

pygialis), Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Palmer Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), Crissal Thrasher (*Toxostoma dorsale*), Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Junco (*Junco oreganus*), and Gambel Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*).—LYNDON L. HARGRAVE, *Arizona Game Department, Phoenix, Arizona, January 31, 1939.*

Eastern Hermit Thrush in Colorado.—An Eastern Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata faxoni*), a race hitherto unrecorded from Colorado, was found dead in west Denver, by H. M. Baldry, on February 8, 1939. The specimen (no. 19869, Colo. Mus. Nat. Hist.) was an adult female. Such a winter occurrence would have been unusual for even our common thrushes, as they rarely appear in our area before the last week in April.—ALFRED M. BAILEY and ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *The Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, February 24, 1939.*

Another Record of the Bohemian Waxwing at Grand Canyon, Arizona.—On Sunday, February 20, a dozen Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*) were discovered feeding upon juniper berries on the north side of El Tovar Hotel on the south rim of Grand Canyon, Arizona. Their size quickly led to further discernment of distinguishing marks from the Cedar Waxwing, of pale color, lack of yellowish on underparts, white wing bars, cinnamon under tail coverts and weak lower-pitched call note. Reaching for a juniper berry a bird would roll it in its bill and flick the core away. Beneath the tree the soft snow was pitted with the dropped cores. Once a few of the birds dropped to a space on the ground, bare of snow, seemingly for gravel.

A small group of Bohemian Waxwings was observed by H. S. and W. W. Swarth (Condor, vol. 22, 1920, p. 79) in almost the same location on December 18, 1919, the only other recorded occurrence for Grand Canyon.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Grand Canyon, Arizona, February 24, 1939.*

Black Phoebe in British Columbia.—Shortly prior to his death, the late R. A. Cumming wrote to Mr. J. A. Munro, of Okanagan Landing, B. C., requesting that he prepare and publish a note recording the first capture of the Black Phoebe in British Columbia. As the Cumming collection, including this specimen, has been incorporated in the Provincial Museum collection, Mr. Munro has forwarded the letter to me with the request that I put the specimen on record.

The specimen in question is a well-made skin of a female *Sayornis nigricans nigricans*. This bird, to quote from Mr. Cumming's letter was "taken November 11, 1936, on the B. C. Electric Railway tracks near Marpole. The afternoon was cold, after a rainstorm. My son Gordon was with me at the time."

Had it been in the summer or early fall this occurrence could have been more readily understood. However, it is interesting, perhaps significant, to note that the other recorded occurrences of vagrant flycatchers in British Columbia were also in the fall and winter. Thus the only known specimen of *Tyrannus dominicensis* from the Province was taken at Cape Beale, V. I., on October 9, 1889, and the single specimen of *Tyrannus melancholicus chloromotus* was shot in February, 1923, at French's Beach, V. I.—IAN McTAGGART COWAN, *Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C., February 20, 1939.*

Adult Lamprey Eaten by a Great Blue Heron.—In the course of field work for the California Division of Fish and Game, on the South Fork of the Eel River, a quarter mile below Benbow Dam, Humboldt County, California, on November 17, 1938, occurred the incident here described. It concerned a great blue heron (*Ardea herodias hyperonca*) and a lamprey eel (*Entosphenus tri-dentatus*).

At 2:28 p.m., while I was watching from cover the opposite shore of a crescentic pool at a bend in the river, a Great Blue Heron walked into view about a hundred yards away. It slowly and deliberately waded upstream in the shallow, marginal water, then walked out onto the rocky shore at the edge of the pool, all the while peering for food. Presently, the bird waded deeper into the pool. After poising its head for an instant just out of water, it struck quickly at something below the surface. Straightening up, the heron waded to shore with an adult lamprey held firmly by the head in its beak.

At a point about five feet from shore the heron dropped the twisting lamprey onto the gravel. Each time the lamprey wriggled and contorted its body the heron struck at the head with its dagger-like beak. At 2:34 p.m., the lamprey wriggled once more, whereupon the heron, after poising its head momentarily about two feet above the lamprey, drove its beak hard into the gill region and quickly withdrew it, watching, then, for further movement. Once again the lamprey moved and again it received a severe thrust from the beak of the heron. After another moment of watching the

heron carried the lamprey to the edge of the pool where it was immersed. Then, taking the lamprey in its beak, the bird attempted to swallow the animal head first; but the cylindrical prey slipped easily from the mouth of the heron.

