

bottom-lands are scrubby willows, more like bushes than like trees, growing singly or in small clumps, that reach a height of ten to twenty feet above the ground. At the end of May, 1928, these willows were standing in six to ten feet of water, with the unsubmerged branches just budding out as the flood reached its height. It was at this time that the Kingbirds appeared upon the watery scene and immediately began to build nests in these willows, half a mile and more from shore. (See fig. 17.) Of the three nests found by the author the lowest was about one foot from the water, the other two being one and a half and three feet high, respectively. These nests were in the line of willows indicated by arrows on the photograph. The two other members of the Academy party made trips on May 31 and June 4 over parts of the



Fig. 17. FLOOD OVER BOTTOM-LAND AT CRESTON, B. C., MAY 25, 1928;
ARROWS SHOW WHERE KINGBIRDS WERE NESTING.

flooded area still farther out, and reported kingbirds quite numerous there, also nesting. The nests examined by the writer were built of dead twigs from the willows themselves, with rather a "sketchy" lining, mostly of willow catkins.

These observations were made at Creston, British Columbia, about fourteen miles above Lake Kootenay, from which the flood waters extended even into northern Idaho. If the Kingbird was building nests over the water all along this area the bird might well be called "almost aquatic"!—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, December 1, 1930.*

Emperor Goose in Humboldt County, California.—We have noted that fragments of an Emperor Goose (*Philacte canagica*), found dead on the beach south of Buhnes Point, Humboldt Bay, March 1, 1925, are contained in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, California, under no. 52036, by gift from Mr. Franklin J. Smith of this city. Another specimen of Emperor Goose, taken by a local game hunter near Samoa, Humboldt Bay, December 3, 1927, which is in our collection, seems worthy of record. We, also, intend to present this specimen to the above Museum [later, no. 57187 there].—LAWRENCE ZERLANG and J. THOMAS FRASER, JR., *Eureka, California, January 24, 1931.*

The Streaked Horned Lark Breeds in Northwestern California.—Through the special effort and generosity of Mr. George D. Atwell, of Eureka, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology possesses four horned larks from Humboldt County which I identify as *Otocoris alpestris strigata*. Mr. Atwell collected these on the prairie-topped divide

at about 1800 feet altitude between Bear River and Eel River in Humboldt County about seven miles from Capetown. The birds there numbered about fifty pairs in the early summer of 1929. One of the birds, a male, no. 53976, was taken on May 9 with a nest and four fresh eggs which Mr. Atwell collected. Another of the four birds is a juvenile (no. 53983) not quite fully grown, taken June 2. In so far as known to Mr. Atwell in May and June, 1929, this colony, occupying a territory about one by one-half mile in extent, was the only one in Humboldt County.

While perhaps not extreme for *strigata*, the three adult males collected by Mr. Atwell are, together, as regards both measurements and color tones, much nearer that race than any other; indeed I cannot distinguish one of them from a breeding male from Salem, Oregon. The juvenile is darker colored than any juvenile, of whatever race, I have seen from elsewhere in California.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, December 7, 1930.*

Occurrence of the White-throated Sparrow in the San Joaquin Valley, California.—During a day's field work in the Porterville district of Tulare County, California, in the fall of 1930, a sparrow with conspicuous whitish color on the chin was seen in company with migrating fox sparrows. It was watched with much interest for several minutes while feeding on the ground with the fox sparrows, which birds apparently "had a grudge" against the odd one and continually made advances when it approached too closely to any one of them. I was not certain as to my identification of this bird at sight and collected it for positive proof.

This specimen, number 748 in my collection, was an immature female White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) and was taken on October 12, 1930. The exact locality of the occurrence was about ten miles east of the town of Porterville, in the willow association adjacent to the Tule River. It was interesting to note that the bird was in the company of fox sparrows and not with other zonotrichias, as seems to be the general rule when White-throated Sparrows have been recorded previously in California.—J. STUART ROWLEY, *Alhambra, California, November 23, 1930.*

Western Mockingbird, Oregon Vesper Sparrow, and Merrill Song Sparrow in Sonoma County, California.—On August 17, 1930, two Western Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) were seen in chaparral (composed mostly of *Ceanothus jepsonii*, *Quercus durata*, *Rhamnus californica*, and *Umbellularia californica*) on a ridge northwest of Fitch Mountain, near Healdsburg. The appearance of a Mockingbird in this county is interesting, and the early date of occurrence, August 17, makes it even more so. One of these birds was collected (now no. 56243, Mus. Vert. Zool., Berkeley).

A Merrill Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia merrilli*) male, was collected near Healdsburg, California, October, 1922. This is a very westerly record, as the race *merrilli* occurs east of the humid coast belt. This specimen is now no. 56260, Mus. Vert. Zool.

An Oregon Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus affinis*), male, was seen on October 13, 1930, about two miles north of Healdsburg. It was with a flock of about twenty Western Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus*) most of which were perched on a fence separating two fields of dead grass. Only one Vesper Sparrow could be recognized in the flock. It was collected (now no. 56258, Mus. Vert. Zool.). Healdsburg is in the north-central part of Sonoma County.—C. W. EDGE, *Healdsburg, California, December 9, 1930.*

The Barrow Golden-eye on Lake Merritt, Oakland, California.—On the afternoon of October 28, 1930, while studying the ducks on Lake Merritt, with Gordon Bolander, I noticed what appeared to be a Barrow Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta islandica*). Positive identification was at this time difficult because of the duck's distance from shore. On November 28, when we again visited the lake, the Golden-eye was still present. With the aid of binoculars we were able to study the duck and note the actions and the characteristic markings. The black back with a row of white spots on each side, the black line in front of the bend of the wing, extending down to the waterline, and the slender white crescents on the sides of the head in front of the eyes, were plainly seen. The head was high and crested and at close range the purplish iridescence could be discerned.