

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.

Mr. Wm. Lutley had a somewhat similar experience. The eagle rose from the carcass it was feeding upon, flapping laboriously to get under way. Mr. Lutley galloped his horse up close to it and shot at it with his six-shooter, a .45 Colt, when it plunged to the ground and turned on its back to defend itself. He captured it with difficulty, and tied it on behind his saddle. Glancing around later, as he rode toward home, he found the skirt of the saddle was swarming with lice. He immediately dispatched the bird and threw it onto the ground. He cut off the wings, head and feet, and also examined the body to see where he had hit it when he shot. To his surprise he could find no sign of a wound. He believes it was frightened by being overtaken by his horse and the noise of his shot, and purposely dropped to the ground to get into its customary position of defence. On this occasion, also, there was no wind to assist the bird in taking flight.

Recently two cowboys in the employ of Mr. Lutley came upon three eagles feeding upon the body of a calf about seven months old. The birds were very sluggish and allowed the cowboys to approach close enough to kill one with a six-shooter. The other two flew away and at last report had not been seen again in that vicinity which was twelve miles or more from the nearest available nesting site. This carcass, too, had begun to decay. Traps were set, but were not sprung at any time. Coyotes had made tracks all around, but the sight and smell of the traps kept these wary animals away. The back of this calf gave every evidence that it had been killed by the eagles. Evidently Golden Eagles do some damage to live stock. Also the above incidents show that the Golden Eagle will, on occasion, eat carrion.

It isn't out of the way to mention here that a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was seen on numerous occasions perched upon or flying among the topmost pinnacles of the Chiricahua Mountains during the open season for deer last fall. It was very shy and would not permit any close approach. It was supposed to have fed upon wounded deer, or offal from such as were killed by hunters.

Tombstone, Arizona, April 5, 1916.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Black-headed Grosbeaks Eating Butter.—At Idyllwild, in the San Jacinto Mountains, August 2, 1907, I was told by Mrs. Atwood of Riverside that the Grosbeaks came to her tent for butter, hunting for it so persistently that she put it in a covered hanging box, after which they flew against the box again and again. She said that the birds also ate bacon drippings when these were to be had.—FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

A Nestfull.—On April 17, 1916, I found a nest of the Spurred Towhee (*Pipilo m. megalonyx*) in a dense blackberry thicket in the Los Angeles River bottom. It was placed in a depression in the ground at the base of the berry bush, made of leaves and grass as is usual, and measured about 2½ inches across on the inside. The contents were nine fresh eggs, quite a nest full, so full in fact that some of the eggs protruded above the edge of the sheltering structure, so that the mother towhee could sit on the nest but not in it. Four of the eggs were laid by the towhee, and five of them, rather the larger half, by a Valley Quail (*Lophortyx c. vallicola*)! When discovered, the towhee was assiduously trying to hatch out this large and unevenly divided family. I have not found such an occurrence cited in any books of bird lore. When I discovered the