

species of bird breeding on the island, wrecking hundreds of nests.

MILTON S. RAY,
San Francisco, California.

April 29, 1909

[The above letter was sent to the State Game Commission, and the following is the substance of the reply.—ED.]

You will observe that in the new fish and game laws, there is a prohibition on the killing of Mountain quail and grouse up to Sept. 1st, 1911. The Mountain Quail have not recovered from the awful demands made upon them by the market hunters, when the quail were allowed to be sold in the market. Two years of close season should show a great improvement, but it is my opinion that the sheep have had much to do with destroying the nests of both the quail and grouse. My observation regarding Mountain Quail is that in the northern part of the state, especially in Siskiyou and Shasta Counties, they are well able to take care of themselves by September 1st; in fact, the people of that region tried to have the law open on August 15th. The Mountain Quail has a wider range than is generally supposed; I have seen them in Sonoma County, also in Mendocino at an elevation not to exceed 1500 feet. One reason why there is a difference in the seasons has been the influence brought about by the people living in the Sierras who claimed that unless they were allowed to shoot quail by the 1st of September, they got none at all, as their migrations commence shortly after; but these problems will work themselves out. Our people are becoming more accustomed to the restrictions and there is a better sentiment all over the state. In fact, the improvement has been most marked in the last four years and thru the Legislature we can accomplish more now than we could five years ago.

With regard to the Farallone Islands, that is territory over which we have no jurisdiction. It is a Federal Reservation, just the same as the Presidio. The Treasury Department at Washington exercises control over the Islands. Having been a witness to the damage done by dogs, a letter from you to the Treasury Department at Washington calling attention to the matter, or to the National Audubon Society at New York, might result in some order being issued that would tend to check this abuse.

Yours respectfully,

CHAS. A. VOGELSONG
Chief Deputy Fish and Game Commission,

Thayer Museum,
Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Editor THE CONDOR:—

My collector, Wilmot W. Brown, Jr., is still in the Cape region of Lower California. His letters are so interesting, I thought the readers of the CONDOR might enjoy them, therefore I

decided to publish them. The collecting of so many sets of such a rare bird as Craveri Murrellet and the description of their nesting habits is indeed interesting.

JOHN E. THAYER.

(Letter no. 1): *La Paz, Lower California, Mexico, January 20, 1909*: From La Paz I went by sea to Buena Vista and from there by mules to Eureka which is on the coast and lies seven miles south from Buena Vista. At Eureka I made a small collection while waiting for the mules from Miraflores to arrive. The most interesting species were a series of the Belding Maryland Yellowthroat, an Elf Owl and a Burrowing Owl. On the way to Miraflores I made a short stay at Santiago and collected a fine series of the Belding Maryland Yellowthroat in the laguna there. Also took several Marsh Wrens and a Carolina Rail. At Miraflores I spent over two weeks collecting while waiting for mules. I finally secured mules for the expedition to El Sauz a Sierra, about two and one-half days' trip with pack mules from Miraflores. El Sauz being the objective point of the expedition and an excellent region for the rare Laguna Sparrow, *Aimophila ruficeps sororia*, we pitched camp near a small mountain stream. We found it very cold up there, our tent many nights being stiff and heavy with ice. To get water for cooking purposes we had to break the ice. The elevation above the sea is about 4,000 feet. We camped there for about 16 days and secured a large series of Laguna Sparrows. It was sometimes difficult work in collecting them as they were found in very steep places. The species is not common there, as six specimens a day was the best I could do. Also collected three specimens of the very rare Xantus Screech Owl, and other interesting species of the Sierras. All are in excellent plumage. From El Sauz we returned to Miraflores where a short stay was made and two more of the Xantus Screech Owls were collected and several specimens of the Elf Owl also.

From Miraflores we took the pack mules to Santiago and camped at the Laguna within fifteen feet of the tules, and shot Belding Maryland Yellowthroats out of the back door of the tent. Also secured two more rails and some Marsh Wrens. But the most interesting were two fine full-plumaged *Megascops xantusi*. My cook getting the malaria or fever we struck camp and returned to Eureka with pack mules and from there to Buena Vista; and two days later by sea to La Paz in the schooner "Laurita." The collection is packed in 5 cases and numbers over three hundred and seventy-five specimens. It contains every species of owl recorded from Lower California—that is from the Cape Region as covered by Mr. Brewster's book. Of the Screech Owl there