

The only experimental work that has come to my attention is that of Rodgers (Condor, vol. 42, 1940, p. 86). He has brought forward strong evidence to show that the note is the result of vibration set up in certain of the tail feathers, particularly the outer ones, of the adult male.

When on Santa Ana Mountain, Orange County, California, this spring (May 21) I observed an interesting performance by an immature bird that bears somewhat upon the subject. Two birds of the year, with male characteristics of tail and gorget only partially developed, were rivals for the honey crop produced by a small patch of blossoming penstemons (*Penstemon spectabilis*). There was much charging and counter charging. Finally a series of typical nuptial plunges was indulged in by the more aggressive youngster. He rose to full height and came down with the characteristic speed to the same abrupt turn, which in this case was less than ten feet from where I stood. At this climactic point a distinct *flick* was heard. It was just as definitely marked off from any swish of the bullet-like descent as in the adult bird's performance, but it lacked altogether the approach to vocalized character that is characteristic of the adult of the species. It impressed me freshly with each performance as being a feather vibration and not a vocal note. His musical reed had not yet ripened to the full tonal possibility.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California, Los Angeles, California, September 19, 1940.*

**A Saw-whet Owl Nest on Mount Pinos, California.**—On June 9, 1940, Frank Brundige and I were collecting on Mount Pinos, Ventura County. While I was climbing to a Red-breasted Sapsucker's nest in the dead top of a tall pine tree, Frank scouted out some likely woodpecker holes in the near vicinity; two in particular looked very promising. After hitting one of the dead pine stubs twice with large rocks a small head appeared in an enlarged flicker hole. It so camouflaged the hole that when I came to see what the bird was, I was unable to find the previously prominent hole. With great difficulty Brundige was able to point it out to me.

Dead limbs formed a frail ladder to the nest, and soon we were on the way up. A Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) flushed heavily from the hole, but stopped in a near-by tree affording us a good look at her. Her breast showed signs of incubation so we were heartened at the prospect of a breeding bird. The hole had been enlarged by decay and was only about five inches deep. It contained a newly hatched chick and five eggs. Because of constant pestering by a female Western Tanager, the owl flew away and did not return while we were at the nest.

The following week Brundige and Sidney Peyton returned to the nest and banded three of the young birds. The two others were too small for banding. Mr. Peyton removed the sixth egg, which was added, and after some careful washing found that it was a light-colored Sparrow Hawk's egg.

The Saw-whet Owl is a rare breeder in southern California.—EDWARD M. HALL, *Whittier, California, July 22, 1940.*

**Black and White Warbler in Northern Lower California, Mexico.**—Records of the Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) for Lower California are few. According to Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 32, 1928, p. 197), the four recorded instances, all from the Cape region, were made in the months of September, November, December and February. The birds were either fall migrants or sporadic winter visitants.

The surprise of the writer may be imagined, when at dawn on June 13, 1940, he was awakened by the rather loud and often repeated song of a Black and White Warbler coming from a small willow tree beneath which he had spent the night. This was at a locality called Guatay, 5 miles south of the site of Mission San Miguel, or some 18 miles north of Ensenada, Lower California, Mexico.

The writer was unarmed and was obliged to content himself with a day-long visit with this vociferous rarity. The bird spent the greater part of the morning within a hundred feet of camp, where it was seen many times searching for insects over the limbs of the willows in its creeper-like manner. It sang almost continuously until the day became warm about 10 a.m., after which it was heard no more until past midafternoon, when it sang again less volubly. During the sunset hour it moved farther off into the dense willow thickets away from camp and next morning was not heard, although I listened carefully. Apparently it had departed in the night.

