

Colymbus auritus. Horned Grebe. A pair of these birds in semi-breeding plumage haunted Prisoners Harbor throughout the interval of our stay. Toward the last there were increasing signs of mating interest.

Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus. Lesser Snow Goose. Two winged birds are kept in an enclosure at the main ranch. These were obtained about a year ago, according to Messrs. Revell and Luchelli, from flocks which numbered thousands.

Larus argentatus. Herring Gull. Two birds were found associating with Westerns and Californias at the West ranch on April 13.

Asyndesmus lewisi. Lewis Woodpecker. A single bird haunted the roof of an old barn near the main ranch on April 4. He was not again seen.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. Several Robins were seen in a group of oak trees southeast of the main ranch,—for the last time on April 11.

Ixoreus naevius naevius. Varied Thrush. A single bird flushed in the chaparral at close range on April 5, and another was sighted on the day following.

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing. A flock of about forty birds appeared on the 11th near our camp, and they fed upon the berries of the Christmas Holly, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, for a week or more thereafter.

Vireosylva gilva swainsoni. Western Warbling Vireo. A single male was heard singing in the Valle Centrale on Easter Sunday, April 4.

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Two singing males just arrived from the south were picked up in a little canyon near the Sul ranch on the 19th.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Mr. Luchelli has an undated specimen, a male, which he took near the main ranch last year.

Spinus pinus pinus. Pine Siskin. Several times encountered in the Monterey pine belt, where it probably breeds.

Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli. Nuttall Sparrow. A certain proportion of crown sparrows seen at the west end of the island were of the "small black" type, unmistakable *nuttalli*.

Passer domesticus. English Sparrow. Woe the day! I could hardly believe my ears, at first, when the stridor of this ancient vermin assaulted them from the peak of a warehouse roof at Prisoners Harbor. The single bird, a female, sighted early in the morning of the 18th, had, possibly, just arrived from the mainland shore 25 miles distant. No others were seen during our stay.—WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California, July 30, 1915.*

A Foe of Johnson Grass.—On the afternoon of July 9, while busy digging out Johnson grass along a line fence, I was startled by an unusual bird song, and looking up I beheld a male Blue Grosbeak who sang between meals as he swayed on the pendant ripening heads of this obnoxious grass. This was the only bird of any species that I have observed feeding to any considerable extent on this altogether too abundant food supply. One would have thought to see him work that he, too, had heard the order of the horticultural commissioner. If "By their fruits ye shall know them", applies to birds also, then the farmer certainly ought to chalk down at least one big round credit for the Blue Grosbeak.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Escondido, California.*

Fork-tailed Petrels Delayed by Storm.—The heavy windstorm of April 29 and 30 along the California coast caught many of the northern birds migrating, and its effect in delaying the northward movement was very evident.

On the evening of April 30 my son Edmund, who attends school at Monterey, brought me a Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) which was still alive. This bird had been procured from a flock estimated at about two hundred birds that was stranded along the beach between the Monterey wharf and the Del Monte bath house. The birds appeared lost and helpless in the 60 or 70 mile gale that was raging, and could fly only short distances, when they would again alight on the beach.

Additional evidence on the effect of the storm on this species was found on May 9, when a dead Fork-tailed Petrel was picked up along the beach at Moss near the center of the semi-circle formed by Monterey Bay, and several miles out of the migrating route of most pelagic species.—O. P. SILLIMAN, *Castroville, California.*

The House Finch Again.—A further instance of the Linnet (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) occupying the nest of another bird was observed by me on May 31st last. A

cottonwood stub was found in the Santa Anita Canyon containing two old woodpecker holes some ten feet from the ground. The Linnets had originally intended to occupy the upper "flat", but for some reason had abandoned it and had moved below. The cavity was nearly filled with the nesting materials, the five eggs being but about one inch below the level of the entrance; the latter was one and one-half inches in diameter. The excavation was eight inches deep and four in diameter.—D. I. SHEPARDSON, *Los Angeles, California*.

Late Nesting of the Townsend Solitaire.—On July 16, 1915, I discovered a nest of the Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) on Bear Creek, in Plumas County about two miles west of the north end of Gold Lake. The nest was built of weed stems and was placed in a crevice of a rock along side of a small waterfall. It was so situated that overhanging and projecting rock sheltered it on all sides except one. Three eggs were in the nest and on July 22 they were still unhatched. The sitting bird was flushed several times. She remained in the near vicinity and each time was soon joined by her mate. Neither bird made the slightest noise; nor was the male bird heard singing although our camp was only twenty yards from the nest. This appears to be the latest recorded nesting date for this species.—H. C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California*.

A Notable Occurrence of Pacific Divers.—On the 13th of April, 1915, during the prevalence of a strong west wind at Santa Cruz Island, I came upon a company of at least 200 Pacific Loons (*Gavia pacifica*) breasting the storm and fishing in the outer surf just off a bold cliff near the West ranch. Fully half of the birds were in spring plumage, and they afforded a magnificent spectacle, something in the nature of a naval review, as they rode bow on to the weather or else submarined in relays after smelt. The fleet of divers turned watchful periscopes toward the skyline, and I was obliged to retire behind a parapet of grass before they would relax their vigilance.—W. LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California*.

Late Migration of the Cedar Waxwing.—On June 20, 1914, my brother, W. G. Silliman of Salinas, had occasion to stay for the night at Bradley, a small town near the southern boundary of Monterey County. While taking a short walk after dinner his attention was attracted by fourteen strange birds perched upon a small cottonwood tree and the fences nearby. While not an ornithologist my brother is fairly familiar with our local birds, yet could not name these. Upon being shown specimens of about twenty birds, he immediately picked out a Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) as being the same as the birds seen at Bradley. He says that there can be no doubt as to their identity. Judging from their actions they were migrants instead of resident birds. I have no winter records for this bird at this particular locality.—O. P. SILLIMAN, *Castroville, California*.

Western Gull and Arctic Tern: Corrections of Records.—Through a fortunate accident I was recently able to prevent the published repetition of certain erroneous printed statements concerning the Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) and the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) in southern California, and the incident suggested the desirability of publishing corrections of the mistaken records.

Western Gull. In a list of birds from the vicinity of Los Angeles published some years ago by myself (CONDOR, II, 1900, p. 14) I included this species as occasionally common during the winter, a statement which I am now satisfied was absolutely a mistake. The point at which these observations were made is some fifteen miles from the ocean. Along the nearby ocean beaches *Larus occidentalis* is probably the most abundant species of gull; so, seeing gulls flying overhead frequently, and occasionally alighting, I included this species as a matter of course. No specimen of *occidentalis* was secured, the few gulls shot proving to be *argentatus*, and I have never, at that time or since, had any evidence of the occurrence of *occidentalis* so far from the sea. *Larus delawarensis* is quite common inland in southern California, as in all probability *L. californicus* is also, and I have frequently seen the Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) on the uplands of Los Angeles County at sufficiently close range to render identification certain, but I have never observed *occidentalis* under such conditions.