

California Pygmy Owl in Lake Co., Cal.

ABOUT 4 P. M. in the afternoon of Dec. 9, 1901, I secured a California pygmy owl (*Glaucidium gnoma californicum*) at Hasting's Ranch, Upper-Lake. The bird, a female, is the first of the species I have seen here. When out with my small collecting gun, a 28 bore, a few days before the 9th, I saw a couple of canvasback ducks in a pond near the northern end of Clear Lake.

Thinking I might find a canvasback or some mallards in the pond if I paid it another visit, I took my 10-bore and revisited the place on Dec. 9. Not a duck of any description was there. Coming out of the tules and into a fringe of white oaks growing on the hillside, I stood awhile looking around. A commotion among a flock of small birds in a mistletoe-covered oak attracted my attention.

Suddenly a bird flew through the tree and to the ground carrying along with it in its talons a sparrow or other small bird. Being quite close to the two I saw at once that the bird was a pygmy owl. It crouched over its prey with its face turned full in my direction, and we gazed at each other a few moments before I started to walk backwards to widen the distance between us. Unfortunately I had cartridges loaded with a heavy charge of No. 4 shot, but I raised my gun and awaited a change of position on the owl's part, fearing to damage its face if I fired at once.

After a little it flew off carrying the small bird and alighted in an oak, its flight being rapid and hawk-like and its long tail very noticeable as it flew. I tried a long shot,—too long in fact—and missed. The owl seemed more startled than frightened and contented itself with a quick flight into a larger tree, dropping its prey en route. I followed, and getting a little nearer than before brought the bird down. Upon skinning the specimen I found that the

large shot had done considerable damage.

A. W. JOHNSON.

Upper Lake, Cal.



Two Specimens of *Nyctala* From Marin County, California.

ON December 11, 1901 I received a box from Thos. Irving, game keeper at Point Reyes Station, about ten miles from here, containing, besides a beautifully-marked partially albino western robin, a fine specimen in the flesh of saw-whet owl (*Nyctala acadica*) which proved to be an adult female. I was greatly surprised at this take partly because this bird has been but seldom recorded from this state and then mostly from the higher ranges, and also because I have never heard any bird sounds that would correspond to the published description of the notes of this owl.

Since writing the above note I have received another specimen of *Nyctala acadica*, also a female, from the same party and locality, shot on Dec. 23. It is strange that two specimens should have been taken within a few days of each other when no former record has been made, nor the note of this bird heard or its presence even suspected in this county, as this species is not supposed to be a migrant. Both birds were fat, though the stomachs were empty. They had probably wandered in this direction in search of food, but in all likelihood from some not far distant locality.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

San Geronimo, Cal.



The Elf Owl in California.

IT may interest California ornithologists to know that the National Museum possesses a specimen of the elf owl (*Micropallas whitneyi*) from California, the species being previously un-

recorded from that state, so far as I am aware. The specimen was obtained from Mr. C. K. Worthen, of Warsaw, Illinois, and according to the label is a female, and was taken in Kern Co., May 10, 1882.

ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Washington, D. C.



The Parasite Question Again.

The remarks of Mr. Lyman Belding in THE CONDOR, (Vol 3, No. 4) concerning the absence of intestinal parasites in *Lophortyx c. vallicolus* have been a great surprise to me, proving as they do that his experience with this bird has been so different from mine. It is true that my own experience has been almost wholly with *L. californicus* but it is hardly reasonable to suppose that a parasite would turn up its nose at a subspecies. It must be a question of infected localities.

I have seen so many cases of intestinal parasites in the *Lophortyx* of this region that I was led to believe that this bird was especially subject to such afflictions. In Marin County, and if my memory is correct, in San Benito County also, these birds are very frequently found with either what appear to be small tapeworms, or with numbers of round, white, rather blunt worms about half an inch long, closely resembling those sometimes found in domesticated poultry. Besides these I have often found a group of exceedingly small parasites of a bright vermilion color, suggesting fungoid growth, around the vent, but have never examined these with a microscope.

I might remark that I recently found what appeared to be this same vermilion parasite grouped around the eyelids of a young dog, and in sufficient quantity to be visible at a distance of several feet. A light brushing with kerosene removed these in a short time. As there is no reason to suppose that a parasite would have any more compunctions about attacking a *Lophortyx c.*

vallicolus than an *L. californicus* the matter resolves itself into a local issue.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

San Geronimo, Cal.



Common Loon at Palo Alto, Cal.

I WISH to record a specimen of *Gavia imber* secured near Palo Alto, California, on April 15, 1901. It was shot by a student of Stanford University at a fresh water reservoir on the campus. I prepared the skin, which is now in the University collection. It proved to be an adult male, and is in complete summer plumage. The bird was probably on its way northward to its breeding grounds, as I have not observed the species in winter in this immediate vicinity.

Although of regular occurrence in California, this loon has not been recorded very often. The red-throated and pacific loons have been much more frequently noted, though both the latter seem to be confined to the sea-coast; while the common loon occurs principally on fresh bodies of water inland. The latter has been found also in summer in the Sierras, and has been recorded as breeding in the lakes lying a few miles east of Mt. Lassen.

JOSEPH GRINNELL.



Notes from Oakland and Pescadero.

On May 20, 1901, four ruby-crowned kinglets, were seen on a redwood covered ridge near Pescadero, Cal. The birds were apparently paired, but the two pairs did not separate very much.

I shot a California creeper from a cypress hedge near Oakland, on December 31, 1901. I have never seen one in this valley before, although I saw one near Lafayette in March of 1900.

So far this season, the varied thrush is not in anything like the numbers in which they appeared last year. Blue-fronted jays are not rare in the foot-hills this winter. They were rarely met with at all during the past eight years.

J. M. WILLARD.