

Now that we had three captive cowbirds we decided to move on toward chat territory. About an hour later we heard the chat's song. The chat is shy and retiring but we knew one weakness—he likes spiders. Accordingly we prepared a tempting meal and waited, possibly fifteen minutes, before we caught one, and soon after caught another—two very fine specimens, one mature male chat and a young male, a bird of the season.

The three Cowbirds and the two Long-tailed Chats are now objects of much interest in the aviary, where they remain in the best of health and condition.—JOHN A. BROCK, 5840 Seminary Court, Oakland, California, June 22, 1932.

The Hawk Owl in Northern Idaho.—On August 27, 1923, I was walking along the Lolo Trail which follows the divide between the Lochsa River and the North Fork of the Clearwater, Idaho County, Idaho, when what I believe to be a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) flew out of a thicket and alighted near the top of a scrubby hemlock within forty feet of me. It took wing again almost immediately, but during the few seconds that it remained I noted the unmistakable round head, particularly as its method of flight had led me to believe it to be some species of hawk.

On November 3, 1925, I collected a young male specimen of Hawk Owl at Stanley Butte, some ten or twelve miles south of the Lochsa River. The August record I present only as a possible indication of the nesting of this bird in northern Idaho. As a bit of corroborative evidence I might mention the fact that before I had shot the November specimen I was positive as to its identity with the bird that I had seen two years previously, even though these two were the only living specimens of the Hawk Owl that I had ever seen.—R. L. HAND, *Avery, Idaho, October 6, 1932.*

Zonal Range of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in Northwestern Montana.—The breeding range of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) is generally considered to be the Canadian life-zone. The latest A. O. U. Check-list (p. 238) names only this zone in describing the entire geographical breeding range of the species in North America. This limitation to the Canadian zone is concurred in by most references concerning the range of this nuthatch in the Rocky Mountain region. Thus Cary, in his report on the life zones of Wyoming (North American Fauna, no. 42, 1917, p. 44), lists the Red-breasted Nuthatch as a breeding bird only in the Canadian zone. In the adjoining state of Montana, however, according to Saunders (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 14, 1921, p. 159), this species "breeds in yellow pine forests in the Transition zone, and is only found in summer where such forests occur."

During the past twelve years I have become quite well acquainted with the habits of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in extreme northwestern Montana. Throughout the country with which I am familiar—which includes nearly all of Lincoln County, the western and northern parts of Flathead County, and portions of the western slope of Glacier National Park—this bird, during the breeding season, ranges from the lowest forested valleys to timberline, nesting regularly in the Transition and Canadian zones, and probably at times in the Hudsonian zone. During spring and summer, individuals may be found locally in every type of coniferous forest occurring within this area.

The birds seem to nest most commonly in Transition-zone woods of western larch and Douglas fir, and in forests containing these two trees with a mixture of western yellow pine or of lodgepole pine. (A census of the breeding birds inhabiting an 80-acre tract of fir-larch-yellow pine woods near Fortine, taken each season during the four years of 1928 to 1931, showed the presence of 11, 9, 14, and 11 pairs, respectively, of Red-breasted Nuthatches.) Less commonly, during the nesting season, these birds regularly inhabit yellow pine forests of the Transition zone; fir-larch-lodgepole pine forests in the lower portions of the Canadian zone; upper Canadian zone woods containing one, two, or all of the last named trees together with alpine fir; and forests of alpine fir and Engelmann spruce in this zone. The preferred Canadian-zone habitat appears to be the basins and valleys at the headwaters of mountain streams, where the spruce-alpine fir type of forest predominates. In this zone the Red-breasted Nuthatch is comparatively rare in forests representing various mixtures of western white pine, western red cedar, grand fir, and western hemlock. It occurs frequently, how-

ever, on open mountain slopes extending from the upper borders of the Canadian zone through the Hudsonian zone to timberline. Although I have not chanced to find a nest of this species within such an area, I have noted young birds not long on the wing in Hudsonian-zone growths of alpine fir, white-bark pine, and Lyall larch.

My observations on the range of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in winter have been limited to Lincoln County; but over the rest of the adjoining area described above its habits are probably similar. In winters when the birds occur as commonly as in summer, they may be found locally in all the forest types which they frequent during the breeding season, showing the same preference for fir-larch woods in the Transition zone and heavily-forested high valleys and basins in the Canadian zone. During winters when most of the nuthatches have migrated from the region, a few remain throughout the season in the Hudsonian and upper Canadian zones, even when they are entirely absent from the Transition and Canadian zone forests of the lower valleys and foothills.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, September 19, 1932.*

Uncommon Winter Birds at Davis, California, in 1932.—The severe winter weather early in 1932 brought several uncommon bird visitants to the "plains" of the Sacramento Valley. On February 13, Mr. Leo K. Wilson saw a dozen or more Western Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi*) in trees along Putah Creek at Davis. On February 16, I saw five in almond trees in town and they were present in the same location at least until March 7; I also saw a group of eight on the University Farm on April 4, and one bird was heard there on April 7. Mr. J. A. Neff reported the species as present in Marysville for a month up to March 14, and on March 30 he saw about twenty in Woodland, feeding on seeds of elm trees about the County Building. Dr. H. Gibbons reported them in his garden at Sacramento late in March. A flock was reported feeding on almond buds at Dunnigan, Yolo County, whence I received a specimen shot on March 26. These scattered observations suggest that the species was present over a considerable area during the late winter and early spring season.

On March 5 I watched a group of at least eight of the grosbeaks, including both sexes, which were feeding on the blossoms of soft-shelled almonds along A Street in Davis. The trees were at, or a little past, the peak of blossoming. The birds were biting in at the bases of the blossoms and eating out the then small ovaries. On the sidewalk below the trees were many dropped blossoms each of which had a cut near the base of the corolla where a grosbeak had extracted the favored food item. Despite the fact that the birds were busy in these trees for several days and a multitude of blossoms was removed, a fair crop of nuts resulted. Some almonds of the previous year's crop remained on the trees and a few of these were being eaten as well. Later, grosbeaks were present in an orchard of seedling almonds on University land opposite my home but I could not be certain that they used these trees other than for perching.

Cedar Waxwings are of fairly regular occurrence at Davis in winter, but more than the usual numbers were present early in 1932. On January 17, a flock of about twenty Cedar Waxwings came into a tree in our home garden and among them I detected one Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps*). Scrutiny of flocks of the more common species, in nine years of residence at Davis, has not revealed any other individual of the Bohemian.

The first local record for the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata fasciata*) was of a bird picked up dead just southeast of Davis on January 13 this year by Mr. W. Warner Wilson. On February 14, Mr. Leo K. Wilson and I saw at least six of these pigeons along Putah Creek, just south of the University Farm. Mr. Wilson told me this is the first season the birds have occurred here within his recollection. A week previously pigeons to the number of more than six hundred were observed in trees on ranches west of the University Farm by Mrs. W. W. Wilson; some were feeding in fields being seeded to barley. Mrs. Frank Campbell reported them as still present on March 2.

The California Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus californicus*) has been noted here in winter a few times during the past decade, but this last winter the species was more common and more widespread than usual. My first record was on January 17 when four adults were feeding on buds of a Tilton apricot and later on berries of *Pyracantha coccinea* scattered on the ground at my home. A small band stayed about