

*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni* Ridgway. Arizona Hooded Oriole. Miss Winifred Wear was the first to record this species from the Fresno District (see CONDOR, XVII, p. 234). On June 27, 1915, I personally saw a pair of Arizona Hooded Orioles in some fig trees along the White's Bridge road, about seven miles west of Fresno. I watched them for ten minutes or more, being within fifteen feet of them. This is the only known instance of a female being seen here. At least one, and probably several, males of this species were present during the summer of 1911. On June 4 of that year a male was seen on a vine in the yard of a residence in town and the song was frequently heard, usually in tall eucalyptus trees in various parts of the city. It was last heard about July 1. I feel quite positive that no *nelsoni* were present during the three intervening summers.

*Carpodacus purpureus californicus* Baird. California Purple Finch. In the *Auk*, vol. XXIII, page 415, Mr. Milton S. Ray recorded this bird from Firebaugh. In response to my inquiry Mr. Ray wrote me that but a single bird was noted, a male that was singing from the top of one of the clumps of trees along the river near town.

*Melospiza melodia fisherella* Oberholser. Modoc Song Sparrow. I collected a specimen of this form near Oxalis, in the northwestern corner of the county, on January 25, 1916. The bird was discovered in a patch of tules in a small slough, and specimens of *M. m. heermanni* were taken at the same time and place.

*Oreospiza chlorura* (Audubon). Green-tailed Towhee. Mr. H. C. Ohl has a specimen of this species which he found dead among some straw and refuse from a barn at Mendota, September 10, 1912. The sex was not determined, as decomposition was beginning at the time the bird was discovered.

*Vireosylva gilva swainsoni* (Baird). Western Warbling Vireo. May 23, 1915, while exploring some of the small ponds north of Riverdale, Mr. J. E. Law saw a single vireo of this species. The bird sang repeatedly at close range. I was investigating another small willow-bordered pond a short distance away and also saw one of these birds.

*Oreoscoptes montanus* (Townsend). Sage Thrasher. February 27, 1912, Mr. H. C. Ohl noticed an unfamiliar bird perched on a fence near Mendota. It proved to be a female Sage Thrasher and the only one I have ever heard of in the Fresno district.

*Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus* Ridgway. Dotted Canyon Wren. During the fall months an occasional example of this wren appears in the valley. At such times they usually frequent open sheds and other farm buildings. September 15, 1914, one was seen near Fresno. It was apparently devoid of fear and seemed much at home in a large, open packing shed where it crawled over the cornices and along the rafters in a most satisfied manner, frequently giving its harsh but subdued scolding note. On one occasion a series of Wren-tit-like notes was heard. The bird was still present on November 6, following.

*Fresno, California, February 22, 1916.*

## SOME BIRD NOTES FROM HUMBOLDT BAY

By JOSEPH MAILLIARD

IT WAS the writer's good fortune recently to pass a few days—May 28 to June 4 (1916), inclusive—in the city of Eureka, Humboldt County, California, and to be warmly received and most unselfishly assisted by Mr. C. I. Clay, a Cooper Club member from whom most of us have heard from time to time. In his company the hours not occupied in putting up specimens were spent in scouring the country for certain forms it was especially desirous of finding upon their native heath, sequoia, salicornia, or whatever they elect to inhabit. Without treading upon the preserves of the local ornithologists, who probably have a surprise or two up their sleeves, there are a few matters that might be touched upon which may be of value to some of the work being carried on in the state, or at the very least, of interest to some of the ornithologists following out special lines.

The Coast Jay (*Cyanocitta s. carbonacea*) of the Humboldt Bay region appears to be, as a rule, somewhat lighter colored than specimens from Marin County. While the Eureka bird inclines mostly toward *carbonacea*, individuals vary considerably, and some of the lighter ones, taken in the first week in June, differ from June birds taken near the mouth of the Russian River, Sonoma County, only in that they are rather darker on the head and back, while the lighter blues with a certain greenish tinge are very close to the tints of the same feathers in specimens of unquestionable *frontalis*, to which form the Russian River birds are so closely allied. As a whole, however, the Humboldt Bay bird is very similar to that of the coast country of southern Monterey County, such as vicinity of Little Sur River, Lucia, Partington Point, etc., all the specimens from these localities, that are in our collection at least (coll. of J. and J. W. Mailliard), being somewhat lighter than those taken in Marin County, although all classified with *carbonacea*.

