

knows? Song Sparrows have been recorded as probable migrants from the mainland to Catalina previously, by Meadows (Condor, 36, 1934, p. 40). A twenty-two mile flight over water by a bird of such localized habits as a Song Sparrow, it seems to me, is unusually long, and it may be that small boats travelling to Catalina Island play a large part in aiding these birds in their offshore pioneering, as recorded here.

The "hitch-hiker" recorded above recalls a similar incident to my mind, in which a California Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva brewsteri*) figured. It was on May 30, 1927, on the annual excursion of the San Diego Society of Natural History to Los Coronados Islands, off Lower California. Shortly after leaving San Diego Harbor, several members of the party observed a Yellow Warbler flying a short distance from the boat. The bird was seen at intervals for some time, maintaining approximately the same speed as our launch, about eight knots per hour. After we were nearly five miles offshore, the warbler approached the boat and finally perched on the roof of the pilot's cabin. There it rested for half an hour or so and then took to flight again. Three times it rested on the boat during the trip. The last time it flew off, about two miles from Corpus Christi (North Coronado Island), it increased its speed of flight and soon was lost to sight beyond the bow of the boat toward the island.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, October 16, 1935.*

Sage Hen Breeding in California.—In my collection there is an egg of the Sage Hen (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) collected, April 25, 1916, at Fort Bidwell, Modoc County, California, by M. French Gilman. The egg was infertile and was in a nest at the base of sagebrush. Young had hatched in the nest. It is believed that this is the first record for eggs of the Sage Hen in California.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, September 21, 1935.*

Two New Records for Arizona.—The Arkansas Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria psaltria*) and the Nevada Cowbird (*Molothrus ater artemisiae*) have not to my knowledge been previously recorded from Arizona. Specimens of both of these races are in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, California. I am grateful to Dr. J. Grinnell for identifying the specimens and to Mr. James O. Stevenson for his part in collecting them.

An adult female Arkansas Goldfinch (no. 67447, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was collected from a group of about twenty birds by Stevenson on July 4, 1934, from the mountain willows and narrow-leaved cottonwoods of the high Upper Sonoran Zone, 3 miles south of Springerville, 7050 feet, Apache County. This was evidently a breeding bird, as it contained a large egg in its oviduct. Another adult female (no. 67448, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was taken by the writer from a group of five birds on the same day in the narrow-leaved cottonwoods on Blue River, seven miles north of Blue Post Office, 34 miles south-southeast of Springerville, 6250 feet, in Greenlee County. The vegetation at this locality was an intermingling of both Upper Sonoran and Transition plants.

Although the number of specimens taken is limited, it seems probable that the common breeding subspecies of "green-backed" goldfinch throughout the Upper Sonoran Zone, at least on the north and east slopes of the White and Blue mountains of east-central Arizona, is *S. p. psaltria*. It appears, therefore, that the range of this subspecies extends westward to eastern Arizona, the territory formerly thought to be occupied by *S. p. hesperophilus*.

An adult female Nevada Cowbird (no. 67425, Mus. Vert. Zool.), was taken by Stevenson from a group of four birds on July 7, 1934, in the sagebrush and willows of the Upper Sonoran Zone, 3 miles south of Springerville, 7050 feet. This was evidently a breeding bird since a large egg was found in its oviduct.

There are many sight records of cowbirds from the vicinity of Springerville, and it is likely that *M. a. artemisiae*, whose range extends southward into east-central Arizona, is the breeding form in this region north of the White Mountains.—RANDOLPH JENKS, *Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, Tucson, September 15, 1935.*

An Early Estimate of California's Fauna.—In Grinnell's "A Distributional List of the Birds of California" (1915), the following statement is made in the introduction: "Apparently the first attempt to catalog all the birds known at any one time from California was made by Dr. James G. Cooper in his unsigned contribution to Cronise's *Natural Wealth of California* (pp. 448-480), published in 1868. A brief running account is there given of 353 species." With this statement fairly clear in my memory, my attention was naturally caught by an entry along similar lines that I chanced to stumble across in a publication of earlier date than the one cited above. This is not a catalogue of species, however, merely a numerical estimate of the California fauna, including birds.

