

Asyndesmus lewis. Lewis Woodpecker. September 11, one was seen perched on a post on the border of a date grove at Furnace Creek Ranch. September 28 three were seen in the mesquite trees about half a mile north of the Ranch. The next day the three were eating dates in the grove, and from that time on during most of October, I would see from five to sixteen in the grove eating the dates. Three were seen on one occasion eating from the same bunch of fruit, while two others were at work on two other bunches in the same tree. The last one noted was on November 1 when a solitary bird was seen flying toward the range of mountains to the east. I might say that the Red-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) were much in evidence in the date grove at the same time, eating the fruit, some of them from the tree and some the fallen fruit from the ground. I counted twenty of the Flickers in the grove on one occasion, and fifteen or more was a quite common number. In September one bright yellow-shafted one was seen among them.

Tyrannus tyrannus. Eastern Kingbird. July 16 one was seen catching insects on an alfalfa field at the Ranch. It perched on a small tree on the irrigating ditch on one side of the field and from there made short dashes for insects. Though the tree was not large the bird paid no attention when I walked beneath it.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clark Nutcracker. September 11, one was seen about two miles north of the Ranch flying from the direction of the Panamint Mountains toward the Funeral Range. October 11, I saw one in the date grove but did not see it feeding. This season the Nutcrackers were exceedingly numerous in the Panamint Mountains, as many as forty being in sight at once.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus. Pinyon Jay. Three Pinyon Jays were seen near the ponds on September 5. Two days later three, possibly the same ones, were seen flying toward the Funeral Mountains.

Spinus pinus pinus. Pine Siskin. November 14, six Pine Siskins were seen near the "Old Harmony Borax Works," about two miles north of the Ranch. They were feeding on seeds of the desert sunflower and paid little attention to my car.

Sitta carolinensis. Slender-billed Nuthatch. One was seen at work October 12 on the trunk of a date tree at the Ranch.

Isoreus naevius meruloides. Northern Varied Thrush. October 31 and November 1, two were seen feeding on the ground in the date grove. I could not determine what they were eating. On the same two days there were two Cedar Waxwings on the ground; their food was plainly fallen dates.—M. FRENCH GILMAN, *Death Valley, California, November 16, 1935*.

Are Condors Extinct in Lower California?—During a two weeks journey into Lower California, I and Robert, my eighteen-year-old son, failed to see any Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*). We spent seven days on the Sierra San Pedro Mártir between August 20 and 27, the best time, according to residents, for seeing the birds. We rode and hiked four times across the mountain, from the high Encantada peaks to La Grulla and up and down the mountain for 50 miles or more. We carried binoculars around our necks and were always on the lookout for Condors, whether we rode, fished, watched, or fried beefsteak. What was more significant and disappointing we failed to find a single person who had seen a Condor in 1935.

A heartening contrast to this experience was a sojourn in the Santa Barbara National Forest, September 14 to 17, inclusive, during which we saw Condors every day, three at once for several hours, and a pair within a hundred feet.

From what we saw and heard on the San Pedro Mártir, the chosen home of Condors in Lower California for the last quarter century, we concluded that the Condor of Lower California is nearly extinct. As to the reason, let the reader judge from the evidence below.

For one thing, the food supply has been decreasing since the World War. The number of cattle anywhere on the Peninsula during the last decade is scarcely one-quarter to one-third what it was the previous decade. For ten years, until 1935, drought has devastated the country. Deer on the San Pedro Mártir have been almost exterminated by indiscriminate killing of bucks, does and fawns at all seasons, by cattle disease, and by lions. Probably the Condor has been caught between two fatal fires—starvation and slaughter. Young Condors, tame and confiding, have been murdered as a pastime to furnish gold-dust receptacles; old ones, only a little less wary, harassed, have, through age or accident, given up the losing fight. Thus apparently ends another tragic chapter in the history of the California Condor.

Consider these facts: Around our camp-fire the first night sat two persons who had killed three Condors in four years. Phil Melling, aged thirteen, shot a young bird in 1932, in a pine tree twenty feet from him with a .22 rifle. The reason given was that the bird looked neither like a buzzard nor a Condor and Phil wanted to have a close-up. A contingent reason was indicated in the carcasses of half a dozen red-tailed hawks, ravens and buzzards thrown back of the woodpile

of the ranch house. The other person was one Antonio, a cattleman of the mountain, who shot a Condor in 1933 and another in 1932. He said the birds spread disease among the cattle, but he sold all the quills to prospectors. Multiply Antonio and Phil by two or three and the years by two or three and we have a good clue to the Condor situation on the San Pedro Mártir.

