

ber 25, 1944; December 8, 1945; December 15, 1945; December 22, 1945; January 19, 1946; February 2, 1946. On December 22, 1945, a female was shot near Slaterville, but was not preserved. Behle (*op. cit.*:84) listed this species only as a summer resident.

Passerella iliaca. Fox Sparrow. One was seen on February 6, 1944, near Plain City; four on February 20, 1944, at Perry, Box Elder County; one on May 10, 1944, and one on December 25, 1944, near Bonneville Park; one on April 6, 1945, near Harrisville; four on September 22, 1945, on Mount Eyrie (one taken); five on September 29, 1945, on Mount Eyrie (one taken); one near Marriotte on February 2, 1946. These transient and winter records, mostly from lowland thickets, presumably represent more than one race, but the two September specimens, from 7100 and 8000 feet, are *P. i. schistacea*.—J. DAN WEBSTER, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, October 15, 1946*.

Occurrence of Black Rail in San Francisco.—So little is known regarding the status of the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) in the San Francisco Bay region, outside of the fall and mid-winter months, that the following incidents seem worth recording. On April 2, 1945, Mr. Raymond Smith of the California Academy of Sciences discovered the crushed remains of a Black Rail on the drive next to the Shakespeare Garden in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. It was found about noon and apparently had been run over by an automobile the previous night. Although readily recognizable for purposes of identification, it was not in suitable condition for preservation. In view of the time of year and unusual locality of occurrence, this individual was thought perhaps to have been a migrant en route south.

Another Black Rail was brought to the California Academy of Sciences on August 9, 1945, by William Miller. This rail was alive at the time, having been captured by a cat at about 10:30 p.m. the previous night at Roosevelt Way and Castro Street in San Francisco. Efforts to induce the bird to eat were unsuccessful. Later dissection showed it to have been suffering from internal injuries, probably received from the cat. It was preserved, however, as a study skin (C.A.S. no. 58550) and proved to be an immature female. The bill is not fully grown, measuring only 12 mm. along the culmen. In plumage it conforms to the description of the juvenal of the species given by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. no. 135, 1926:329). Furthermore, it is the only specimen, out of a total of 63 skins of the Black Rail from California in the Academy collection, that is not in seemingly adult plumage.

There are a few summer records for this species in central California (see Bent, *op. cit.*; Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* no. 27, 1944:130ff.; Stoner, *Condor*, 47, 1945:81). These indicate that Black Rails sometimes remain in this region during the reproductive period, although they may not be breeding individuals. The presence of a juvenile, however, such as was found in San Francisco on August 9, 1945, is significant. It is unlikely that such an immature bird would have wandered far from the locality in which it was hatched. While members of this species have not been discovered nesting outside of San Diego and San Bernardino counties, the possibility exists that small numbers may breed in the San Francisco Bay region. Black Rails are notably elusive and extremely difficult to see except in winter when high tides flood the salt marshes, thus submerging the dense growths of pickle-weed (*Salicornia*) which they inhabit, and force the birds into less secluded situations. A small summering population, therefore, might easily escape detection.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, August 22, 1946*.

Chestnut-sided Warbler in Marin County, California.—On September 24, 1946, we captured in one of our water traps at Manor, Marin County, California, an immature Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). This bird was not taken in the trap next to the aviary of American warblers as were the Tennessee Warblers (*Vermivora peregrina*) and the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) of previous record, but entered a trap located nearest to shrubbery bordering a creek which bisects our grounds.

Neither Mrs. Kinsey nor the writer was familiar with this eastern species, and considerable difficulty was experienced in our first efforts properly to identify it. Since this individual was in immature plumage and lacking the chestnut side patches of the adult, we found it no easy task to run down the secondary characteristics of general coloration, eye ring, and wing bars, all or part of which are applicable to so many other warblers. Moreover, *pensylvanica* has a "big-eyed" appearance, not unlike that of vireos, a feature we have never noted before in any of the warblers with which we have worked. Identification was subsequently confirmed by comparison with skins in the California Academy of Sciences.

