

these months birds that habitually nest at lower elevations migrate higher into the mountains. Some worth-while evidence in this regard was obtained this summer in the Yosemite Valley, by keeping a daily bird record. Following are a few notes on the "erratic stragglers" that drifted into the Valley during the last few days of July and the months of August and September, 1920.

The first bird of this class to appear was the California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*). One lone bird was seen on July 26, in the meadow near old Camp Ahwahnee. From this date until September 11, when they were last seen, the birds were found in this locality on every visit. Their numbers increased here, yet they were never seen in any other section of the Valley. On the morning of August 26, ten were counted.

The next wanderer to appear was the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). An individual of this species was first noted July 28. By August 5, there were a number of phoebes scattered along the stream within a mile of the village. One of these appeared one hundred yards above the Sentinel Bridge, selecting a dead stump which stood out of the river as his favorite perch. This bird held down the last patrol; no other phoebe was found up stream beyond this point. During the month of August and the first two weeks in September, phoebes were fairly common along the river below the village. Gradually their numbers decreased and on September 25 the Black Phoebe was noted for the last time.

On August 18, a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was discovered in the meadow below the village. When first seen he was perched on a pile of dry sticks. He flew often, diving into the dry grass for grasshoppers. By moving cautiously, the bird was approached to within twelve feet, and identification was made positive. This meadow was visited on several following days, but the bird was not seen again.

On the morning of September 4, in the meadow of our many bird adventures, a solitary White-rumped Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*) was noted. Two days later the bird was again seen. This time we were able to approach within six feet of it. It was a handsome bird in full plumage and a clear view of its distinct rump patch was obtained.

A pair of English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were noted September 2, in the barnyard at "Kinneyville".

August 29, a flock of fifteen California Bush-tits (*Psaltriparus minimus californicus*) was seen in the Kellogg oaks on the north side of the Valley. Again, on September 8, a small flock was seen. On September 12, a flock was seen in Illilouette Canyon, three thousand feet above the Valley floor.

On September 28, while we sat eating lunch, a strange bird flew out of the wild coffee bushes and lit in the branches of a Kellogg oak some twenty feet above our heads. We both thought it a waxwing. The actions of the bird were right, but the silhouette was a trifle off—the head did not appear to be crested. The strange bird sat quietly until a flicker flashed by, then, as though frightened, it crouched and sidled along the branch just as waxwings do when crowding together on a limb. In the course of a half hour the bird came three times to the coffee bush. The first two trips it stopped some distance away. As it pulled off berries, with its back towards us, we could plainly see two distinct white streaks, one on either side of the rump. The last time the bird came down from the oak we were able to get within six feet of it, and to identify it as a Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*). We were greatly surprised to see the Waxwing swallow eight large coffee berries in the few minutes that he stayed in the bush.

Many other interesting birds were seen during our stay in the Valley, some that passed through in early spring on their way to the higher country, and birds that were driven down into the Valley during storms.—CHARLES W. MICHAEL and ENID MICHAEL, Yosemite, California, March 10, 1920.

The Harlequin Duck in the Yosemite Valley.—On arriving in Yosemite, on June 1, I was informed by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Michael that a pair of Harlequin Ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) had been seen along the Merced River, near the Sentinel Hotel, on May 11 and May 26. On June 4, Mrs. Amy M. Bryant watched a pair of Harlequins for some time as they swam about in the river, and as they preened their feathers while perched on an old log. The birds were observed by other visitors in the Valley on several different occasions.

During July the birds were apparently absent, until July 21, when a female was discovered feeding in a gravelly riffle about one-fourth mile east of the Sentinel Bridge. The water was only three to four inches deep and the current strong. The bird seemed to be industriously turning over the rocks to obtain food between and beneath them. Often she was wholly immersed for from six to ten seconds by count. At the end of about ten minutes she drifted down the river and dove several times in still water. In the afternoon about 5:45, this female Harlequin returned to the same feeding ground and was watched again. For a full half-hour it continued feeding in the same manner, continually ducking its head under the swift current and always working up-stream.

Apparently the Harlequin does not procure all of its food by diving, but at times feeds in shallow water. The occurrence of these birds during the nesting season and the disappearance of the male during the middle of the summer would indicate nesting of the species in the Valley or close at hand, but no direct evidence in this regard was secured.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, November 10, 1920.*

Distribution of the Townsend Fox Sparrow.—In studying Swarth's *Revision of the Avian Genus Passerella* (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 21, 1920, pp. 75-224), the attention of the writer was drawn to some apparently erroneous conclusions of the author regarding the migration and distribution of *Passerella iliaca townsendi*, particularly as to its winter range.

On page 145 of the paper under discussion, Swarth states "The Townsend fox sparrow is a notable example of a bird with a winter habitat nearly as sharply defined as its summer home." On page 105 he states further that "*townsendi* in turn leap-frogs over *fuliginosa*", the breeding bird of the Puget Sound and Vancouver Island region, the impression being given here and by the map on the following page that the "sharply defined" winter habitat of *townsendi* lies entirely south of that of *fuliginosa*. The author further, on pages 145-146, calls the attention of the reader to the apparently discontinuous distribution of *townsendi* in the southern part of the Alexander Archipelago. The 1909 Alexander Expedition failed to find it at the localities visited in that region, but Swarth (loc. cit.) mentions the fact that it is known to be a common summer visitant to Forrester Island, near the southern extremity of the archipelago, and records summer specimens taken by other collectors at Howkan and Wrangell.

The following data from notes of the writer accumulated during six summers (1914-15-16-17-19-20), and one winter (1919-20), spent in the region under discussion, fill some of the gaps noted by Swarth and modify some of the conclusions which he reached. The greater part of the six summers were spent on Forrester Island, but occasional short visits were made at this season of the year to nearby points on Dall and Prince of Wales islands. During the winter of 1919-20 the writer resided at Craig, Prince of Wales Island, but frequent trips were made to nearby sections, to Suemez, Dall and Long islands, and to other points on Prince of Wales Island.

That the Townsend Fox Sparrow breeds more plentifully on Forrester Island than at any other point in the southern end of the Alexander Archipelago is very true. But that it fails to breed on Prince of Wales, Dall and Long islands, the writer doubts. Although the 1909 Alexander Expedition failed to find it in the region in summer, the writer has found it at that season at Craig and Waterfall, Prince of Wales Island, at several points on Dall Island, and at Howkan, Long Island, and, though no occupied nests were examined at these points, several nests entirely typical of the bird were noted in the fall.

On Forrester Island the species was always present at the time of the writer's arrival, the earliest date being April 21 (1915). In this locality probably fifty nests were examined during six summers. The majority of the eggs are laid between May 20 and June 20, extreme nesting dates being April 29 (1915), a nest with one fresh egg, and July 9 (1916), a nest with three eggs.

During the latter part of August there is apparently a movement up the sides of the mountains, and for some time after this date *townsendi* is quite rare near sea-level. This movement is shared to a considerable extent by the Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius naevius*) and Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus oreganus*), the three species being frequently found in close proximity in the woods on the mountain sides from about 1000 feet altitude to timber line. As the weather becomes cooler they work back down the mountains to the shore. At Craig, in 1919, the Townsend Sparrow became common in