ruined it for banding purposes as far as the Nuttall Sparrow is concerned. In the very best place now stands the East Wing of the Academy buildings. In other places bushes have grown into trees or have been removed and the sparrows have been driven to other cover. However, along the main road and the adjoining parking space across from the Academy two parallel rows of close-cut hedge, mostly of escallonia, have grown to such size and thickness as to make a good shelter and have been much frequented by the Nuttall Sparrows. On the north side of the outer hedge there is a walk, lined with benches, whereon many people sit in pleasant weather and often scatter crumbs for the birds. As the old places were no longer suitable for banding birds the scheme was tried, of setting traps among these benches in the earlier part of winter mornings, before park visitors were apt to appear in large enough numbers to interfere with the work. Even then it was necessary to keep watch over the traps for fear of pilfering by strolling youngsters.

The Nuttalls were very tame here and at first would readily enter the traps, but invaders soon appeared in the shape of the almost ubiquitous English Sparrow. During the former trapping an individual of this species would occasionally appear at a trap, even when this was under the bushes, and once in a while one would be caught, but no serious trouble occurred. Out in the open, however, among the benches on the pathway the English Sparrow became rather numerous and would clean up all the bait that was outside of the traps, but not a single one would cross a threshold. After the arrival of these invaders the number of the Nuttall Sparrows caught rapidly diminished until, in a day or so, not a single bird of this species would enter a trap —not even those that had been accustomed to enter the traps up to the time of this invasion—so that the pathway scheme had to be abandoned.

A last effort to attract the Nuttall Sparrows was made by placing under a cypress tree that was out of sight of passers-by, a rectangular trap of wire netting, 36x24 inches in area and 6 inches high, with one side propped up and with bait scattered under and around it. This trap was visited several times a day for several days and the bait replenished as needed to replace what was taken by mice or rats during the night. All the bait outside of the trap area was soon taken by the birds but *not a single sparrow was noted inside of it!*

As above mentioned, the Nuttalls had freely entered the traps before the appearance of the English Sparrows upon the scene. They had not only entered but, after being banded, had kept repeating their visits, some Nuttalls even entering the traps several times a day. Evidently a fear of the traps had become fixed in the brains of the Nuttall Sparrows either by means of direct communication from the English Sparrows or by force of example. Which was it?—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, January 1, 1934.*

Midwinter Occurrence of Costa Hummingbird in California.—At about midday on January 9, 1934, I saw a male Costa Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) in my yard at Azusa, California. The bird, which was active and in good plumage, disappeared after feeding briefly at the blossoms of a flowering quince, and was not seen again during the month.

Referring to the recently published *Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 21*, this appears to be the first known occurrence of the species on the Pacific slope of California between the months of September (26th) and February (20th). As a matter of record, it may be added that the present winter has been an exceptionally mild one in this locality. Evidently this fact did not, however, influence the migration of the Allen Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*), which was first seen on January 30, about the normal date.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, January 31, 1934.*

Some Records from Southern California.—In recently reviewing some personal notebooks covering observations over the past eleven years, I find the following records which may be worthy of note. With but one exception, field identification only, constitutes the evidence; but in every case such identification has been carefully made at close range. Mr. George Willett of the Los Angeles Museum has kindly checked these records.

Egretta thula brewsteri. Western Snowy Egret. One bird was observed on

August 27, 1926, at Playa del Rey along the edge of an inlet. Identification was based upon its size as compared with that of several gulls standing very close to the egret, the latter standing only a little higher than the gulls and having a body roughly comparable with theirs in size. On March 21, 1932, another bird was seen near the Bolsa Chica Gun Club, Orange County. On February 21, 1933, two birds were noted, each at a different point between Seal Beach and the Bolsa Chica Gun Club.

Elanus leucurus majusculus. White-tailed Kite. An adult was observed in late January, 1931, in a field near Balboa Beach. When the same locality was visited a week later, the bird was not seen.

Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis. Osprey. On July 22, 1925, at Laguna Beach a bird was seen at rest on a tall pole and also in flight.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater Yellow-legs. A one-legged bird was observed on July 21, 1927, at Oceanside, San Diego County.

Sitta carolinensis aculeata. Slender-billed Nuthatch. One bird was seen on August 31, 1925, at Sunland (within the northern city limits of Los Angeles).

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing. A small flock, apparently of migrants, was seen on the rainy afternoon of May 21, 1933, in Pasadena.

Loxia curvirostra subsp. Crossbill. A dead male with distinctly yellowish tinged plumage was found on March 25, 1923, near Pasadena, at the base of a eucalyptus tree. It apparently had been dead only a short time.—LYDIA BOWEN, *Pasadena, California, January 17, 1934.*

The Lower California Say Phoebe in Southeastern California.—Two Say Phoebes secured by the writer in November and December, 1933, on the shore of Salton Sea, near Kane Springs, Imperial County, when compared with specimens of *Sayornis saya saya* from coastal localities exhibited color characters setting them off from the typical subspecies. As there were no comparable examples of S. *s. quiescens* in the Los Angeles Museum, these two birds were forwarded to Dr. Joseph Grinnell at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where they were examined by him and identified as of the Lower California form. Nine additional specimens secured later in the same region all appear to represent the same race. The above eleven birds were all taken within ten miles of Kane Springs, between November 26, 1933, and January 9, 1934. On January 23, 1934, two Say Phoebes were secured on the Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella Valley, Riverside County. One of these is apparently typical of *quiescens*, and the other is somewhat intermediate between that race and *S. s. saya.*

In attempting to define the status of *quiescens* in the Colorado Desert region, a rather puzzling problem arises. While the two races, in fresh plumage, are readily separable, the writer is unable to detect differences between breeding birds, which are all more or less worn. An examination of two spring birds in the L. B. Bishop collection, one taken at Calexico, March 9, 1926, and the other at Fort Yuma, March 25, 1929, fails to clarify the situation as the plumage of these specimens is so badly worn that it seems impossible definitely to assign them to either race. Therefore, while it is apparent that the winter Say Phoebe of the Salton Sea region is mainly, or entirely, the same as the bird of Lower California, whether the breeding bird is of the same race is not yet determined.—GEORGE WILLETT, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, January 29, 1934.*

Louisiana Herons at San Diego.—On February 10, 1934, E. H. Glidden, state fish and game warden, and the writer, while making a local census of Black Brant, saw two Louisiana Herons (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*) on Mission Bay, which is within the city limits of San Diego. They were in the company of three Snowy Egrets, and were watched for some time at close range through 8-power binoculars as they scampered with surprising activity over a mud-bank in search of food. There was no question of their identity. Incidentally, the Brant count netted 161 individuals, three flocks of 61, 51 and 42 on Mission Bay, and a group of 7 on San Diego Bay. An Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*) was several times observed at Mission Bay, once carrying a fish.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, February 24, 1934.*