

The loons did not use their wings while under water but swam entirely with their feet. The speed they developed when they came within striking distance of their quarry was truly remarkable. The head was stretched to the full length of the neck, and the body was compressed until it seemed about one-half of its natural size—in fact the loon became a living projectile offering a minimum resistance and seemed fairly to shoot through the water. The legs were moving at such speed that it was impossible to see their motion. A bird would turn and twist at full speed, without any noticeable disturbance of the water, except when extremely close to the surface. These bursts of speed were of comparatively short duration and whether the fish was caught or not, the loon usually came to the surface immediately thereafter. On several occasions, however, when the first dash failed to net results and the fish was still within striking distance the bird put on a second, though much shorter, dash. The most interesting thing in the actions of these loons under water was their total dependency upon their feet for motive power. The wings were not used at any time but were folded tightly against the body.

Invariably when the loon came to the surface with a fish, the fish was held by the middle, indicating that the strike was from the side and made while the fish was making a turn. The birds, on emerging, always preened themselves and shook the loose water from their feathers. Apparently while on the surface they did not see the fish, but located them only after diving.—J. W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, April 26, 1930.*

Do Gray Squirrels Destroy Eggs or Young Birds?—During the nesting seasons of 1929 and 1930, I have been observing the attitude of nesting birds to gray squirrels and *vice versa*. I have two squirrels on my place, tame enough to feed from my hand, but otherwise wild. One day last spring (1929), hearing some very noisy House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) outside my window, I looked out and saw a squirrel leaning over the eaves looking into a nest containing eggs, from which it was distant a few inches and within easy reach. It paid no attention to me and after a few minutes, during which the birds were evidently much alarmed, it went off without touching the eggs. Later on, when the young birds were a few days old, the squirrel came again and after examining the nest went off without touching the young birds. The same thing happened this year with a nest in the same place, which is close to a regular route used by the squirrels over the roof. There are other nests close by, easily accessible to the squirrels.

A short time ago, upon hearing grosbeaks (*Zamelodia melanocephala*) crying excitedly, I went out and found them trying to drive a squirrel away from their nest which had two eggs in it. I drove the squirrel off and next day it was back at the same nest. This time I did not disturb it. After a few minutes it went away and the female bird returned to the nest. About a week ago, not having seen the birds about the nest for several days, I examined it and found two dead young in it about one-third grown, not mutilated in any way. I have at other times seen birds trying to drive squirrels from nests but have not been able to ascertain whether they took eggs or young. In the above mentioned cases they did neither.—WALTER I. ALLEN, *Altadena, California, June 30, 1930.*

The Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak in Arizona.—It is the purpose of this note to place on record the occurrence of the Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator montana*) in Arizona. Apparently there is no previous record in the literature of such occurrence.

In June, 1929, the University of Arizona summer field class in Ecology spent a week on the Kaibab plateau, north of the Grand Cañon. Water for animals was available there only in occasional pools and small ponds, one of these being all that then remained of "Jacob Lake". Our camp was alongside of Jacob Lake Ranger Station, altitude about 7500 feet, overlooking the remnant of the "Lake", where birds came in considerable numbers to drink. Mr. D. Irvin Rasmussen, then Ranger at this station, asked me to verify his observation that Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeaks were among these visitors to the water. This I was able to do, recording the

visit of a half-dozen of these birds both morning and evening of June 24. Eight-power prism binoculars were used, and identification was as certain as it was possible to make it on the living birds.

As the Kaibab is comparatively little known, and since the altitude and forest conditions are essentially those in which the species occurs elsewhere, it seems likely that this is a part of its normal range, heretofore unknown, rather than a mere sporadic occurrence. Thus is added another species to the Arizona avifauna.—CHAS. T. VORHIES, *University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, June 17, 1930.*

Southerly Breeding Record of Sage Thrasher in California.—Diligent search for a nest of the Sage Thrasher (*Oroscoptes montanus*) in a more southerly location than any previously recorded finally has been successful. While on one of these hunting trips, April 27, 1930, in company with Fred Frazer and Rex Parker, we located a nest containing five fresh eggs. The locality was about twenty miles from, and a little west of north of, San Bernardino, California, this being fully ten miles south and a little west of Victorville, the most southerly location previously recorded (Rowley, Condor, xxx, 1928, p. 325). The elevation was about 3400 feet above sea level.

The nest was in a shrub of cotton thorn (*Tetradymia spinosa*), eighteen inches from the ground and so well concealed that it could not be seen from above. The bird was flushed from the nest two different times and in each case flew only a few feet, then ran to a juniper bush and became lost to view. It later appeared at close range on top of other bushes and in Joshua trees in company with its mate. Neither bird made any sound while we were at the nesting site.

The nest and eggs seem to be normal in every way. The weights of the eggs in grams are 3.36, 3.23, 3.17, 3.15, and 3.03.

Another nest containing five young birds was found in a similar location a week later and at a point less than five miles northwest of the previous location. In each case there was plenty of *Artemisia tridentata* at hand for host bushes, and it was a surprise to find the Sage Thrashers using the *Tetradymia spinosa*.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, May 15, 1930.*

Is the Lewis Woodpecker a Regular Breeder in the San Francisco Region?—The mind retains through life certain outstanding events of childhood days and wanderings. First acquaintance with uncommon birds can be recalled to mind as if occurring but a few months past. One such event of my early life was my first acquaintance with the Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*). I recall that it was in the early spring of the year when I was at the Presidio collecting sea shells with the veteran, Julius Arnheim. A large bird flew overhead which I did not recognize. It lit close by and I was able to see the markings plainly. It was not difficult to find it in the books at home and my list was increased to include the woodpecker "that flew like a crow".

In the "Directory to the Bird Life of the San Francisco Bay Region", Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 18, the Lewis Woodpecker is listed as an "erratic winter visitant." The same publication states that H. W. Carriger found several nests with fresh eggs to small young on May 16, 1926, in the sycamores and oaks south of Sunol, Alameda County. In the Condor (xxix, 1927, p. 165) Hoffmann states that he saw a pair of Lewis Woodpeckers entering a hole in a cottonwood near Gustine, Merced County, April 23, 1926, and that he saw an immature one in July, 1924, at the same place. As recorded in the Condor (xvi, 1914, p. 183) the present writer saw a pair feeding near Pleasanton, Alameda County, June 12, 1914.

The above compilation and my observations of the present spring would lead me to believe that the Lewis Woodpecker is more common in central California during the breeding season than is generally thought.

On April 20, 1930, I was in the vicinity of Coyote, Santa Clara County, about one mile west of the main highway between San Jose and Gilroy. At this point there is a grove of oaks scattered throughout the field and as we drove past, a Lewis Woodpecker flew across in front of the machine. We stopped and I soon found a pair staying in the vicinity of one of the trees but did not locate a definite nesting site. The next Saturday, April 26, I made a special trip to the same locality. The pair of birds was still around the same tree and I located a hole high up in