

tions for Alameda and vicinity;—Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla aonalaschke*) ♂; Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) ♂ to a noticeable degree; Western Robin (*Merula m. propinqua*) ♀; Varied Thrush (*Hesperocichla naxia*) ♀; Oregon Junco (*Junco hiemalis oregonus*) all ♂'s of over forty specimens taken during the past few years except ♀ March 11, 1899, ♀ March 24, 1900 and ♀ Alvarado, April 24, 1897; Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) all ♂'s in midwinter. Mexican Horned Lark (*Otocoris a. chrysolama*) the few specimens taken were ♂'s; House Finch (*Carpodacus m. frontalis*) mostly ♂'s, often seen in pairs; California Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. californicus*) mostly ♂'s, in plain garb; Cabanis's Woodpecker (*Dryobates v. hyloscopus*), a few noted, all ♂'s; California Clapper Rail (*Rallus obsoletus*) ♀'s by a large majority. D. A. COHEN, Alameda Cal.

Notes From Los Angeles, Cal.—I do not remember having seen the Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*) recorded as occurring in California during the winter, and I was considerably surprised to see one of this species feeding in a willow tree in the vicinity of Los Angeles as late as November 11, 1899. A few days later, happening to be passing the place again I saw apparently the same bird and after that I found that I was almost sure to find it within a few hundred yards of the spot, by looking for it. I saw this bird almost every week all through the winter and kept track of it until about the end of February, 1900 when it was lost to view.

During October and November 1899 I saw several Townsend's Warblers (*D. townsendi*) in this vicinity. They are quite rare here in the fall and I have probably not seen more than eight or ten in the last six years, but it is a singular thing that the fall birds are, without exception, females. In the spring they are rather more numerous, some years being quite abundant, but all that I have ever seen or taken around here in the spring were males.

On October 30, 1899 I took an adult female Black-throated Gray Warbler (*D. nigrescens*) which I think is the latest they have ever been recorded from here. I also saw a Macgillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) on what I think is a very late date for this bird, Oct. 24, 1899. I did not secure the bird but was close enough to it to see that it was either a female or an immature bird.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) I have noted several times this winter, although I do not believe that it is known as a winter resident here. On Dec. 27, 1899 one was seen near San Fernando sitting on a bush singing; on Mar. 2, 1900 one was secured near Los Angeles, and a day or two later several more were seen. On May 2, 1900, they were seen near San Fernando in flocks of a dozen or more.

H. S. SWARTH, Los Angeles, Calif.

Tape Worm in Young Mountain Quail.—About one in ten of the young Plumed Quail (*Oreortyx pictus plumiferus*) in Nevada, Placer, Eldorado and probably other counties in the Sierra Nevadas are infested with tape worms. I have found the worms in the entrails, in the abdominal cavity and frequently under the loose skin of the abdomen, especially between the thighs and body. As I have never found a tape worm in an adult I suppose the young afflicted quails die before they reach maturity. I can usually distinguish the diseased bird by its sickly appearance. I do not know that these tape worms are dangerous to man but have reasons for thinking they are. Since 1885 I have never eaten a young Mountain Quail without skinning it and examining the bird very carefully. How the bird acquires the worm and what the name of the latter is,—if it has one,—is unknown to me. I have made three ineffectual attempts to get the species identified through alcoholic specimens, but failed to get a report. Have been informed that tape worms are sometimes, though rarely, found in the young Sooty Grouse of the Sierra Nevadas. LYMAN BELDING, Stockton, Cal.

Nesting Notes From Tacoma, Wash.—The unusually warm spring has started the birds to housekeeping some two weeks earlier than is customary with them. An incubated set of two eggs of Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*) was found on April 14, and the mother bird sat with the utmost composure to have her

photograph taken at a distance of five feet. She seemed to feel that the two little pearls under her were perfectly safe in her keeping, and I am happy to add that she was not disappointed. On the 17th of April a set of two eggs of the same species was found on the point of hatching.

A nest of the Bush-Tit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) containing seven fresh eggs was noted April 12. One of the most curious changes in nesting habits has occurred this season in a colony of Brewer's Blackbirds (*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*.) In previous years they have nested in holes of the Red-shafted Flicker high up in some dead firs, but a visit a few days ago disclosed the remarkable fact that every bird is nesting in gooseberry bushes, no more than three feet from the ground. There is no apparent reason for this change of some seventy-five feet in altitude, for the holes used in previous seasons still appear to be in as good condition as ever.

J. H. BOWLES, Tacoma, Wash.

Western Winter Wren in Santa Clara Co., Cal.—I notice that Mr. Van Denburgh's county list does not give the Western Winter Wren (*Anorthura hiemalis pacifica*) as occurring in Santa Clara County. One specimen was taken Feb. 17, 1900, at Stevens Creek by a party of Stanford students, and is now in my collection.

ROBERT E. BRUCE, Stanford University, Cal.

Book Reviews

BIRD STUDIES WITH A CAMERA.—By Frank M. Chapman, pp. 214, with numerous half-tone illustrations. D. Appleton & Co., New York. Cloth. \$1.75.

In this day of bird photography, when enthusiasts are afield by the score each summer seeking out the haunts of nesting birds, it is a pleasure to be taken into the confidence of one who speaks not authoritatively of his own work, but whose results bear eloquent testimony of his adaptability to bird photography. Unquestionably Mr. Chapman holds the position in America which the Kearton Bros. have long held in England,—that of the most successful portrayer of bird life with the camera.

In his substantially entertaining book Mr. Chapman does not stop to indulge in photographic theories and the like, but proceeds at once to illustrate his subject in a most pleasing manner. After discussing briefly and generally the apparatus necessary for successful field work, and explaining the work which may be expected of the various patterns of lenses, the author has combined his experiences into appropriate groups and takes the reader afield with him to witness, in imagination, just how the various negatives were secured.

There is not a dry paragraph in the book, nor scarcely one which does not relate Mr. Chapman's personal experiences, all of which gives the work immeasurably greater interest than would a mere treatise on the subject. The chapter delineating the home life of the Chickadee and portraying a family of nine fledglings is one of the most delightful in the book, although the chapter devoted to photography in a swamp would prove a close second.

Over 100 excellent half-tone illustrations by the author, depicting marsh, land, shore and sea birds in their homes, lend additional charm to the volume. Those who have already engaged in similar work afield will find many excellent suggestions in the work, while the beginner will be enthusiastically impressed with the field of delightful possibilities which lies before him. *Bird Studies With a Camera* is easily the most striking and valuable work on bird photography which has appeared in America.—C. B.

A MONOGRAPH OF THE FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*).—By Frank L. Burns. Wilson Bulletin No. 31. April, 1900, pp. 82. One plate.

Another substantial publication is credited to the Wilson Ornithological Chapter in the appearance of this exceedingly complete publication. Mr. Burns has collaborated his results in a more systematic and pleasing manner than even that which marked the able Crow Bulletin issued under his supervision some years ago, and the present publication is in fact what the name implies,—a monograph. The paper opens with a list of the scientific and vernacular synonyms of this species, the latter reaching the surprising number of 88, and giving the localities in which each name is current. The life history of the species is then taken up in consecutive chapters such as Geographical Distribution, Flight, Migration, Roosting, Voice, Mating, Nidification, Eggs, Incubation, Young, Molt, Food, Plumage, Hybridism, Atavism, each chapter being singularly valuable in its deductions. The entire paper is obviously the product of careful study and thought and embraces notes from a wide list of field workers. This monograph should be in the library of every working ornithologist.

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