

River within the corporate limits of Santa Cruz, and also along the west shore of Wood's Lagoon east of Seabright. Local observers have called the bird the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), but, as the bird's legs appear to be decidedly green instead of black, the writer decided that a closer check-up might be interesting.

On January 8 of this year, the writer, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Payne, managed to approach under cover of the wooded shore to within forty yards of the heron while it fed near the bank of the lagoon. Through binoculars, a peculiar shuffling movement of one foot was noted, appearing analogous to the scratching of gallinaceous birds, except that the foot movements were executed forward and laterally, instead of backward. In this way the bird drove its prey from cover for an easier capture.

In plumage, the bird was pure white; bill black except that it was much lighter near the base; the lower mandible, especially, appeared somewhat yellowish. The legs were decidedly green with the feet showing yellow. Dr. Loye Miller (Condor, 36, 1934, p. 178) describes herons observed in Ventura County in 1934 and expressed the belief that they were *Florida caerulea*, not *Egretta thula*. As suggested by Dr. Grinnell in a letter, our Santa Cruz heron is probably the Little Blue Heron (*F. caerulea*), an immature in white phase, similar to the one described by Dr. Miller. This would appear to be the northernmost record to date for the Little Blue Heron.—D. E. DANBY, Santa Cruz, California, January 9, 1936.

Fall and Winter Records from the Coachella Valley, California.—While observing Audubon Warblers feeding in cottonwood trees at Mecca, California, on December 8, 1935, the writer's attention was attracted to the cries of birds battling in the crotch of a near-by tree. In the tumbling mass of feathers, the yellow rump of an Audubon Warbler and the black cap of his antagonist were discernible. It was not until the Audubon had been routed and the victor had retired to a near-by limb to regain his composure that we were able to identify the latter as a chickadee. Further observation revealed a number of chickadees feeding in the vicinity. We were unable to estimate the size of the flock, although not over twelve were seen at any one time. One specimen was taken and our determination of the species as the Bailey Mountain Chickadee (*Penthestes gambeli baileyae*) was confirmed.

This flock of chickadees was still busy in the same trees when the writers visited Mecca a week later. On the same date, December 15, 1935, two others were seen in large cottonwood trees bordering a tule-covered reservoir ten miles northwest of Mecca. This locality is approximately eighteen miles by airline from the summit of the Santa Rosa Mountains where in 1908 Grinnell and Swarth found the Bailey Chickadee to be the most abundant species of birds above 5000 feet. Although these chickadees are known to be frequent wanderers to lower levels in winter, we believe this to be the first recorded occurrence of the species on this desert and at 197 feet below sea level.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) was seen in a cottonwood tree on Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella, California, on October 8, 1935, at 45 feet below sea level. When first observed this bird was working down the larger branches of the tree; it came within three feet of the observer's face. This is the first time the writers have known of the occurrence of the species on the floor of this desert valley.

Early on the morning of September 10, 1935, a Slender-billed Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis aculeata*) was seen on Coral Reef Ranch. When first seen this bird was hitching around the trunk of a small black locust tree five feet from the house. Observations were made at a distance of ten feet. The bird was driven off by a shrike, but late in the afternoon of the same day it was again observed on the branches of a large cottonwood tree about 200 yards from the house.

This species was again encountered on December 15, 1935, when a single individual was noted on a large willow tree on the edge of a tule-covered reservoir ten miles northwest of Mecca. It was observed for some time systematically working around the larger branches near the top of the tree, flying from the willow to the cottonwoods bordering the reservoir. The season on the desert had been mild and many green leaves still remain on the trees. Typical call notes were heard, but as there were no answering calls there was probably but the one individual in the vicinity. The places varied from 44 to 75 feet below sea level.—BEN CLARY and MARJORIE CLARY, Coachella, California, December 16, 1935.

Golden-crowned Sparrow in Zion National Park.—On January 16, 1936, Henry Grantham, CCC enrollee assigned to bird-banding in the Park, brought to the office a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) which had entered one of his traps. It was an adult female, and because of its rarity, it was prepared as a study skin and placed in the Park museum. As far as