

subdivisions and "improvements", including complete tree surgery, have probably produced sufficient nesting cavity shortage to force stucco and tile upon the bluebird's attention.—ROLAND CASE ROSS, *Los Angeles City Schools, Los Angeles, California, December 7, 1932.*

The Bridled Titmouse near Tucson, Arizona.—In view of the scarcity of published records of the occurrence of the Bridled Titmouse (*Baeolophus wollweberi annexus*) below the oak belt in Arizona, the following may be of interest. On October 2, 1932, at 11:25 a. m., two of these birds were seen in my front lot, three miles west of Old Fort Lowell and about a quarter of a mile south of Rillito Creek, elevation approximately 2400 feet, Pima County, Arizona. They were traveling west and were observed in a mesquite tree at a distance of thirty feet through 8x binoculars.

The surrounding district consists chiefly of small scattered farms interspersed with areas of creosote bush and a few mesquite and catclaw trees. Close by is the dry Rillito Creek bed with its border of mesquite and a few cottonwoods and desert broom in the bottoms. A mile to the north is the wide alluvial fringe of the Santa Catalina Mountains with giant sahuaro, palo verde and cholla.—A. H. ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, November 19, 1932.*

The Gila Woodpecker in the Imperial Valley of California.¹—On March 21, 1932, I saw what I was certain were two Gila Woodpeckers (*Centurus uropygialis uropygialis*) in a row of cottonwoods near the town of Calipatria near the south end of Salton Sea, but there was no opportunity for certain identification; while the circumstance was noted as "probable" there was the chance that flickers might have been what actually were seen. However, on June 14, while en route to Arizona in company with Mr. Robert T. Moore, several of these woodpeckers were seen on fence posts at various places along the highway between Brawley and El Centro. They were tame enough to permit us to stop the car and examine them at leisure. Again, on the return trip, early in July, I saw occasional birds in cottonwoods and on roadside fence posts near Holtville, El Centro and Brawley. Mr. A. B. Howell, to whom I mentioned the presence of Gila Woodpeckers in the Valley, tells me that he first noticed them in the vicinity of his ranch near Calexico in 1931.

These birds, until now, were known as residents of California only through their occupancy of the narrow strip of riparian growth along the Colorado River. Their spread into the Imperial Valley to points as far west as the southern end of Salton Sea is unquestionably due to the planting of cottonwoods and other trees in the locality, one which was formerly unsuited to their requirements. The route of ingress has most probably been along the International Canal rather than over the inhospitable desert to the east.

Inquiry at several date farms in the Coachella Valley at the north end of the sea has, to date, indicated that Gila Woodpeckers have not invaded the groves there. It would seem to be only a question of time, though, before such is the case, an invasion which will probably not be hailed with enthusiasm by date growers.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, December 7, 1932.*

Early Nesting of the Leconte Thrasher.—Many years ago M. French Gilman of Banning and I, while wandering over the desert in Coachella Valley, California, found a nest containing young of Leconte Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei lecontei*). We judged that the nest must have contained eggs during late January and we then decided that we would some time find a set of eggs in that month and establish an early record.

For a number of years after this we made numerous trips to the desert in late January in our quest but with absolutely no results, and finally discontinued them. Late January of this year was cold and an acquaintance remarked to me that it would be a long time before I would be collecting eggs. This discouraging remark proved to be a spark that made me reply, "No, I will start on a trip tomorrow morning at five." True to my remark I started in the cold with Fred Frazer and Rex Parker for helpers in the renewed quest.

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.