In the Proceedings of the California Academy of Natural Sciences, volume III, 1863, pages 23

to 29 are occupied by a communication from Professor J. D. Whitney on the progress of the Geological Survey of California. On page 27 appears the following statement and table: In the zoological department—in charge of Dr. J. G. Cooper, who has been employed about half the time since the survey was commenced—the annexed table gives a succinct idea of what had been accomplished, up to the close of the year 1862, in the way of collecting.

	Number of species in the collector	Of which there are new to California	Believed to be new, or un- described	Other Califor- nian species not yet collected	Total number credited to California	Of which there are found east of the Mississippi
Mammalia	32	10	3	45	77	14
Birds	170	28	4(?)	150	320	141
Reptiles	36	6	3	9	45	0
Fishes	58	16	16	75	133	0
Mollusca	335	123	123	65	400	0(?)

—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, October 10, 1935.*

Unusual Sets of Bush-tit and Green Heron.—On April 15, 1935, while on a trip through the willows of Del Rey tide flat near Los Angeles, my wife and I found a nest of the Coast Bush-tit (*Psaltriparus minimus minimus*) containing 15 eggs. As this was an unusual set, we took particular pains to search the immediate vicinity for any disengaged individuals, or pairs not already nesting, but without results. The event was duly recorded "with reservations" until every element of doubt was eliminated. A week of watching failed to disclose any other birds than the one pair claiming the nest. The parents deserted the set after the 3rd day, no doubt, because of our continued presence in the vicinity. The nest and set were then taken and are now in our collection.

We were a little hesitant in reporting this find until, on May 4, we located a new nest, presumably of this same pair, some 60 feet from the old site. This nest contained 11 eggs, all well-incubated. On account of pressing business matters, we were unable to follow up this last set to see just how the parents handled the brood to maturity. It certainly would have been interesting to have observed how the parents kept fifteen or eleven young supplied with food.

There can now be no doubt in our minds that these two sets were laid by the same pair, and that both sets are unusual. Dawson states (*Birds of California*, 2, 1923, p. 628) that *P. m. minimus* lays from "5 to 8, usually 7". In over 100 nests I have examined previously, 7 eggs comprise the largest set found.

On returning to this same swamp one week later (May 11) to make a nesting survey of Anthony Green Herons (*Butorides virescens anthonyi*), a nest of this species, apparently an old one, was discovered 25 feet up in a large willow and placed some eight feet out. Although we had seen a green heron fly from the tree, we were inclined to pass it up, for only rather insecure footing was available to reach it. However, my wife, who is considerably lighter built than myself, made the climb and found the "old nest" overflowing with ten eggs, the bottom sagging so badly that it was a miracle just how it held, especially with the additional weight of the parent bird. While attempting to get the camera in position for a shot, there was an ominous report. The limb on which the nest was located, and upon which my wife had put too much pressure, snapped at the trunk—and I found myself suddenly smothered in an avalanche of limbs, camera, eggs and wife.

When the "dust settled," I found that, by some miracle, I had made a despairing dive for the nest as it descended and saved it from being dashed to bits. However, the bottom came out even as I lowered it to the ground and eggs were scattered everywhere. *Yet not one egg was cracked.* A reason was discovered when they were blown. The shells were too thick to drill by the ordinary method, so I used a large darning needle to puncture them.

As there were only four pairs of Green Herons nesting in this area (and each pair had its own nest), there is no doubt in our minds that this is a legitimate set, laid by one female. In examination of over forty nests of this heron, we have never found more than five, the average set being of four eggs.—L. B. HOWSLEY, *Los Angeles, California, October 10, 1935.*

Large Set of California Jay.—A number of years ago I was surprised to find a nest of the California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica californica*) containing six young birds. It was in a juniper tree on the Mohave Desert, about forty miles from Colton. Since then diligent search has been made for a nest containing such a large number of eggs or young, and on April 21, 1935, I found one containing seven eggs. This nest was in a juniper two feet from the ground and so