

**The Struggle for Existence.**—On the west coast of Florida some of the bays and inlets are famous spawning grounds for mullet, a fish weighing from two to ten pounds. They swim in large schools near the surface, and are a favorite food of the fish hawk, which is not an uncommon bird upon that coast.

One day, on the shore of Sarasota Bay, I was watching a female fish hawk circling above a large school of mullet, swimming so close in that their protruding noses could be plainly seen dimpling the smooth waters of the bay. After a few unsuccessful attempts she dropped with extended talons, seized a fish, and after a distressing struggle, made a low rise and started toward the shore. Her labored flight indicated a heavy burden, and even from a distance it was evident that she had struck an unusually large fish. With manifest effort she tugged at her task with the chances in her favor, when from a high dead stub of a tall pine, a male eagle with rapid flight descended from above and struck the fish hawk in the back so that she was almost capsized in the air, the fish being above her. With rapid beating and fluttering of the wings she righted herself and with increasing effort proceeded on her way. The eagle also righted, and with nervous speed, again rose above his victim and after two small circles with extending neck and outstretched feet, he shot once more down upon his prey. This time the force of the impact completely overturned the hawk, who, beginning to fall, let go the fish, recovered her equilibrium, and made off. The eagle with the swiftness of an arrow struck for the falling mullet and captured it before it struck the water. As he headed for the shore, the first few strokes of the wing disclosed that he had a burden greater than he could bear, for his flight was staggering, the wing beats short and unsteady, and although making efforts to rise, he began slowly to lose elevation. Immediately these conditions became evident, he shrieked out a clear, high whistle, that would put to shame the most popular policeman on the beat. This cry of warning was answered almost instantly by a long, quivering squeak, like that of "a young pig, stuck in a gate", and with a rustle as of a mighty wind, his mate bolting from the forest, swooped down toward her spouse. As they approached each other, the striking comparison in size became manifest; the wide, far-reaching wings, deeper, broader tail, larger body and greater weight of the female were plain to see. Renewing her warning squeal that seemed to be torn from her palpitating throat, she bore down toward him with firm, sure wing, when the male bird dropped the fish and flew away without apparent concern. The female, with a deadly grip, seized the prize, and with a confident, steady and jauntily sustained flight, rose lightly in the air as if to prove her worth, and bore it safely to the nest, now plainly visible in the high crotch of the tallest pine of the forest.

—JOHN J. BOYCE, *Berkeley, California.*

**Beautiful Bunting in California.**—Among recent additions to my collection obtained from Dr. J. A. Hornung, of this city, I find what is in all probability a new record for California. During February, 1914, Dr. Hornung spent a few days collecting at Blythe, Riverside County, California, in the valley of the Colorado River, where, at different times he found fifteen or twenty examples of *Passerina versicolor pulchra* feeding on roadside weeds bordering a cotton field. On February 8, he shot a female, and on the 9th he secured a male, both in winter plumage.—FRANK S. DAGGETT, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California.*

**Notes from Sacaton, Arizona.**—In looking over Swarth's *Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona* I find I have three species not included therein.

Harris Sparrow. *Zonotrichia querula*. A male secured March 16, 1913, from a small flock of Intermediate Sparrows. Identified by W. W. Cooke, and recorded by him in *The Auk*, vol. 31, July, 1914, p. 403.

Sierra Sapsucker. *Sphyrapicus varius daggetti* (*S. ruber ruber* of the A. O. U. *Check-List*). A female taken February 9, 1910, and a male on October 5, 1910.

Ring-necked Duck. *Aythya collaris*. A male secured February 19, 1910.

There seem to be very few records of the Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata nanus*) from Arizona, but I have taken three of the birds, as follows: A female at Blackwater, ten miles east of Sacaton, on the Gila River, identified by Joseph Grinnell; a female at Agua Caliente about one hundred miles down the Gila River from Sacaton; and a male at Sacaton, September 18, 1910. The one at Blackwater was taken March 7, 1908, and the one at Agua Caliente, April 12, 1909.

February 15, 1910, I secured a Tree Swallow, *Iridoprocne bicolor*, from a small flock that flew about a stream of water during a shower. I have seen two Audubon Caracaras (*Polyborus cheriway*), one on each side of the Gila River, and also the head, wings and tail of one shot at Sacaton by an Indian.

September 4, 1910, I secured a male Anna Hummingbird, *Calypte anna*. Two Rufous Hummingbirds, *Selasphorus rufus*, immature males, were secured the same year, one September 4, the other October 1.—M. FRENCH GILMAN, *Sacaton, Arizona*.

**Migrations of the Gannet.**—If any correspondent would be so good as to inform me of any authenticated occurrence of the Gannet (*Sula bassana*) in any part of the Caribbean Sea, or off the shores of Panama, Venezuela or Columbia, I should be greatly obliged, as information is lacking on the points. The Gannet (*Sula bassana*) is stated to make an annual migration in the winter to the Gulf of Mexico, which is some 2500 miles from its Canadian breeding-places—Bird Rocks and Bonaventure. It has been identified, although not actually obtained, at Trinidad island, lat. 10° 50' N (see *The Field*, April 17, 1897, p. 586), but it must be a very occasional visitant so far south as this, and there is no other notice of it on such a latitude. According to Mr. Beebe it is not uncommon off Vera Cruz (*Bird Lovers in Mexico*, p. 381).—J. H. GURNEY, *Keswick, Norwich, England*.

**New Breeding Records for California.**—Early last spring the services of Mr. Adriaan van Rossem were engaged by my brother and myself for a collecting trip which was to start from Los Angeles, going northerly through Los Angeles County to the Tejon Pass, take in some of the Buena Vista Lake country, then cross the valley past Bakersfield toward the more northeastern part of Kern County, to the South Fork of Kern River. The writer hoped to join the expedition but was compelled by developments to abandon the idea, to his great regret. Tejon Pass was one of the halting places on the itinerary, and there a small number of *Gallinago delicata* were found breeding, making the first nesting record in southern California, or for any part of the state south of the extreme northern portion.

Mr. van Rossem's notes regarding this find are as follows:—(Near Gorman, Tejon Pass, Los Angeles County, California, April 24, 1914) "Wilson's Snipe are fairly common. About a dozen in all were seen. While walking toward one of the Redwing's nests I kicked against a small tussock of grass and flushed a snipe which merely fluttered a few feet and stood watching me. A glance downward revealed the nest, and the bird was promptly 'auxed' for positive identification." This bird is now number 7636, and the set number 4269/4-14, collection of J. & J. W. Mailliard. Incubation was so far advanced as to necessitate drilling out a very large hole, cutting the embryo into small bits with scissors and removing the pieces with forceps. In the center of the bunch of grass above referred to, which was about one foot in diameter and two in height, in a swampy area, the nest was situated, it being "simply a few fine grasses, probably pulled from the stems directly beside the nest, as several bare stalks were noticed."

Other individuals, according to van Rossem's notes, showed indications of anxiety regarding the spots from which they were flushed, and, as no more nests were found, doubtless had young ones hidden nearby.

Another record is that of the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus a. obscurus*) near Buena Vista Lake, where the nest of a Western Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila c. obscura*) was found containing three of the owner's eggs and one of the Dwarf Cowbird, the contrast in size between the two varieties being very marked. This set was taken on May 12, 1914, and is now number 4273/3-1-14, collection of J. & J. W. M.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.