

**The Coming of the Cowbird.**—The bird-lovers of California will regret, I am sure, that that shirker among the feathered tribe, the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*), is fast getting a foot-hold in the southern part of the State. Los Angeles County, where until a year ago these birds were rare, is now harboring many of them.

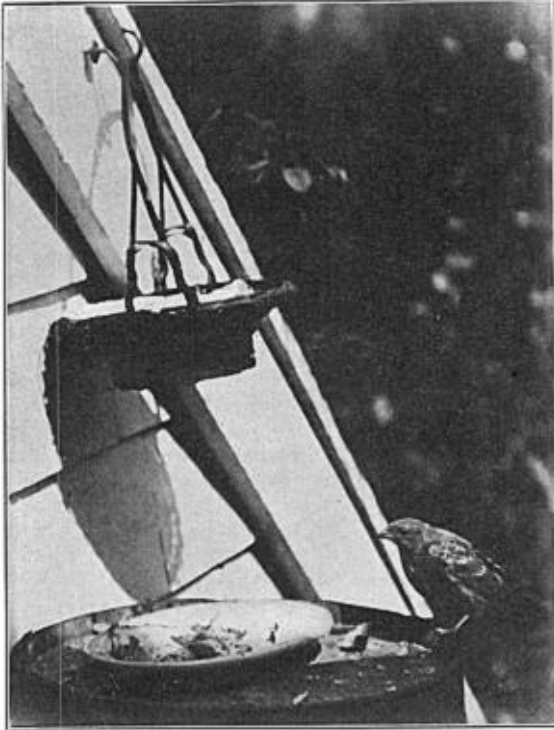


Fig. 52. YOUNG DWARF COWBIRD AT FEEDING STAND; PHOTOGRAPHED JULY 6, 1916, NEAR ARROYO SECO IN LOS ANGELES

The first time I saw one of these birds was on June 22, 1916, when I was giving a bird talk at a picnic in South Park, Los Angeles. As I told about our common birds, many of them hopped about, picking up crumbs near the table much to the delight of my listeners. Presently some one exclaimed: "Look at that small bird feeding that large one"; and, peeking beneath a bench, I was amazed to see a Song Sparrow feeding a young Cowbird twice her size. The two were about all the afternoon, the Cowbird going to the garbage can by himself and trying to feed.

On July 5, of the same year, I was called to a neighbor's to see a small bird that was feeding a young Oriole, for such my informant called it. Mistrusting that it was a Cowbird in my friend's garden, I hastened over to find my surmises were right and that, again, a Song Sparrow had been the victim. The little mother was bringing the big nestling to the baskets where bread was always out for the birds, and was stuffing it down him. I regret that by the time I was able to get a picture the Sparrow had weaned

her charge and I was only able to get a picture of the Cowbird on the feeding table, where it frequently came and seemed quite at ease, as indeed it should have been when the only mother it knew had brought it there (see fig. 52).—HARRIET WILLIAMS MYERS, Los Angeles, California, July, 1916.

**Humboldt County Bird Notes.**—A female Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) was shot near the mouth of Eel River, Humboldt County, California, July 18, 1916, and sent to me for preservation. It was evidently a young bird of the previous year, a straggler in the northwest coast region, where no previous record of it seems to exist.

For several days during the last week in July of this year a flock of Western Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina montana*) were welcome visitors at our home in Carlotta. They were a surprise so near the coast, and were evidently attracted by the bountiful supply of berries on the cascara trees (*Rhamnus purshiana*). Eight young and old could be counted at one time, and the clear whistle of others could be heard among the fir trees. In four years residence we had not seen them here before.

The Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), which has been noted as a rather surprising winter visitor in Humboldt County, appeared in our garden August 6 this year. A handsome adult male at a distance of but a few feet appeared almost gross in size compared with the numerous and smaller *Selasphorus alleni*.

In the May CONDOR of the current year, the present writer mentions the Cassin Kingbird as a possible summer resident of Humboldt County. The recent finding of several pairs of Western Kingbirds nesting along the Van Duzen River indicates that the species occasionally found in this section is *verticalis* and not *vociferans*.—H. E. WILDER, *Carlotta, Humboldt County, California, August 6, 1916.*

**A New Breeding Record for California.**—May 14, 1916, at Crescent City, Del Norte County, California, was a beautiful, bright, calm day. The panoramic view of that crescent stretch of sand, bordered by the Pacific in one of its calmest moods, with Whaler Island blending into its own shadow but a mile away, made irresistible the desire to seek out some new wonder. A skiff riding at anchor near-by was soon bargained for, and that mile to Whaler Island shortened its distance like magic. A landing was made on the rough rocks at the eastern end, nearest the shore.

A hurried inspection of the surroundings disclosed numerous holes in the ground on the central part of the island and promising crags on the west slope, overlooking the sea. Among the boulders I crawled, peeking in under this one and feeling in under that one. Bending way over, eyes strained, trying to pierce the darkness of a deep crevice, a blue object could barely be seen sticking from under a large wedge-shaped boulder, that barely left room for the hand; it was not the dark tail and white rump of which I was so familiar. A new wonder was disclosed—a beautiful male Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) which subsequently became skin number 453, with well-incubated egg number 2-16/1—the basis of a new breeding record for the State of California. Not a lone pair of Fork-tailed, but a colony of approximately 100 pairs, was nesting on the west end. The honey-comb-like holes on the grassy flats were homes of the Kaeding Petrels, probably 300 pairs nesting there.

Lo and behold, seventy miles farther south, on Sugar Loaf Rock at Trinidad, a still farther southward breeding record for *furcata*. In company with Mr. W. Leon Dawson on June 18, 1916, I visited the rocks off the Humboldt coast. Mr. Dawson, lucky fellow, pulled, tail first, from a Tufted Puffin's burrow a Fork-tailed Petrel and, I might add, later a fresh egg of the same bird. I discovered a young Fork-tailed Petrel in the downy state the same day, and, several days after, Mr. Dawson took one adult and two young from the same island. The Fork-tailed were nesting in the sandy ground (unusual for this species) among about thirty pairs of the Kaeding Petrel.—C. I. CLAY, *Eureka, California, July 24, 1916.*

**Occurrence of the Condor in Humboldt County.**—There is no doubt but that the Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) once occurred in numbers in Humboldt County, California. There are now two mounted specimens in Eureka. One, in the collection of the Public Library, was mounted by Mr. Charles Fiebig, and was secured from a dead spruce tree on the Devoy place, on Kneeland prairie, eighteen miles from Eureka, altitude 2200 feet, in the fall of 1889 or 1890.

The other bird is in the collection of Dr. Ottemer in Eureka and was mounted by William Rotermund. This specimen was captured near the old Olmstead place on Yager Creek, altitude 1800 feet, about sixty miles east of Eureka, in the fall of 1892. Old settlers claim that the Condor was plentiful in early days in the Humboldt region. In my opinion it is now extinct here.—FRANKLIN J. SMITH, *Eureka, California, July 21, 1916.*

**Lark Bunting at Cabezon, California.**—In comparing Grinnell's latest list of the Birds of California with some of my old notes I find that no record occurs of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) from the Salton Sea Desert. On May 7, 1883, I shot a male of this species at Cabezon, Riverside County, California. The bird was alone, extremely wild and only obtained after a long chase through the cactus. It was in breeding condition, the testes being enormously developed for a bird of this size and measured  $\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches. This fact seemed to point to the probability of the bird breeding in the vicinity, as the migrations were long since over.—R. B. HERRON, *San Bernardino, California.*