinned Hawk.—Some forty Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica californica*) frequent my garden on the outskirts of Oakland, attracted by the bird-food trays. A Sharp-shinned Hawk from the nearby hills has twice been seen to fly over the flock, and then perch in a neighboring tree. The "freezing" behavior exhibited by many of the quail under the circumstances was quite interesting.

A sudden high medley of alarm calls and whirring of wings was heard—an explosion of birds—and instant quiet—as the shadow of the Sharp-shin passed over the ground. Half the quail had reached the cover of tree, shrub, or brush-pile. But half of them had not, and these were scattered about, some alongside of a tuft of grass or other slight leafage, some wholly in the open. They were difficult to see at first glance, as they were motionless, "frozen" in a peculiar posture, half-squatting and with tail held at a high angle. They looked as if they were in readiness to spring into flight. The position of the tail was notably unusual.

The hawk did not attempt to molest them, though several seemed to be in his range of vision, of the eighteen that had come to a stop before reaching cover. They kept absolutely still for a full five minutes while the hawk remained. When he flew away, a few male quails moved their heads a little and clucked softly, but that was all for another five minutes or so. Then the birds slowly "unfroze" in a subdued, hesitating manner, the males first.—HERMAN DE FREMERY, *Oakland, California, January 23, 1930.*

A Black Rail Leaves the Salt Marsh.—On August 31, 1929, a female California Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis coturniculus*) was presented in the flesh to the O'Rourke Zoological Institute of San Diego and now reposes in the collection of that organization. This specimen was picked up the day previous near the towers of the U. S. Naval Radio Station just east of San Diego. There is a small fresh-water pond nearby and a considerable growth of cat-tails in adjacent cañons. However, since this location is about six miles from the normal habitat of the black rail in the salt water marshes of the coast, it seems probable that this bird was in migration at the time of its death.—FRANK F. GANDER, *O'Rourke Zoological Institute, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, February 11, 1930.*

Bird Notes from Santa Catalina Island.—More than sixty years have passed since the Pileolated Warbler and the Brewer Blackbird were reported from Santa Catalina Island by Dr. J. G. Cooper. Since then, there appears to be no other published record of their occurrence on the island. On the morning of January 2, 1930, I saw a Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*) gleaning insects from a cassia bush near the Avalon High School, and on the following morning, in the same bush, was the same or another male bird. On the second morning the possession of the bush was disputed by a Dusky Warbler which finally succeeded in driving the Pileolated away.

Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) seem to be fairly common migrants during favorable years. On March 9, 1929, I saw a lone male bird on the main street of Avalon, and on April 15 of this year I saw two males and a female at Middle Ranch. Captain McKay, an old resident on Catalina Island, has told me that flocks of the birds have been seen on the island several times. On one occasion, about 1913, he said, Brewer Blackbirds were common for several weeks around a horse corral in Avalon.

Juncos of an undetermined species were seen by Harry Harris near Avalon in March, 1919 (*Condor*, xxi, p. 172). On March 25 of last year, I saw a flock of twenty birds near the hay-press at the upper end of Grand Cañon, and a specimen collected proved to be a female *Junco hyemalis thurberi*. This definitely establishes the Thurber Junco as an Island visitor.