

Two Interesting Stragglers for Marin Co. Gal. *Coccothraustes v. montanus*. While driving through our county-road gate about ten o'clock on the morning of Nov. 20, 1900, my attention was attracted by a small flock of strange birds in the top of an ash tree opposite. They were feeding upon the buds and were not in plain view, yet the white bands on the wings at once called to mind the Western Evening Grosbeak. It seemed impossible that this identification could be correct, as this bird is a very rare visitant to this county, two or three only having been reported as seen in years past, one specimen sent me from Olema and now in our collection, and one seen by me on July 15, 1900 while I was deer-hunting. Leaving my companion to watch the flock I drove back to the house about half a mile distant, after a gun, and upon returning found the flock still in the immediate neighborhood, and consisting of ten or twelve birds. Three were secured, one of which was a male, apparently upon dissection a bird of the year; one an adult female and the third a female bird of the year. This last was exceedingly fat, while the first two were thin.

*Nucifraga columbiana*. It is a pleasure to be able to mention the capture of a bird never before recorded from this county, and as far as I know, not suspected of ever having been even a straggling visitor. On the 20th of November, 1900, a box was sent me from Point Reyes station in this county, containing besides one specimen each of *Porzana jamaicensis* and *Porzana noveboracensis*, an immature female Clarke's Nutcracker to which was attached a note from the donor asking what manner of bird this might be. I immediately sent a note of thanks for the specimens and enclosed a list of questions concerning the capture, for the donor to answer. His reply contained the statements that the Clarke's Nutcracker was shot in a pine tree on the top of a ridge on Point Reyes proper, on the south-west side of Tomales Bay, Marin Co., Cal. by himself on Nov. 19; that this was the only one seen at the time, but that he had seen one about a month before in the same place, which he thought was the same individual as the one shot, and that one was seen about a mile from the spot the day before the capture by a member of the Country Club. This he also believes to be the same individual, but promises to keep a sharp lookout in order to verify his supposition. This party is a hunter of great experience and naturally of an observing nature, yet he states that during all the years in which he has hunted, and at times been game-keeper in this county, he has never before seen a bird of this species except as above mentioned. This specimen was much emaciated, as if it had been a difficult matter for it to find proper food in this region, though the locality where it was shot is partially covered with a species of nut pine which would seem to be adapted to the bird's needs, and yet which grows in no other part of the county.

JOSEPH MAILLARD, San Geronimo, Marin Co., Cal.

Two Albinos from San Mateo Co., Gal. I have recently added two more albinos to my collection; one, a "white quail" (*Lophortyx californicus vallicolus*), a male, and the exact counterpart of the bird described by Mr. McGregor in a recent number of THE CONDOR. The other is a "white blackbird" (*Agelaius gubernator californicus*) with the exception of about half a dozen feathers on the breast and the same number between the shoulders on the back. The body is pure white, the top of the head is normal, the wings each contain about six or eight white feathers; the feathers on one side of the tail were shot away, those remaining being black. The bird has red shoulders but they are much paler than normal, and the color seems to have "run" across the breast and throat, giving these parts a rosy hue. This is the most interesting albino I have ever seen, it having been presented to me by Mr. Chas. Nichols of Pescadero, at which place it was shot. The quail was taken

here, within about three miles of the place at which the one recorded by Mr. McGregor was captured. Both albinos are in my collection.

CHASE LITTLEJOHN, Redwood City, Cal.

Notes from Los Angeles Co., Cal. *Uria troile californica*. On Nov. 3, 1900 in a box of birds in the flesh, sent me by Mr. Lee Chambers from Santa Monica, I found a California Murre ♀. The bird had been found dying on the beach and was in a greatly emaciated condition. I believe that this is an addition to our county list as I can find no record of its occurrence here.

*Coccothraustes v. montanus*. On Oct. 21, 1900 I saw an Evening Grosbeak in the Arroyo Seco Canyon, but failed to secure it. On Dec. 7 on Mt. Wilson I heard the loud call note of one, but did not even see the bird. On Dec. 13 I heard the same note in the wash issuing from the Arroyo Seco Canyon, and was fortunate enough to secure the bird, an adult female.

*Junco hyemalis*. I shot a male Slate-colored Junco on Mt. Wilson, Dec. 6, 1900. Another, also a male, was seen the day before; both were observed in flocks of *J. h. thurberi*

*Helminthophila celata*. Three warblers that I have shot at Los Angeles (♂ Sept. 17, 1900. ♀ Oct. 30, 1899; ♀ Oct. 8, 1896) have been identified by Mr. Ridgway as belonging to this species. I have seen specimens of this bird every fall in the vicinity of Los Angeles, usually in company with *H. c. lutescens*, from which its grayish head renders it readily distinguishable.

*Ammodramus sandwichensis bryanti*, An *Ammodramus* shot by me at San Pedro Dec. 10, 1899, has been identified as Bryant's Marsh Sparrow by Mr. Ridgway. I have one or two others taken about the same time, apparently similar, so it may be found to be of regular occurrence here in the winter, though not recorded before.

H. S. SWARTH, Los Angeles, Cal.

Notes from San Luis Obispo Co., Cal. While at Morro on the San Luis Obispo coast I discovered three sets of Snowy Plover's (*Ægialitis nivosa*) eggs on August 1, two sets being of three and one of two eggs. All were heavily incubated at this date and would have hatched in a day or two. The eggs were laid on the sand above high-water mark in slight hollows.

During April, 1900, I had the good fortune to record Cabanis' Woodpecker (*Dryobates v. hyloscopus*) for this county by taking two sets of eggs,  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ . One of the nests which I found was peculiar in that it had *two* entrances, one about five inches below the other and to one side, but each entrance seemed equally used. In 1899 I obtained a set of *D. nuttalli* from the same tree, a dead cottonwood. This addition to the list now gives the upper Salinas valley six breeding species of *Picidae*.

While at Morro, Nov. 25, 1900 I saw two Bald Eagles. One flew away but the other circled about and finally pounced upon a White-winged Scoter which it carried up the beach and started to devour. At our approach it dropped the bird, which waddled toward the water and swam away apparently unharmed. On Nov. 24 I captured three Scoters alive. They were far up on the beach and apparently were unable to fly from a "ground start". All captured were birds of the year and fully feathered.

CHAS. S. THOMPSON, Paso Robles, Cal.

Notes on the Dwarf Hermit Thrush and Other Notes. On the 11th of December, 1900 I witnessed a rather amusing, yet interesting performance by watching a Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla aonalaschkæ*) securing his dinner. Being confined to the house by illness, I was looking out of a window into our garden for something in the bird line, when I noticed a thrush on the ground under an English walnut