

female on Sept. 28 and a male on Oct. 14. Mr. Grinnell writes me that he has a specimen, a male, taken at Pasadena Sept. 30, 1896. Aside from this I believe that I have about all the specimens heretofore taken in Los Angeles County, but nevertheless I believe that *Helminthophila celata* is a regular fall migrant in very limited numbers. I have taken it now in four different years (see CONDOR III, i), in fact in every year in which I have looked for it. The grey head and duller colors of *celata* usually serve easily to distinguish it from *H. c. lutescens*, in whose company I have generally found it.

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The Status of the Cedar Waxwing in California.

IN THE May CONDOR Mr. J. W. Mailliard makes an enquiry in regard to the summer and winter ranges of the Cedar Waxwing (*Ampelis cedrorum*). Since then I have jotted down whatever notes I could find on the subject, and these may be summarized somewhat as follows:

The Cedar-bird is principally if not exclusively a winter visitant to the State. I have been unable to find any definite breeding record for California; but a distribution map is pretty well dotted with winter stations from Red Bluff to San Diego, and from the Nevada line to the Coast, excepting the high mountain ranges. In the more northern and alpine sections it occurs chiefly as a spring and fall migrant. Within its winter habitat as above indicated, the species is found abundantly each year, though its local distribution is very irregular, being governed largely by food-supply. In certain localities waxwings may appear suddenly in large flocks, while points but a few miles distant are avoided altogether. Besides mulberries, mistle-toe berries and wild grapes, the berries of the pepper-tree,

so abundantly planted for shade and beauty in Southern California, are especially sought after. These latter berries mature in largest quantities in the early spring months and it is then that the casual observer is most sure to notice the presence of the Cedar bird.

The Cedar Waxwing arrives within the State during the latter half of September. My earliest fall record at Palo Alto is September 13, 1901, when six were seen in the heart of town. At Pasadena, I saw them first on September 14, 1897, when three were noted. Fisher, in the "Ornithology of the Death Valley Expedition," records finding a flock of five at Three Rivers September 15, 1891. The species is not, however, noted in numbers until well along into October. From that month until the middle of May it is more or less numerous according to local food attractions. In the spring the species remains common until even after many of our strictly summer visitants are rearing young. This fact has led to the supposition that the waxwing itself should be found nesting. But according to my own observations, up to the time of their disappearance, the birds remain in flocks, without showing any intentions of pairing.

My latest spring observation for the species at Pasadena was May 17, 1895, when a small flock was still feeding in the pepper-trees on my home place. Belding, in his "Land Birds of the Pacific District," records the latest at San Diego, May 14, 1884; at Poway, May 18, a large flock; at San Jose, May 10, large flocks; and at Chico, May 15, 1884, a small flock. So that the usual time of arrival and departure of the species throughout the State is remarkably constant.

There are, however, four instances of the occurrence of waxwings long after the ordinary time of departure. As noted in "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles County," two were seen at South Pasadena June 16, 1897; Fisher has recorded two at Lone Pine,

Owens Valley, June 14, 1891; Belding has recorded it at Camp Seco, Calaveras County, on June 1; and, as elsewhere stated, I saw one on San Clemente Island, May 31, 1897. The latter was, without doubt, a lone straggler. The other three cases, however, might seem to indicate breeding localities. Numerous accidents may happen to maim individuals slightly, enough however to prevent extended migration flights. It seems to me probable that some such factor caused the delay in these cases. I am reminded of a casualty that often befalls the Cedar birds at Pasadena. The telephone and electric wires are strung along the streets in close webs, sometimes right through the foliage of the shade trees. The waxwings fly in compact flocks in and out among the trees, and several individuals are not infrequently crippled or killed at one time by flying against the wires. At any rate, it remains that we have no record of the waxwing in California between June 16 and September 13.

The Cedar Waxwing appears to be a common summer bird northward along the Pacific Coast from Oregon to southern British Columbia. Johnson, in the "American Naturalist" for July, 1880, gives it as an abundant summer resident in the Willamette Valley, Oregon, where he says it nests extensively in the groves of small Douglas spruce. J. S. Bu cham tells me that he knew of a pair nesting near Salem. Anthony, in the "Auk" for April, 1886, states it to be common throughout the summer at Beaverton, Oregon; as recorded by Belding, it was first seen there on May 22 and was common by June 7. At Burrard Inlet, B. C., it was first seen by Fannin on May 24, and was common by June 2; it is also stated to breed in the same locality. Cooper found it nesting at Fort Vancouver. The waxwing thus seems to be absent altogether during the winter from these northern regions, where it arrives quite late in the spring. In fact, the dates of departure from Southern California and arrival in

Oregon and British Columbia, fit very neatly together. The waxwing in the eastern states is a notoriously late breeder, and the peculiarity seems to hold in the west also.

To sum up: The Cedar Waxwing on this coast is a migratory species, breeding in the Humid Transition Zone of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, and wintering in the Upper and Lower Sonoran Zones of Southern and Lower California.

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The Painted Redstart.

NEARLY twenty years have passed since Mr. Wm. Brewster gave in "The Auk" a description of the first nest and eggs found of the Painted Redstart (*Setophaga picta*). This nest was found in the Santa Rita Mountains which are thirty miles distant from Tucson. I well remember reading the account back in the early days of my collecting. Little did I think then that it would ever be my pleasure to follow in the footsteps of our earlier naturalists, in going over the same trails, camping on the same camp-sites and renewing old records, besides making a few new ones.

I have made three trips to the Huachuca Mountains and two into the Santa Ritas. Today I ran across the above description and very naturally my mind runs back over my own experiences with this beautiful bird. I first met the species in the Santa Rita Mountains, shooting two birds from among the tangled growth at the edge of a clear stream of water. The same year (1897) I found them in the Huachuca Mountains and took a nest and four eggs.

The nest was situated among the roots of a small oak tree growing near the foot of a hillside. The nest contained three fresh eggs and two days later it contained but one additional egg. The set was then taken as complete. I have since found six or seven