That is what the Mellings told us—Salve, Adolph, his brother, and Mrs. Bertie, wife of Salve—all intelligent, trustworthy outdoor people, cattle raisers, residents of San Pedro Mártir every summer and acquainted with Condors for more than twenty-five years: All agreed that Condors have been getting scarcer and scarcer since about 1920; that twenty-five years ago you could see 20 to 30 Condors any summer day where there were dead cattle; that they have never seen Condors at any time away from the San Pedro Mártir (they knew of other people who had seen them in the Sierra Juarez); that they have seen none for the last few years except that Salve saw his last one in 1932 when Griffing Bancroft, according to Salve, vainly tried to bait a bird with a dead horse and that Adolph saw two in July, 1934, for two days at Encantada meadows and a lone one later in the summer on one occasion.

On August 23 and 24 we rode from the Melling ranch at Encantada, where we were camped, to the San Pedro Mártir Mission, 18 miles south. En route we camped over night in the Santo Dumas Flats, about 6000 feet altitude, situated about two miles west of Santa Rosa meadows. It was at Santo Dumas Flats that E. W. Nelson saw twelve Condors in 1905, at the carcass of a donkey, as told in his *Memoirs of Lower California*, page 22. There were six vaqueros at the same old shack. They told us that Condors used to come to the flats every summer to feed on dead animals. They had seen no Condors for four years except a lone one last summer. We scared several ravens and about thirty buzzards from a roosting place in a group of pines but no Condor.

Some of our informants told us it was a poor year to see Condors because, on account of the excellent season, there were no dead animals. But for three years before 1935 cattle died like flies. But there were no Condors at the great festal boards. In truth there are always a few dead animals wherever there are cattle. We scared a dozen Turkey Vultures from a carcass in La Grulla meadows. According to their habit the cowboys fired revolvers at the birds. Our conclusion was that every year was a bad year for Condors in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir. Nothing is protected on the Peninsula. How could such a tempting target as a Condor escape!

[Since writing the above, word comes that Salve Melling saw "one lone Condor in La Encantada about November 5, eating on a calf that had died. It is the only one seen this year."]
—CARROLL DEWILTON SCOTT, *San Diego, California, November 18, 1935.*

The Clark Nutcracker in Extreme Southwestern Arizona.—A young Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) was observed by us October 22, 1935, at Bates Well in Growler Pass, western Pima County, Arizona, altitude approximately 1600 feet. Another individual was observed on the Lechuguilla Desert, altitude about 1000 feet, near Tinajas Altas, southern Yuma County, on October 23. Both birds were seen in mid-day, and each was alone. The Bates Well bird was at a water trough, whence it flew into a nearby mesquite and permitted us to approach within fifteen feet, appearing to be hot and tired. The temperature was estimated to be, at this time, 85 or 90 degrees. The Tinajas Altas bird was seen in an ironwood or mesquite on the way between Cabeza Prieta and Tinajas Altas.

The nearest mountain country in any direction from which these birds could have come is probably at least 100 miles away. The Bates Well bird, judging from a faint mottling on its breast, was a young individual. Its features and plumage generally were in excellent condition. The area where these birds were seen is of an extreme desert type, with creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), *Fraseria dumosa*, and palo verde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) on the hillsides, and *Cercidium torreyanum* in the washes) prominent in the flora.

These occurrences are of some interest in view of the reported invasion of Clark Nutcrackers in the Cuyamaca Mountains of San Diego County this fall (*Natural History Museum Bulletin, San Diego, California, No. 108, November 1, 1935*). According to this bulletin Nutcrackers are now (apparently late in October, 1935) quite common throughout the Cuyamaca region. It seems possible that there is this year a somewhat more widespread wandering than usual of this interesting species.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *U. S. Biological Survey, Faculty Exchange, College Station, Texas*, and CHARLES T. VORHIES, *University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, November 8, 1935.*

Donald R. Dickey's First Bird Photograph.—The picture here presented is believed to be the first bird picture ever taken by Donald R. Dickey. It happened in this manner. We were schoolmates at the Thacher School in the Ojai Valley, Ventura County, California, in 1904-