The locality of this observation was only about 35 miles from the California border. There are a number of published occurrences of the Black and White Warbler in southern California, but all, as far as the writer is aware, were in the fall or winter months. It is believed, therefore, that the Guatay bird provides the first spring record of this species not only for Lower California but also for the entire area of southern California and Lower California.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, September 4, 1940.*

**Black-crowned Night Heron Nesting in San Bernardino Mountains.**—It was with considerable surprise that Mr. W. D. LaNiece and I found a small colony of Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoaccli*) nesting in Big Bear Valley, San Bernardino County, California. The

dozen nests were in a small patch of tules at an elevation of about 7000 feet. The nests were about a foot above the surface of the water and on June 2, 1940, they contained from two to six eggs, or newly hatched young.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, June 3, 1940.*

**The Spotted Owl Nesting in the Sequoia Belt.**—About 4:30 p.m. on June 10, 1940, an owl and her young were reported from the Wilsonia Road about one-eighth mile south of headquarters at General Grant Grove Section of Kings Canyon National Park, Tulare County, California. Upon visiting the spot two young owls in juvenal plumage were seen perched on the roots of a large fallen log; the parent owl perched on a limb of a white fir two hundred feet away. The size, lack of ear tufts, and blackish eyes, helped identify the birds as California Spotted Owls, *Strix occidentalis occidentalis*.

A number of Kodachrome photographs were taken of the young birds, which could be approached closely. Examination of the down log revealed a hollow about two feet in diameter which looked as if it might have been the nesting site.

Nearly two weeks later one of the young owls, still unable to fly well, was captured by a camper. It was returned to the log where the other young one was found in the hollow. Mrs. Beatrice B. Nielsen watched the parent feed the young owl a small bird. In doing this she pulled off strips of flesh for the young. The last date on which the owls were seen was June 25, 1940.

This nesting of the Spotted Owl in Kings Canyon National Park at an elevation of 6600 feet in the sequoia belt, we believe is the first definite breeding record for this area. Marshall (Condor, vol. 41, 1939, p. 77) has mentioned its occurrence in summer at Whitaker's Forest, Tulare County.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Kings Canyon National Park, California, September 11, 1940.*

**The Lark Bunting in Southern Nevada.**—The only definite record that I can find of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in Clark County, Nevada, is that by Linsdale (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936, p. 123) of a male (U. S. N. M. no. 138050) shot April 29, 1891, in Pahrump Valley. From an experience of my own in Clark County, in February, 1940, it seems strange to me that only one of several previous workers has recorded this species, which occurs more or less regularly during the winter south to Imperial County, California.

On February 4, 1940, in the yard at Corn Creek Ranch, some 36 miles north of Las Vegas, my attention was drawn to several dull-colored sparrow-like birds foraging among the fallen leaves and dry grass in an adjoining orchard. With the aid of binoculars I recognized them as lark buntings. While driving from Las Vegas to Boulder City on February 7, I saw about a hundred of these birds on the dry plains just west of Boulder City. The next morning they were still present in large numbers. A male of this species was picked up dead on the road on February 8, evidently killed by a passing automobile. On February 9 five lark buntings were seen in the orchard at Corn Creek Ranch; these had increased to eight by February 11. While driving through the town of Searchlight, some 37 miles south of Las Vegas, on February 12, 1940, I observed a hundred or more of the birds feeding among the sparse, dry vegetation in the southern outskirts of the town. The last one seen, a lone male, was on the dry creosote-bush covered plain near the southern tip of Nevada along the highway, just before it crosses the state boundary line into San Bernardino County, California.

These observations would indicate that at least in some years the lark bunting is a common migrant or winter resident in Clark County, Nevada.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, March 5, 1940.*

**Comment on a Californian Record of the Western Tree Sparrow.**—In Hellmayr's catalogue of the Fringillidae (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., vol. 13, pt. 11, 1938, p. 556), two birds are listed from "California (Butte County, 1; Hayward, 1)" under *Spizella arborea ochracea*. The late Dr. Joseph Grinnell upon seeing this, asked to examine the specimens. The following is from a letter from him to Mr. Rudyerd Boulton, dated April 5, 1939.

"No. 40049, Field Mus., bears on face of original label these data: '566. Western Tree Sparrow. Enterprise, | Butte Co., Cpl. [Cal. or Col.?] 2/5/1896. ♂.'

"There is no collector named on this tag. After a great deal of comparing of the handwriting with signatures and correspondence I have from California collectors of the 1890's, I can find none to match. The little round label, with only the collector's number on it, and the violet silk thread are not duplicated in the output of any collector represented in this museum, and we have samples of the work of most of the oldtimers.

"Both the skins reached your museum, evidently, as part of the collection of Ned Hollister, once of Delavan, Wisconsin. The numbers and initials on the backs of the labels are definitely in Hollister's