At 2:35 p.m., the heron began to work with the dead lamprey in the shallow water and tried to tear loose small pieces of its body. Once, while giving the lamprey a vigorous shake, the heron was momentarily cast off balance but quickly regained footing with a side-step. At 2:38 p.m., the bird again tried to swallow its prey entire, but let go after a bad start. Four minutes later the heron again tried to swallow the whole lamprey. The neck of the bird was distended when the lamprey moved down its throat as the bird tried vigorously to gulp down its victim, though without success.

After a short rest the heron shook the lamprey again in the water. Finally, at 2:47 p.m., the heron took the lamprey once more by the head; and, following a series of progressively violent, undulatory jerks of the head and body, the bird, as it was able to straighten its long neck in the process of swallowing, succeeded in engulfing, inch by inch, the whole lamprey. The bird presented a ludicrous sight as it stood between jerks of the head and body with the lamprey drooping from its beak. More amusing still was the appearance of the bird as it stood humped, heron fashion, near the shore of the pool and occasionally writhed and straightened its neck in trying to ease the bulging crop. When the heron saw me move from cover it quickly flew upstream out of sight beyond the dam.—ELDEN H. VESTAL, *California Division of Fish and Game, Stanford University, California, February 28, 1939.*

More Shore-birds from the Humboldt Bay Region.—Mountain Plover. *Eupoda montana*. Male taken on January 8, 1927, on the ocean side of Humboldt Bay. On December 6, 1938, a female was taken by Robert Talmadge near the same place.

American Golden Plover. *Pluvialis dominica dominica*. Male taken August 31, 1935, near the mouth of Clark's Slough, within Eureka city limits. The capture of this species makes 31 kinds of shore-birds I have taken in the near vicinity of Humboldt Bay.

Baird Sandpiper. *Pisobia bairdii*. August 15, 1926, seven birds seen, three specimens taken. August 22, three birds, one taken. September 18, eight birds, three taken. In 1927, I did not find a single Baird Sandpiper. On August 19, 1928, one was found and taken, as it was following a small flock of Sanderlings at the water's edge. In 1929, on August 11, four birds, one taken; September 1, five seen, two taken; and September 8, ten seen, four taken. In 1930, none; in 1931, September 3, three seen, one taken; in 1932, August 20, eleven seen, four taken; in 1933, August 21, two seen, one taken. On August 23, 1936, Miss Leno Moll found three Bairds, one sample taken. The above Baird Sandpipers were all found on the ocean side of Humboldt Bay.

Avocet. *Recurvirostra americana*. Male taken on August 17, 1935; a female taken August 18. They were found in a small pond of stagnant water within Eureka city limits.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, February 5, 1939.*

Notes from the Palo Alto Sports Club.—The Palo Alto Sports Club lies in Santa Clara County, California, between the Bay Shore Highway and the south end of San Francisco Bay. Here, some twenty years ago, two large pools were diked off by a now quiescent salt company. Water gates were put in to control water levels. The dikes were graded and thus make it possible to drive around the two pools, covering a distance of several miles, and to reach the South Bay Port Warehouse on the east. Obviously, it is a paradise for the observation of shore and marsh birds. The Club has graciously given keys and honorary membership, of course without hunting and fishing rights, to Dr. Willis H. Rich and the writer, with permission to bring in qualified students and visitors. As a result, during the last two years, this area has been checked, at times almost daily, by us and the following students interested in the Stanford Natural History Museum: Applegarth, Cope, Henry, King, Longhurst, Nichols and Sanders. The following citations from notebooks seem worthy of record because of their bearing upon seasonal and geographical distribution.

Northern Phalarope. *Lobipes lobatus*. First observed on April 22, 1937, when a lone bird was rescued by Sanders with no little labor and some danger from a deep viscous mud-bank. Subsequently, they were present in hundreds throughout May. They returned in equal numbers in late July and August. In 1938, the water level was lowered and only one Northern was noted, July 17, 1937 was a great phalarope year for this area; 1938 was almost a total blank. The same holds for Bonaparte Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) and Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia*).

Wilson Phalarope. *Steganopus tricolor*. First observed on July 28, 1937. They remained in small groups consorting with the Northerns until late in August. Early birds were mostly in molt; of seven taken by the writer, five were females. The males were doubtless still largely detained elsewhere