

lined with coarse dry grass. It contained three fresh eggs. Found in a small spruce grove one mile south of Arcata.

Another Oregon Jay's nest was found on May 17, 1915, in a lowland fir, thirty-six feet up. It was made of green moss, dry spruce twigs, damp earth, and dead alder chips, lined with coarse dry grass. It contained four eggs, incubation almost complete. Found in the woods south of Eureka.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, March 17, 1938.*

**Reddish Egret Again Seen near San Diego.**—While I was driving across the bridge between North Island and Coronado, in San Diego County, California, at about one o'clock on the afternoon of September 25, 1937, I saw a strange egret-like bird at the southeast end of the bridge. It was in company with several Snowy Egrets on the salicornia flats. After the car stopped, at a distance of about 150 feet from the bird, its reddish head and neck were observed. When it flew five minutes later, the light-colored undersurface of the wings and body was displayed.

Because I had just spent a year in Florida, the immediate thought was Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*); and this was confirmed when I visited the San Diego Museum and examined a mounted group of this species on exhibition there. The one previous report of this species in California was also from the vicinity of San Diego (Huey, Condor, vol. 33, 1931, p. 125).—R. R. DELAREUELLE, *Aviation Cadet, Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, April 15, 1938.*

**White-throated Sparrow Killed by Copperhead.**—A striking demonstration of one of the hazards to which birds are exposed, namely, attack by snakes, was witnessed about 2:30 p.m. on February 27, 1938, at Alum Creek in the Bastrop State Park, near Bastrop, Texas. I had just killed a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) which, with five or six others, had been scratching for food in the leaf litter under a yaupon bush (*Ilex vomitoria*) at the edge of a clearing. When I went over to retrieve the bird, my attention was attracted to a second bird of the same species that was thrashing about among the dead leaves. At first I thought I had wounded it; but when I reached over to pick it up I discovered that it was struggling to escape from a copperhead snake (*Agkistrodon mokasen*). The snake had the bird by the back of the head, holding on tenaciously, and periodically clamping its jaws tighter as if trying to sink its fangs and teeth deeper.

Approximately three minutes elapsed from the time the struggle first was observed until the bird relaxed, apparently dead. The snake, still holding to its intended prey, then attempted to drag it kill farther back into the pile of litter. Curious to see what would happen if I interfered, I took a stick and attempted to drag the snake into the open. Evidently the instinct of self preservation overcame that of hunger; for the snake released its kill immediately and attempted to escape by burrowing into the pile of leaves. Finally it was captured.

An autopsy revealed that the sparrow had not been wounded by my gun-shot and that apparently it had been captured while in sound condition. The fangs of the snake had penetrated the cranium and pierced the brain, causing a slight hemorrhagic condition. Death, of course, doubtless resulted from the poison injected.

The fact that the copperhead captured and killed an apparently normal bird leads one to wonder how severe this type of predation is on small birds which habitually scratch among leaf litter for food. The copperhead is so colored that it is discernible when motionless among dead leaves only by close scrutiny; hence it is admirably adapted, as far as color is concerned, to feed upon birds with such habits. Also, the tendency the snake exhibited to conceal itself under the leaves leads me to suspect that it may have lain in hiding and "pounced" upon the unsuspecting bird.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas, March 14, 1938.*

**American Scoter in the San Francisco Bay Region.**—Grinnell and Wythe (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 18, 1927, p. 55) list the American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) as a "very rare mid-winter visitant" in the San Francisco Bay region. The species has, in fact, been recorded but relatively few times from the entire coast of California. It therefore appears worth while to record the collecting of an adult female American Scoter by Leonard Penhale of the Department of Exhibits, California Academy of Sciences, on March 10, 1938, at Drakes Bay, Marin County, California.

On the same day that the above specimen was secured at least six adult males of the same species, all readily distinguishable from the numerous White-winged and Surf scoters by the bright lemon yellow on their bills, were likewise seen on this bay. The observer stated that a male and several female Old-squaw Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*) were also noted at the same time but were too wary to allow close approach.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 29, 1938.*

**A Migratory Flock of Ibises in Utah.**—The White-faced Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis guarauna*, is a fairly common summer resident on the east side of Great Salt Lake, particularly along the fresh-

water sloughs in the region where the Bear and Jordan rivers enter the lake. It is rather unusual, however, to see huge congregations of these birds outside their usual marshy habitat, such as was observed on the morning of September 19, 1937. On that day a concentration of ibises was noted at 8:00 a.m. some 20 miles south of Salt Lake City. A large field had become temporarily flooded by an overflowing irrigation ditch and the ibises were scattered about through the flooded area which occupied some 10 acres. For the most part, the birds were busily feeding and probing in the mud, but a slight wind was blowing which kept the flock restless so that small groups of the birds were constantly rising with labored flight and moving to neighboring spots.

