

owl to that particular perch. On the coldest mornings she would continue to rest there on the walk, with her back as close to the porch door as possible. We thought it must be for the heat that came from the house, and thereafter placed an oil stove just inside that canvassed door. Ofttimes *Lechusa* remained until noon, and if we needed anything out that way we simply waded snow clear around the house, rather than disturb our cunning guest.

So long as we made no attempt to touch her she allowed us to come very close. She would look up through her eyebrows like a bashful child. One evening she was in a shed and I captured her, expecting my hands to be torn to shreds. But *Lechusa* made not a single effort to mutilate me. I presented her with band number A238126 and continued to play with her for an hour or so. She seemed to be thoroughly enamored when I stroked her head.

Our police force (Blue-fronted Jays and Nutcrackers) always scolded when she was about, but only once did we see her bother any of the birds. Then it was one of the jays that she caught about two o'clock in the afternoon of a bright, clear day. We could scarcely believe our eyes. As she carried that jay to a tree it looked twice as large as its bearer.

This past winter (1933-34) we had no sub-zero weather. Nor did *Lechusa* come near us. We hope the weather was the reason for such neglect rather than that she is no more.

There are other hawks and owls that spend more or less time in the vicinity of Florence Lake, but so far they have evaded identification. The hawks have been too high for binoculars to reveal characteristics, or the bones too lazy to crawl out of bed to go looking for the owner of the hootings, which we know to be those of owls; but which ones we have not yet the slightest idea.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Florence Lake, Big Creek, California, May 5, 1934.*

Vermilion Flycatcher Increasing in Coachella Valley, California.—Since I first found the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*) breeding in Coachella, California, in 1928 (Condor, 31, 1929, p. 75), it has been my good fortune to visit the vicinity frequently. It will be gratifying to all bird lovers to learn that these gorgeous beauties have now increased until they are not uncommon. I have seen over a dozen within a few hours on several occasions. A number of nests with eggs, as well as old nests, have been observed, and on March 25, 1934, I saw several young birds which could fly, although still being fed by the old birds. A female was on a nest containing two fresh eggs on March 3, 1935, while the male bird was perched about fifty feet away.

All of the ranchers with whom I have talked have noticed the birds, although some of them do not know them by name, and seem to be as anxious as I am to have them increase.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, March 11, 1935.*

Lewis Woodpecker in Death Valley.—About sunrise on October 25, 1934, several Lewis Woodpeckers (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) were observed on the golf course on Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, California. These birds, five or six in number, were perching on fence posts along the edge of the grassy area and were not very active at such an early hour. They allowed me to approach quite near before flying to other posts. I can find no published posts. I can find no published record of the Lewis Woodpecker in Death Valley and believe that this adds one more species to the list of that region.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, January 25, 1935.*

Is the Northwestern Robin Migratory?—The breeding range of the Northwestern Robin (*Turdus migratorius caurinus*) is given in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. Check-list (1931, p. 256) as "from Glacier Bay, Alaska, south through the Pacific coast region of British Columbia and Washington." Nothing is said as to whether this race is resident within its breeding range or whether its population in whole or in any part migrates for the winter season more or less distance to the southward. Brooks and Swarth, however, say (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 17, 1925, p. 123) on this score: "Probably permanent resident over much of its habitat; certainly so in the southern part of Vancouver Island . . . and on the southern mainland coast [of British Columbia]."

Referring now to California, Dawson (Birds Calif., 1923, p. 760) ascribed *caurinus*

to this state on "largely presumptive" basis. He thought that "many winter birds and early spring migrants are much darker-breasted than are the breeding birds of our own mountains," and he cited in particular one specimen (no. 19709, Mus. Vert. Zool.) as being "as dark as any specimen from Vancouver Island"—hence, by implication, to be referred to *caurinus*. A recent, much more authoritative record is contained in Hellmayr's "Part VII" of his "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas" (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Publ. 330, Zool. Ser., 13, 1934, p. 353). Definitely specified, out of four specimens of *caurinus* listed as in the Field Museum, are three from "California (Nicasio, 1; Sevaive Flats, 2)." By inference from these records, by Dawson and by Hellmayr, one must conclude that the Northwestern Robin is at least partially migratory, individuals reaching even to southern California. Since this conclusion would mean adding a subspecies to our "State List," I deemed it desirable to verify the identifications.

By courtesy of Director S. C. Simms, of the Field Museum, the three specimens of that source are now before me. The data borne by their labels are as follows: Field Mus., no. 70130, Nicasio [Marin Co.], Calif., Feb. 16, 1911; collected by C. A. Allen; ♂ [as marked on original label, though "♀" on museum label]. Field Mus., nos. 70128-29, ♂ and ♀; San Sevaive Flats [head of San Sevaive Canyon, 5 miles or so NNE of Etiwanda], San Bernardino Co., Calif.; Dec. 27, 1915; collected by Halsted G. White. No. 70130 is an adult male, showing but little wear and probably only slightly faded; it has the depth of color below, and minimum of white scalloping, usual for male robins over one year old; wing 131.5 mm. No. 70128 is a first-winter male, in fresh, very slightly abraded plumage; white scalloping beneath, conspicuous; wing 133 mm. No. 70129, marked female, is, I judge, in first-winter plumage, little abraded or faded; wing 137.5 mm.

The Dawson-recorded bird above referred to (no. 19709, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was taken by me March 9, 1911, at Tracy, San Joaquin Co., Calif. It is in "high" male plumage—black head, deep red breast, etc.; just the amount of wear had taken place to "reveal" the ground-colors in clearest tone, with the result that it is, in truth, about the richest colored bird in our entire California-taken series. Its wing measures 143.0 mm.

Now to the point: None of these four birds recorded from California as "*caurinus*" are, in my judgment, really of that race; all are *Turdus migratorius propinquus* that is, of this race as represented by robins which breed within the boundaries of California. My reasons for this determination are as follows:

Caurinus, like many other passeriform races of the northwest coast region, is small. Using wing-length roughly as an index to general size, I find that eleven males at hand from Vancouver Island show this measurement to average 130.8 mm.; extremes, 125.9 and 134.8. The Californian examples are larger. Then the dorsal darkness of true *caurinus* is marked as compared with all Californian birds; furthermore, even in worn summer plumage, this dorsal color is of a deep olive-gray tone rather than deep mouse gray. In the winter plumage of *caurinus* (for example, adult male from Vancouver, B. C., January 28, 1929, collected by R. A. Cumming) the deep olive tone of the mantle (inclusive of "edgings" of wings) is notably different from the hair brown tone of the California-taken "*caurinus*" now under scrutiny.

I am now sorry that I did not ask also to see the Washington example Hellmayr listed under "*caurinus*." Perhaps that one, too, was really *propinquus*—in which case I suspect Hellmayr's mistake was due to his lack of opportunity to compare with true *caurinus*. At any rate, it now appears that, as far as shown by material examined by me, the race *caurinus*, if migratory to the southward at all, does not reach as far as California. As to the status of robins in Washington and Oregon, I have insufficient information for warranting any general statement. Here is something for northwestern bird-students to look into: the winter-summer status of robin populations there, and the respective subspecific identification of these.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 17, 1935.*

Snow Buntings Perching on Trees.—During last January, in common with most of North America, we in Saskatchewan experienced some very severe weather. This severe weather caused many of our winter birds to seek shelter around the ranch buildings. While feeding my cattle in a yard sheltered by willow bushes I was interested one day in watching a flock of about forty Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) which were attracted by the seeds in the hay. Now and then buntings would circle