

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.

All the birds are laying early this year. Mr. E. B. Ballard of Creston took a set of two Golden Eagle on Feb. 15 and another set of two of the same species on the 16th of the same month.

Obtained a set of three California Screech Owl, heavily incubated, on the 15th of March.
CHAS. S. THOMPSON, Paso Robles, Cal.

The Indigo Bunting in Colorado.—Larimer is the most northern county in Colorado. Situated as it is, the western part is of rugged mountains, the southern and a portion of the eastern is covered with fertile farms while the northern and north-eastern is of barren plains, all of which offer to the bird student each year new surprises. This spring we had with us for several days a flock of eight or ten Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*.) Prof. Cooke in his list of Colorado birds says, "Rare if not accidental. Taken twice in Colorado, once in El Paso County, while the other specimen is in the Maxwell collection." The Maxwell collection is without labels but is supposed to have been taken about twenty years ago in the vicinity of Boulder, Boulder Co. This county joins Larimer on the South. The Indigo Bunting occurs regularly in eastern Kansas, and I think that in a short time they will come regularly to Colorado. One has but to note the changes in this section within the past twenty-five years, the barren plain with only a few trees along the streams has changed to cultivated farms with shade trees and young orchards. In a few years more we will probably be able to add many eastern species to our already large list of birds. W. L. BURNETT, Ft. Collins, Col.

Nesting of Say's Phoebe in California.—It may be interesting to report that on May 1, 1900 I collected a set of four eggs of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) near this place, in which incubation was begun. The nest was fastened to the side of a cave and composed of dry grass plastered together with mud. Subsequently I collected two other sets of four eggs each, and Messrs. Morcom and Swarth of Los Angeles kindly assisted in the identification of the birds.

C. B. LINTON, Whittier, Cal.

Notes From Alameda, Cal.—The Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) has been commoner at Alameda this winter than ever before. On Feb. 7 I took a ♂ the darkest I have yet noted. It had just eaten a California Towhee (*Pipilo f. crissalis*) and allowed me to approach within forty feet as it sat on the ground where it had been for some time. The hawk was quite thin and one leg had knit over an old break.

In the matter of discoloration of plumage of certain birds as mentioned by Richard C. McGregor in the January CONDOR (p. 18) some of the birds mentioned by Mr. Slevin were possibly shot by me, but the discoloration I attribute to their contact with the foliage of the cypress and pine, especially the latter and perhaps the eucalyptus. The most notable cases of discoloration under my notice have been in the California Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. californicus*) shot at different seasons among the pines, except perhaps the Arkansas Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*.) that feeds on a sort of gummy weed of the thistle variety. The Sharp-shinned Hawk spends considerable time among the pines as does the Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco s. deserticolus*.) Specimens of the latter that I have seen have been so soiled as to appear dark on the breast and much soiled-looking upon the wing and tail tips. The Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*) is more or less soiled in individual specimens. It frequents these trees a great deal but a great amount of discoloration is due to its fondness for buildings and unused flues. The House Finch (*Carpodacus m. frontalis*) is often considerably soiled where nesting in pine and cypress trees and often feeds among the tar weed thistles with the goldfinches. A few specimens of Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) and Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulatus*) taken breeding in pine and cypress groves showed no soiled plumages.

Replying to Mr. Joseph Mailliard's remarks in the CONDOR (I. 54) as to which sex predominates in winter residents in different localities, I give my observa-