

## Echoes from the Field.

**Early Migration at Stockton, Cal.**—*Petrochelidon lunifrons*. On the 15th of March I observed a colony of Cliff Swallows around a country barn, which is the earliest record for Central California, except that this and other species of swallows arrived at Murphys on March 15 in 1876 or 1877.

*Tyrannus verticalis*. First seen March 24, 1900 or two days earlier than any previous record for Stockton. On the 24th only one was seen and two days later I saw two more. No more appeared for several days, a cold spell having apparently checked migration.

The past winter was a very mild one with little or no frost and no sudden changes in temperature. The season is about two weeks earlier than usual but migrants are about on their usual time.

LYMAN BELDING, Stockton, Cal.

**Unique Nesting Site of Say's Phoebe.**—A friend of mine residing near the foothills west of this city reports a curious instance of the nesting of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*.) Sitting in an old shed he has a hawk mounted with wings spread, and on the shoulders of the bird, between the spreading wings, a pair of phoebes have built their nest and laid the usual number of white eggs.

W. L. BURNETT, Fort Collins, Colo., May 21, 1900.

**Sage Thrasher in Los Angeles Co., Cal.**—In Mr. Grinnell's "List of the Birds of Los Angeles Co." this species (*Oroscoptes montanus*) is recorded as a rare straggler from the desert, on the strength of a pair of birds taken by myself near San Fernando on March 13, 1897. At the time these were taken no others were seen and I naturally supposed that they were but accidental visitants. Since that date I have seen them several times in the same locality, and believe that they will be found to be of pretty regular occurrence in the county if looked for at the right time of the year. On Jan. 25, 1899 I secured three specimens and saw at least a dozen more, and on March 21, 1900 I saw a single bird but failed to secure it. All the birds seen were exceedingly wild, and as they are not at all a conspicuous bird, they may very easily be overlooked.

H. S. SWARTH, Los Angeles, Cal.

**Lewis' Woodpecker as a Flycatcher.**—Mr. McGregor's notes on *Melanerpes torquatus* in the March CONDOR, concerning this bird's flycatching habits brings to mind many observations of my own while at Copperopolis, and makes plain to me the cause of their peculiar and erratic flight, which often arrested my attention. Often I have watched them leave a tree and pursue their jerky, irregular flight for a distance and then return to the tree, but as the birds were too far away for me to see the insect and not knowing that they took food on the wing, their actions were attributed to some peculiar habit.

JOHN M. WELCH, Jamestown, Cal;

**Notes From San Luis Obispo County, Cal.**—On January 15 a man from the country brought me a cormorant which I took to be the Farallone, (*Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus*.) He said he had killed it the night before, while it was sitting on the windmill. The bird had "held down" the windmill the whole afternoon, sitting on the gear, the mill being tied down. The bird was in good condition, so it must have lost its bearings in the night as the place where it was killed is about forty-five miles from the ocean in a direct westerly line. The measurements were as follows: Length, 35.37 inches; bill along gape, 4.10; extent, 54.83; wing, 13.50; tail, 6.75. Bill bluish black on the top; pouch, yellow.

On January 22, I saw a flock of six Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia arctica*) which is more than I have ever seen together here before.

Have seen quite a number of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) this winter. Two years ago I saw but one pair but as nobody molested them they nested and last year I saw three pairs, and hope that they will increase, for about the only birds who sing constantly around town are the House Finches and Bullock's Orioles.