

Heteroscelus incamus. Wandering Tattler. An early record for the Bay region (Grinnell and Wythe, *loc. cit.*) was obtained when a Wandering Tattler (female number 170) was collected at Pescadero Point, San Mateo County, on April 29, 1938. Six Tattlers were observed that day in a two-mile stretch south of Pescadero Point.

Totanus flavipes. Lesser Yellow-legs. Three were seen July 23, 1938, on a sand bar in the Gualala River, Mendocino County, California, about two miles up from the mouth. The identification has been checked by Mr. Frederick Test from one collected July 24 (male, number 317).—WALTER F. NICHOLS, Pasadena, California, January 3, 1939.

Purple Finches Feeding on Cotoneaster Berries.—About mid-morning of January 21, 1939, a group of California Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus californicus*), including at least four males and one female, was seen apparently feeding on the berries of the silverleaf cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster parnosa*). This is the form which often grows into a slender tree, with graceful, drooping branches. The light red, dull surfaced berries remain on the tree all through the fall and winter. In contrast with the robins' swallowing of whole berries, the finches' method was to bite off the top or side of a berry and eat the contents "on the half-shell." When a berry did come off the stem, a finch seemed at a loss what to do with it, fumbling it in the beak and soon letting it drop. Clicking of beaks suggested cracking of seeds, and skins and pulp were lavishly wasted.

Later examination of the berries disclosed a single, fairly large, roundish, white seed in the center. Little berry cups from which the seed had been neatly removed were conspicuous on the twigs. It is interesting that birds which are normally seed-eating should seek out this relatively abundant hidden supply, available to them at a time of year when other seeds are scarce.—FRANCES CARTER, Berkeley, California, January 22, 1939.

NOTES AND NEWS

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Club held at Los Angeles January 20, 1939, it was unanimously voted to postpone the next Annual Meeting of the Club until 1940, the exact date to be set at a later meeting of the Board. The reason for this action was that a consensus of opinion of leading members of both divisions of the Club supports the advisability of concentration of the efforts of the Club on the success of the Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, to be held in the San Francisco Bay region in June of this year.—HOWARD ROBERTSON, *President*; GEORGE WILLETT, *Secretary*.

The Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union is to be held in the San Francisco Bay region June 19 to 23. Headquarters will be at the University of California, in Berkeley, where the business sessions on June 19 and scientific sessions on June 20 and 21 will be held. On June 22 the scientific program will be continued at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Members of the Union are reminded that nominations for Fellows and Members, to be presented at the business sessions, must be sent to the secretary, Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, three months in advance, that is, by March 19. The official hotel selected for the meeting is the Durant, in Berkeley, which is close

to the University campus. Reduced fares from the East have been announced by railway companies to facilitate travel to the San Francisco World Fair this summer. Local members of the Cooper Ornithological Club warmly urge all who can to attend the meeting of the Union, and we wish especially to aid in arrangements for field trips so that on June 23 and 24 all persons wishing to see something of Pacific coast bird life may have the best of opportunities.—A. H. M.

On February 4, 1939, the Cooper Ornithological Club lost, by death, one of its most accomplished out-of-doors bird-watchers, Ernest I. Dyer, of Piedmont, California. For some six years past, Dyer had occupied himself most of the hours of every day, on his woodsy place at 40 Selborne Drive, keeping "log" of the behavior of his avian associates; his observations were recorded hour by hour, typewritten by himself with a trained engineer's precision and illustrated by drawings and photographs. These records had come to comprise many manuscript volumes; but Dyer was reluctant to publish—his pleasure was gained in watching and recording. He was, as it happened, prevailed upon only recently to write up an experience of his with a nesting Allen Hummingbird, and the article appears in this issue of the *Condor* (p. 62). It demonstrates his technique in observing. He assumed the rôle of the birds' *companion*; he never caught, banded, or even