

the glass, sometimes perched upon a twig that brushed against the window, but pecking always without cessation. Presumably this was the male; its mate sometimes perched nearby, watching the battle but never taking part.

I did not keep an exact record of the time during which this performance continued, but, roughly, it was throughout the month of April. Then there was peace for about three weeks. On May 18 the combatant returned to the window and for ten days more the battle raged. I do not know during what stage of the nesting activities this fighting went on, but during the interregnum, early in May, a flock of young birds was frequently seen in the nearby shrubbery. Perhaps the renewed fighting indicated the beginning of a second nesting.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, June 15, 1933.*

Blue-footed Booby in San Bernardino County, California.—On November 2, 1933, a bird was brought in to me for identification by Mr. Malone, the resident game warden. It proved to be a Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxi*). The bird was shot November 1 at Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains some thirty miles northeast of the city of San Bernardino. It had been observed flying about over the lake, occasionally plunging into it from a considerable height, for several days prior to the time it was shot.

The specimen has been made into a study skin and is now in the San Bernardino Junior College collection. A check was made on this species in the Los Angeles County Museum; Mr. George Willett, ornithologist there, informed me that two sight records, one accompanied by a photograph, have been reported from California. This specimen from Big Bear Lake seems to be the most northerly record.—ELTON R. EDGE, *San Bernardino Union Junior College, San Bernardino, California, January 3, 1934.*

White-throated Sparrows in Marin County, California.—During my many years of ornithological activity while residing in the San Geronimo Valley, Marin County, California, only three occurrences of the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) in that county had been recorded; nor had any of this species appeared at my banding station there (established in 1928) until the present fall of 1933, when one was noted on October 21. This was taken for the California Academy of Sciences as a record. The condition of the skull showed that it was an immature bird.

November 18 and 19 seemed to be the crest of the migratory wave of Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia coronata*) for this fall season and the traps were kept busy. An early rain had started the grass, destroying the seeds that these birds largely fed upon, which caused the birds to be in a better humor for appreciating the bait that was used to attract them to the traps.

Late in the afternoon of November 18, while I was banding some Golden-crowns at a little table near a battery of traps, there appeared from the large brush pile close-by, a White-throated Sparrow feeding unconcernedly upon the bait scattered from the trap that I had just placed upon the table. It paid no attention to me in spite of the motions I was making in taking from the trap and banding its occupants, and very soon it flew into a two-compartment Potter trap about twelve feet away, pecked around inside for a short while and calmly flew out again without touching the drop door release. This trick the White-throat played at two more traps in quick succession, greatly to my surprise and disappointment, and then disappeared. However, this sort of game could not be long kept up without something happening, and there was another day coming. It happened on the first round next morning and the White-throat was adorned with band numbered C155566. On being released the bird vanished from sight and did not again appear.

Incidentally, the three days passed at the station were about the busiest in its history, resulting in the banding of 74 Golden-crowned Sparrows and the recording of 116 "repeats" and 6 "returns", proving the immediate presence of 196 individuals of that species, which seems a fairly good number to find visiting a little half-acre garden. The banding dates of the "returns" varied from the fall of 1930 to the spring of 1933.

The next week-end trip to the station, November 25 and 26, showed but few new arrivals present, and only 15 Golden-crowns were banded; but birds already banded were there in great abundance. On November 25 another White-throat

appeared. It was soon taken and banded number C155616. It repeated once next day and was not seen again.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, November 30, 1933.*

The Mongolian Plover and other Birds at Goodnews Bay, Alaska.—The United States National Museum has just received a further small contribution of birds from Mr. D. Bernard Bull of Goodnews Bay, Alaska. The three birds were all collected at Goodnews Bay.

Charadrius mongolus mongolus. Mongolian Plover. An adult male was collected on June 10, 1933. This constitutes the fourth locality record for North America, the other three being from Choris Peninsula, where two were taken in 1849, Cape Prince of Wales, June 11, 1922, and Nunivak Island, where, in August and September, 1927. Mr. C. G. Harrold collected two and saw a few others.

Aphriza virgata. Surf Bird. One male, August 12, 1933.

Brachyramphus brevirostris. Kittlitz Murrelet. A female was collected on June 21, 1933. It has the abdomen more heavily barred with dusky than any of the few other specimens in the United States National Museum. The locality is of interest as this bird has been reported rarely north of the Aleutian Islands. However, in view of the paucity of northern data, this may not have any very definite significance.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., November 28, 1933.*

The Black-tailed Gnatcatcher and the Dwarf Cowbird.—It was not until May 25, 1933, that I found a nest of the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila melanura californica*) in this vicinity parasitized by the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*). The nest was four feet from the ground and near the top of a black sage bush growing on a dry hillside, a few miles east of Riverside, California, the type locality for this gnatcatcher. The nest was typical and without the ornaments on the outside which the Western Gnatcatcher always uses. There were four eggs of the owner and one of the parasite; they were fresh and the weight in grams respectively, 1.11 (the largest I have taken), 1.06, 1.03, 1.01, and 2.83. The average of thirty-eight eggs of this gnatcatcher that I have weighed is 0.99 gram and the smallest but 0.82 gram. Another nest was found in the same vicinity on the same day with three eggs, and when I visited it on May 27, one of the eggs had a hole in it for which I blamed a cowbird.

It must be that the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher has not suffered from the cowbirds to any great extent in any locality, as Friedmann in his book "The Cowbirds" fails to mention them as victims. In this locality one of the probable reasons for their escape has been due to their usual habitat being on the dry bush-covered hillsides or dry washes between 700 and 2000 feet elevation above sea level. Another reason is that they nest rather early, April 10 and May 30 being my records of extreme dates.

The usual complement of eggs of this gnatcatcher is four and I have never seen any more. The brooding bird can often be touched while on the nest.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, November 28, 1933.*

Faulty Information on the Birds of Galicia.—In an article by Thomas T. McCabe and Elinor B. McCabe (*Condor*, 35, 1933, pp. 136-147) there are several references to J. P. Prazak's paper "Materialien zu einer Ornithologie Ost-Galiziens" (*Jour. für Ornith.*, 45, 1897, pp. 225-348, 365-479; 46, 1898, pp. 148-226, 317-376). This article should never be quoted in scientific work. The author suffered from mental instability; his vast collections existed only in his imagination and his collectors were also non-existent. Those who wish for further particulars will find them in the *Ornithologisches Jahrbuch* (10, 1899, pp. 113-116) by von Tschusi, and by Dr. Lorenz von Liburnau in "Falsche Daten" (*Die Schwalbe*, 1899, pp. 129-137). (See also note in the *Jour. für Ornith.*, 1899, p. 535, by Reichenow.) Prazak's tragic death and its attendant circumstances render it needless to say more. It is agreed among ornithologists to treat the paper as non-existent and never to quote from it.—FRANCIS C. R. JOURDAIN, *Whitekirk, Southbourne, Bournemouth, England, November 10, 1933.*