The California Jay (*Aphelocoma c. californica*) it seems has never been recorded from the vicinity of Humboldt Bay, although it has been taken at Hoopa Valley to the northeast of Eureka and over a range or so of mountains (W. K. Fisher, CONDOR, VI, 1904, p. 51). This species is reported by C. I. Clay as breeding at Alton, 21 miles south of Eureka, at an elevation of only a few feet above the sea, and except for being a little more open, in similar type of country to that actually bordering Humboldt Bay. In the mounted collection of birds belonging to Dr. B. M. Marshall, of Eureka, are some specimens of the California Jay labelled Eureka, put up by Mr. F. J. Smith, of that place, and taken by either one or the other of these two Cooper Club members. While none of this species was noted by the writer in the actual vicinity of Humboldt Bay, a couple were seen and one taken back of Arcata at an altitude of about 1800 feet, where poison oak and the buckeye were in evidence.

The Northwestern Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius ph. caurinus*) seems to have been recorded from California in only two instances, up to the time that Grinnell's *Distributional List* was published, yet this is apparently the form breeding in the vicinity of Humboldt Bay. But few of these birds were observed, and breeding colonies were scarce. Around San Francisco Bay, and in the interior, redwings in the breeding season may be seen in almost any favorable locality, such as marshes and swamps, along sloughs where tules grow, and even along the roads among grain fields. But in the Humboldt Bay region many seemingly most suitable spots were reconnoitred without success, and where finally found nesting it was in colonies containing but few individuals. Some twenty specimens were taken, and, while the plumage at this late date (June 1) was not in a very satisfactory condition for determination of sub-species, there seems to be no doubt as to this form being *caurinus*.

Bryant's Marsh Sparrow (*Passerculus s. bryanti*) is common on the marshes around Humboldt Bay, its breeding habitat being supposedly confined to tidal marshes. Yet a male of this form was taken on May 28 on Kneeland prairie on top of a range at an elevation of about 2800 feet and 18 miles from salt water. It appeared to be nesting, but neither nest nor mate was secured. This individual is indistinguishable from specimens taken at same date on salt marsh near Eureka except that the bill is more slender than any other obtained.

The Mendocino Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. cleonensis*) is given in Grinnell's *Distributional List* as a resident of fresh water marshes near the sea, but

this bird was numerous, specimens being taken, along the bay and on salt water marshes in and around Eureka, though it is fair to state that there was probably fresh water not far away in each instance.

The Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus n. naevius*) has been recorded in the *Distributional List* as summering only in the Canadian zone, which makes it appear as if there were no published record of this species breeding at sea level in California. Yet in our oological collection are three sets of eggs taken at or near Eureka by F. J. Smith at elevations of but a few feet above the sea. Mr. Smith writes that he has found this bird nesting from near the salt marshes, where the woods come down to sea level, up to as high as 1500 feet in the ranges farther back. Localities were visited on this occasion where Mr. Clay had found it in the nesting time, in other years, but it was conspicuous this particular season only by its entire absence from the scene. Even in the more Canadian zone, on the ranges back of Humboldt Bay, none was seen or heard.

The Western Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona v. montana*) was found near Eureka on June 1, three individuals being seen and one taken, as they were feeding in the top of a spruce. Clay found this species in this locality on May 7, 1911 (CONDOR, xiv, 1912, p. 74), a flock of about twenty birds having been seen and two secured. While not recorded as breeding near the coast, or at sea level, the fact of its having been noted there from time to time during the nesting season indicates a strong possibility of its doing so.

*San Francisco, July 25, 1916.*

## NOTES ON THE GOLDEN EAGLE IN ARIZONA

By F. C. WILLARD

RECENTLY I have been told a number of experiences that have been had by several old time residents of this country with Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Mr. John Hand reports the killing of a four-point white-tail deer during a very heavy fall of snow in January of this year. This took place near the summit of the Chiricahua Mountains. The deer had been pounced upon by one or more eagles as it floundered in the deep snow, and its back was fearfully lacerated by the talons. After it had succumbed, the carcass was dragged down-hill over one hundred yards until it lodged against a large boulder. Three eagles were feeding on it when first discovered by some prospectors. A day or two later Mr. Hand approached closely and fired a charge of fine shot at one of the birds but failed to disable it. At this time the carcass had begun to show taint. Traps were set and one eagle, well aged as its color showed, was caught. Small pellets of shot embedded in it showed it was the one Mr. Hand had shot at. The other two eagles were keen enough to keep out of the traps and too shy to be approached within gunshot.

In 1889, Mr. Hand came upon an eagle feeding on a calf it was supposed to have killed. He ran after it as it attempted to fly off and knocked it down with the barrel of his gun. It had gorged so heavily it could not rise over three feet from the ground, there being no wind to assist its taking flight. This was apparently a young bird and was sent alive to Tucson and later to Los Angeles, where it is now supposed to be in one of the parks. The meat of the calf was well on the road to decay.