The captive Chestnut-sided Warbler has been banded and introduced to artificial food. It will be held over winter in our large, heated shelter until spring, when it will be released in the main warbler aviary. Color characteristics should, by that time, be sufficiently developed so as to enable us to determine sex. The only previous Californian record of this species, apparently, is that from Sherwood,

Mendocino County, for September 21, 1908 (Marsden, *Condor*, 11, 1909:64).—ERIC CAMPBELL KINSEY, *Manor, Marin County, California, October 2, 1946.*

Cuculus canorus on the North American Continent.—Under date of July 25, 1946, an Eskimo on the Seward Peninsula, in Alaska, wrote to me saying, "I myself got only one bird which I don't know as it's the first kind I have seen. It may be Common bird to you but it's a rare bird up here I wish I had it with eggs I got this bird up at tundra." Other notes in the letter showed that it was collected near Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, on the mainland of North America. I hardly knew what to expect as he also stated that it was a "Siberian bird (or Flicker)."

On August 21, 1946, I received the specimen in good condition and was agreeably surprised to find that it was a cuckoo that is new to the North American mainland. The label attached to the specimen read "Siberian (Flicker) June 28, 1946. FEMALE." I gave it my number 8295 and sent it to Dr. Herbert Friedmann for proper identification, as a paper by Friedmann and Riley (*Auk*, 48, 1931:269) seemed to be the latest information concerning the Asiatic cuckoos on the islands between Alaska and Siberia.

Under date of September 5, 1946, Dr. Friedmann wrote as follows: "The bird is a Siberian Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*. It is a young bird and is not completely identifiable to subspecies but is probably of the race *telephonus*." This is the first time that *Cuculus canorus* has been collected on the North American continent.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, September 19, 1946.*

Cranes and Egrets in Douglas County, Oregon.—During the summer seasons of 1945 and 1946, I have had the opportunity of observing and photographing in Douglas County, Oregon, two species which, to my knowledge, have not previously been recorded from there. They were the Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) and the Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). Both were seen in a swampy meadow near the south shore of Diamond Lake, at an elevation of 5,162 feet.

A pair of adult cranes was seen in the months of June and July, 1945. The birds were quite tame, usually allowing the observer to approach to about thirty yards before taking flight. I believed them to be nesting because of their apparent reluctance to leave the west end of the meadow and because of the prolonged disappearance of one of the birds on some occasions. The nest was not found, nor were cranes seen there in 1946.

On August 18, 1946, I returned to the same meadow and saw a flock of eleven Common Egrets and one Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). I took several still photographs of the egrets at that time. The egrets apparently were merely passing through, for on August 25, 1946, I searched all of the suitable meadows at the south end of the lake without seeing them again.

Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon*, 1940:229) state the breeding range of the Sandhill Crane in Oregon to be Klamath, Lake, and Harney counties. They further state that there are records from outside of the breeding range only for April, September, and October. The same authors (*op. cit.*:107) state that the Common Egret is a summer resident of Klamath and Harney counties. The only other records reported by them are those of vagrants from Multnomah and Lake counties.—VERNON E. THATCHER, *Medford, Oregon, October 11, 1946.*

Cactus Wrens Use "Extra" Nest.—Various suggestions have been made regarding the purpose, if any, of the "extra" nests built by wrens. These include presumptions that the several nests are built to serve as a ruse to trick enemies, as a lure for a mate, as markers for territorial claims, or as ready shelters if the nest in use is destroyed.

Early one June evening I observed three young of the Cactus Wren (*Heleodytes brunneicapillus*) that had left their nest during the day teetering about in a mesquite which spread its branches over a flat roof. Four feet from the other side of the building an Arizona cypress held a new, unused Cactus Wren nest. Both parents noisily fussed about their young and soon got them down onto the roof. Then one parent coaxed from the cypress while the other tried to steer all three fledglings in that direction. A fledgling would no sooner reach the cypress than he would flit back to the roof or even up into the mesquite. The performance was lengthy, repetitious and exciting, but the parents accomplished their aim and the three young wrens were finally snuggled together for the night in that "extra" nest. I watched their return to the same nest for several evenings. The parent wrens occupied nearby roosting nests. In another year at a nearby locality, I saw a pair of Cactus Wrens giving their young similar care.

Several "extra" nests appear in the vicinity of a brood nest during the incubation period. It may be suggested that some or all of these are built for the fledglings to occupy when they become old enough to roost by themselves.—ADA ANTEVS, *The Corral, Globe, Arizona, October 8, 1946.*