Gila Woodpecker in San Diego County, California.—During midday on October 17, 1952, I was driving on a seldom used side road in the mountains near Jacumba, 70 miles east of San Diego, California, at an altitude of 2800 feet, when I heard a whining squeal which I recognized as the voice of a Gila Woodpecker (*Centurus uropygialis*). Somewhat surprised to hear that familiar high-pitched nasal call in such Upper Sonoran surroundings I stopped the car and located the bird a short distance ahead on a 20-foot pole. The woodpecker sidled around the pole, appearing on both sides and on top, ducking and bowing its head and noisily calling in habitual fashion as I advanced afoot. After close and detailed observation I flushed the woodpecker from the pole and clearly saw the characteristic white wing patches.

Some years later in a casual conversation with Mr. Laurence Huey and Mr. James Sams of the San Diego Museum of Natural History, I mentioned this observation of which I had made written notation and was much surprised to learn that no specimen of a Gila Woodpecker had ever been collected in San Diego County nor was there on record any sight identification. That a Gila Woodpecker should never before have been sighted in the mountains along the extreme eastern boundary of San Diego County seems strange.

Gila Woodpeckers frequent regions on two sides of Jacumba: to the east in Imperial Valley scarcely 50 air miles distant, and to the south not more than 60 air miles away in the rugged, isolated palm canyons that cut the precipitous east face of the Sierra Juárez of Baja California. I have found them common there at altitudes up to 2000 feet. The mountain chain on which Jacumba is situated is nothing more than a northward extension of the Sierra Juárez. It would be no great aerial feat for Gila Woodpeckers to wander northward to Jacumba or beyond following this cordillera. The altitude of Jacumba would be no bar to the Gila Woodpecker. Bent (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 174:250–256) states that it ranges up to 4000 or even 4500 feet in the canyons and foothills of its normal habitat, adding that this woodpecker seems somewhat given to wandering in fall and spring, reaching to such higher altitudes.—LEON L. GARDNER, *Department of Public Health, San Diego, California, March 20, 1959.*

Black-throated Sparrows in Northwestern Oregon.—On May 16, 1959, Fred Crenshaw informed me that he had taken a Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) at his banding station near Beaverton, Oregon. Mr. Crenshaw's description of the bird in hand left no doubt that his identification was correct.

A little later, on May 28, Mrs. John Dobak reported that two Black-throated Sparrows were in her yard near Milwaukie, Oregon. Arriving there a few minutes later, I was able to observe one of the birds at a distance of about twenty-five feet and confirm her identification. I am familiar with the species, having observed them often in Arizona and Texas.

On June 4 I was advised that Mrs. Ernest H. Baker, of Depoe Bay, on the Oregon coast, had had one of these sparrows at her home for two days. Her description was definite.

The only previous records of the species in Oregon are from the desert in Harney County, in the southeastern part of the state. Two specimens were taken on Wright's Point, June 24 and 25, 1908, by William L. Finley and Herman T. Bohlman, and one was taken by Stanley G. Jewett on July 15, 1912, at Silver Lake.

It is of interest that these desert birds appeared almost simultaneously in three separate regions in the humid section of northwestern Oregon.—H. M. DU BOIS, *Clackamas, Oregon, June 6, 1959.*

A Third Head-scratching Method of Emberizine Sparrows.—Heinroth (Aus dem Leben der Vogel, 1938) and Nice (Trans. Linn. Soc. N. Y., 6, 1943:1–328) made early observations on differences in the way that birds scratch their heads. Recently, Simmons (Ibis, 1957:178–181) reviewed this behavior trait and concluded that two methods are used: "direct" in which the leg is brought directly to the head, and "indirect" in which the leg is brought over the drooped wing. He also concluded that only one of these two methods is used by all the species of a given family. Thus it appeared that this behavior trait would be quite useful as a taxonomic character on the family level, and it has been so used (Simmons, *op. cit.*; Brown, Condor, 61, 1959:53).

Observations of wild and captive birds do not completely bear out Simmons' second conclusion. Nice (*op. cit.*:45) found one species of the Parulidae that scratched directly, and Ficken and Ficken (Ibis, 1958:277–278) found two more members of the same genus which scratched directly as young