

**An Early Seasonal Record for the Allen Hummingbird.**—On January 29, 1930, the writer observed a male Allen Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*) at Azusa, California. The next earliest record for this locality was January 31, 1924. In one or two other years the characteristic sound of the bird's flight has been first heard at about this same date. These early migrants are always exceedingly active and make but a brief stay.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, April 10, 1930.*

**Woodpeckers and Wires.**—I read with interest the note by Clinton G. Abbott (Condor, xxxi, 1929, p. 252) on the subject of woodpeckers perching on wires. He suggests that the observations of others on this score would be of value. Although I have not kept record of the dates, I can state that I have on several occasions seen California Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi*) stand on a telephone wire in the manner Mr. Abbott describes. In fact I can report even more startling behavior than this. About half a dozen times I have seen a California Woodpecker alight on a wire and then hang head down and inspect his toes gripping the wire, with, apparently, great interest. After a minute or two, he would either right himself with the help of a couple of preliminary swings, or relax his hold and right himself in the air. My vantage point for observation was a bed in Arroyo Sanatorium in the Livermore hills.—ROBERT T. TROTTER, *Livermore, California, April 14, 1930.*

**Cedar Waxwings Visit City Business District.**—The thought of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) is usually associated with the country or the park and suburban districts of the cities. It was therefore with surprise that I met with them in the downtown district of San Francisco amid the clang of street cars and the roaring of trucks. At the corner of Ellis and Taylor streets there is a gasoline service and parking station in the corner of which there is a small plot containing about a dozen small shrubs banked against the back of a tall building. Three of these (*Cotoneaster panosa*) were sparsely in fruit and on the morning of October 14, 1929, I was startled to see about ten Cedar Waxwings feeding on these berries. I watched them about half a minute when they flew up uttering their tremulous calls and disappeared over the tall buildings.

These birds had flown a mile or more over tall buildings from whichever direction they had come, and the small spot which had attracted them was hidden among the buildings in the noisiest part of the city and contained only three small fruiting shrubs. Truly, they are living up to their reputation as the champions of wanderers!—FRANK N. BASSETT, *San Francisco, California, March 19, 1930.*

**Behavior of Sea Gulls During a Hail Storm.**—I was active in ornithology up to 1900. At that time I moved, took up my residence in San Francisco, and donated my collection and notes to the California Academy of Sciences; these were totally destroyed with the other collections of the Academy during the great fire following the earthquake of 1906. Since that time it has been my pleasure from time to time to study birds in the field and to note their behavior and reactions in the presence of civilization.

The following observation appears to me to be worth reporting. It happened that I had occasion to take a ferry boat to cross the bay from San Francisco on February 23. The weather was stormy, with occasional heavy showers or a steady downfall of rain. As the ferry boat left the pier, I noted an unusually large number of sea gulls along the water front. Each ferry boat had a goodly following and the air was filled with them as they circled about the boat. When about a third of the way across the bay an unusually heavy hail storm came on. I had been watching the graceful flight of the gulls; my attention was distracted by the storm for less than a minute and when I again looked for them, not one was in sight.

I gazed through the falling hail and observed that they were all at rest on the surface of the water and every gull that I could discern had its head under a wing as if in sleep. This reaction was most interesting to me, as it was undoubtedly an instinctive act to protect their heads, especially the eyes, from injury. I had never heard of or seen such a reaction in birds before and I do not know that such an observation has been recorded.—FRANK E. BLAISDELL, SR., *Stanford Medical School, San Francisco, California, March 25, 1930.*