

flowers in characteristic oriole fashion. The color and markings agree with those of the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) which has been recorded only once before in California at Eureka (Davis, Condor, 35, 1933:119). One brief visit of the oriole on March 30, 1958, was recorded on fourteen feet of 16mm. motion picture color film. James E. Crouch of San Diego State College confirmed the identification on viewing this film.—MYRTLE E. JOHNSON, *San Diego, California, February 15, 1959.*

**Occurrences of the Mockingbird at the Northwestern Margin of Its Range.**—Vagrant Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) have been recorded heretofore in northwestern California north to Ferndale, Humboldt County, where one was seen repeatedly in 1922 (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:345). Recently I have detected the species twice at points farther north in this area. On March 14, 1957, one appeared with a flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) in Eureka, Humboldt County. At Gold Beach, about 5 miles north of Orick in this county, one was seen and heard singing on May 26, 1959.—KEN LEGG, *Eureka, California, January 26, 1959.*

**Changes in Winter Bird Species Composition of Two Habitats in San Miguel County, New Mexico, After Three-fourths of a Century.**—Seventy-six years ago Charles F. Batchelder (*Auk*, 2, 1885:121-128, 233-239) spent December 4 to 22, 1882, collecting bird specimens and describing habitats frequented by the various species in the vicinity of Las Vegas Hot Springs, San Miguel County, New Mexico. In December of 1958 observations were made by me on the bird species composition in two of these same habitats and the results are here compared with those obtained by Batchelder.

One site is occupied by an open stand of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) situated on a steep south-facing canyon slope 1.3 road miles above the junction of the effluent of the hot springs and the Gallinas River. The understory vegetation here consists primarily of a sparse representation of scrub oaks (*Quercus* sp.) and blue grama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*). The second habitat consists of stream-side vegetation downstream from the canyon mouth for a distance of about one mile. The vegetation consists largely of a narrow corridor of tall cottonwoods (*Populus angustifolia* and *P. wislizeni*) with an understory of shrub willows (*Salix* sp.). A series of alfalfa fields borders the cottonwoods. A few abandoned fields and fence rows support variable stands of weedy annuals of which the sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) is most conspicuous.

Five visits were made to each habitat between 8:00 a.m. and noon in the period from December 6 to 28.

For the most part the birds most frequently observed are those also recorded by Batchelder. Gray-headed Juncos (*Junco caniceps*) and Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) are the most abundant birds of this season. The Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*), Steller Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*), and Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) are characteristic birds of the pine habitat and there appear to have been no important changes in the winter bird species composition in the habitat since 1882.

The species characteristic of the cottonwood habitat at the present time are the Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*), Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), and Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*). Magpies and crows apparently are new additions to the habitat while no individuals of the Water Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus*) and Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*), both reported as being common by Batchelder, were observed at any time. The changes that have occurred in species composition are probably related to agricultural practices. The absence of the Green-winged Teal and the Water Ouzel is believed to be related to changes in stream environment resulting from diversion of stream flow for irrigation storage purposes. A diversion dam, established about forty years ago, near the canyon mouth presently allows only a meager water flow along the original stream bed. No pools remain which might attract waterfowl and the reduced current apparently does not provide an environment attractive to the Water Ouzel.

The occurrence of magpies and crows cannot be attributed to any great alteration in physical environment since the gross vegetation mosaic is similar to that of 1882. It seems likely that changes in land usage have contributed to the appearance of these species.—W. H. RICKARD, *New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico, June 1, 1959.*