

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.*