At one time I made a count of roughly 300 ibises in sight, feeding or flying about. The number of ibises present was undoubtedly far in excess of this figure, however, because the tall weeds tended to hide the birds. The inference from this observation is that the flock was a migratory one, establishing the approximate date of fall migration of this species. Also it gives some intimation of the numbers of ibises that may congregate after the summer nesting season.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, September 20, 1937.*

**The Brewer Sparrow in Glenn County, California.**—Records of the Brewer Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) from the San Joaquin Valley and from the vicinity of Eagle Lake are fairly common, but I have been unable to find any published record of this bird having recently been reported from any place in the Sacramento Valley. On February 27, 1937, a student of mine collected a Brewer Sparrow near a chicken yard at Orland, California. The bird was with a flock of Gambel Sparrows at the time. The skin was donated to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where it is recorded under the accession number 5517, and bird department number 73158.—LLOYD G. INGLES, *Chico State College, Chico, California, May 10, 1938.*

**Additions to the Brewster County, Texas, Bird List.**—The following account of birds observed or collected by the writers in 1937 in Brewster County, Texas, is confined to species not recorded from that region by van Tyne and Sutton (*The Birds of Brewster County, Texas, Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich., No. 37, 1937*) or adds data on species of uncommon occurrence in the county. Records for the Pied-billed Grebe and Eastern Phoebe are given in addition to those mentioned by Borell (*antea*, p. 181). Sight identifications made in October were obtained by Stevenson.

Grebe. *Colymbus* sp. One was observed swimming in a small cattle pond, 6 miles east of Alpine, October 14. The bird, probably an Eared Grebe (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*), was not collected, so that its specific status could not be positively determined.

Pied-billed Grebe. *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*. One seen at a cattle tank 27 miles east of Marathon, along U. S. Highway No. 90, October 18.

Ruddy Duck. *Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*. On October 14, an individual was found with a small flock of Green-winged Teal at the cattle pond 6 miles east of Alpine.

Dwarf Red-shafted Flicker. *Colaptes cafer nanus* Griscom. Since few specimens of this recently described subspecies have been taken in the United States, we are recording a female, collected by Smith at Boquillas, on the Rio Grande, August 10. This is the breeding Red-shafted Flicker of the Big Bend region, according to van Tyne and Sutton (*op. cit.*, p. 46), who consider it as "rather uncommon and local in distribution . . .". They list only three specimens (breeding birds) collected May 1 and June 1, 1933, in the vicinity of Marathon, in the northern part of the county.

White-eared Hummingbird. *Hylocharis leucotis*. An immature specimen, collected by Smith in the Chisos Mountains, July 7, constitutes the first record of this species for Texas. The bird was discovered along the trail between "Laguna" and Boot Springs at about 7,000 feet elevation. The hummingbird was observed feeding at a maguey plant and disputing the presence of several Broad-tailed Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus platycercus*) in the vicinity. This specimen is now in the Biological Survey Collections in the U. S. National Museum.

Eastern Phoebe. *Sayornis phoebe*. On October 14, Stevenson collected a female from a road-side fence, 5 miles southwest of Marathon. One was seen with A. E. Borell, October 17, at "The Dugout" and another at the mouth of Pine Canyon, in the southern section of the county.

Black-chinned Sparrow. *Spizella atrogularis evura* Coues. The only definite records of this species in Texas are two specimens mentioned by van Tyne and Sutton (*op. cit.*, p. 112) as collected in the Basin, Chisos Mountains. On June 16, Smith collected an adult female in the Basin and later, on July 6, discovered two adults with four bob-tailed young, apparently just out of the nest, in a small juniper near Kibbee Spring, about 6,000 feet elevation, in the Basin. The adult male was collected by Smith. This is the first breeding record for the species in the State.

The authors wish to thank Dr. H. C. Oberholser, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the identification of the above-mentioned specimens.—JAMES O. STEVENSON, *National Park Service, Washington, D. C.*, and TARLETON F. SMITH, *Texas A. and M. College, College Station, Texas, May 9, 1938.*