

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Migrations of the Pinyon Jay in Colorado.**—The Pinyon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*) is an erratic bird in Boulder County and other portions of Colorado beyond the range of the pinyon pines, "continually changing location according to food supply" (Cooke). Betts says they have been seen in Boulder County every month of the year except December. For several years, in May, especially late in the month, they have been seen flying over Boulder daily in large flocks, almost always moving a little west of north. This has been so regular as to indicate a normal spring migration, such as occurs in Wyoming, according to Knight. I have also seen them in October and November at Boulder, flying in various directions, but mostly south. The puzzling autumnal movement of these jays at Boulder in 1919 has attracted the attention of many persons who ordinarily do not notice the birds very closely. Beginning about August 25 they were seen daily flying over in scattered groups and small flocks, passing so continuously sometimes in the mornings that for an hour or two their harsh calls could be heard almost without cessation, and less continuously later in the day. Up to October 8 many thousands passed, almost without exception flying about ten degrees north of east, from the mountains out over the plains, at right angle with the spring flight. I saw them but once flying in any other direction, and that was the last flock seen, about fifty birds, on October 8, flying in exactly the opposite direction. All observers here report about the same experience. Mr. Geo. E. Osterhout, of Windsor, northeast of Boulder, wrote on October 6 that he had seen no Pinyon Jays there this season. Professor L. A. Adams, of Teachers College, Greeley, wrote on September 23 that he had seen none until September 16, two days after my letter reached him, when they first appeared and had been flying over almost every day since in large flocks, travelling east. In another sentence he says "always going or coming from the west to east or vice versa." Mr. W. L. Burnett, of the State Agricultural College, Fort Collins, wrote on September 20 that he had not seen or heard any of the jays there this season. I should like to know whether other observers have noted their movements east of the Rockies in Colorado, Wyoming or adjacent states.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *Boulder, Colorado, November 10, 1919.*

**The Clarke Nutcracker at Point Pinos, Monterey County, California.**—On November 2 and 3, 1919, a single Clarke Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) visited my doorway, at the western edge of the town of Pacific Grove. On both occasions there was a low fog. The bird was rather tame and was apparently attracted by my small grove of pines. It took advantage of the fine spray of a garden sprinkler for a sketchy bath, and made an unsuccessful attempt to open a Monterey pine cone. During the second visit it foraged, somewhat after the manner of a flicker, among the fallen pine needles, and before leaving perched for about three minutes on an electric service wire, uttering the characteristic "boreal" calls. It was not alarmed by several noisy autos which passed almost beneath. Since that time and up to date (December 28) I have seen or heard the birds several times each week and they have been reported elsewhere on the peninsula. They seem to take kindly to the cones of the Monterey pine.—W. K. FISHER, *Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove, California, December 28, 1919.*

**Segregation of Male Mallards.**—In reading Mr. Aldo Leopold's interesting article on "Differential Sex Migrations of Mallards in New Mexico", in the September-October CONDOR, I recall that in Wisconsin twenty years ago we not infrequently found winter flocks composed of green-heads alone. I have no records of migrating flocks of any size that were made up entirely of birds of one sex, nor of large winter flocks of females alone, but I have definitely noted a number of times large winter flocks composed entirely of males. Many Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) of both sexes remained throughout the winter in the southeastern part of the state, feeding principally in cornfields on the larger prairies. During the bitter winter weather, when the lakes, ponds, and creeks were all tightly covered with ice, the only water available for the birds was in certain small spring-holes that were never frozen. The Mourning Dove, Wilson Snipe, Ameri-

can Merganser, and still more uncommon winter residents sometimes came to these springs, and because of the interesting possibilities, I visited them regularly. The Canada Geese wintered in good numbers on the prairies in company with the Mallards, but never came to the spring-holes, and it was generally believed that during the zero weather they obtained water only by eating the snow. At different times I have crawled close to small spring-holes near the tightly frozen creeks and found the open water actually covered with Mallard drakes in perfect plumage, the brilliant green heads in mass beautiful against the background of snow. I have noted fifty or more males thus packed in a single small spring, with not one female in the immediate vicinity.—N. HOLLISTER, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., November 5, 1919.*

**Empidonax griseus in Oregon.**—The first known occurrence of *Empidonax griseus* in Oregon was recorded by Mr. Stanley G. Jewett (CONDOR, xv, 1913, p. 229), and was based on a specimen taken on June 25, 1908, at Wright's Point, 15 miles south of Burns. Since then several other records have appeared in print, but our knowledge of the distribution of this species in the State is still so meager that additional data are worth publication. Three unrecorded specimens are at present in the collection of the Biological Survey, as follows: No. 140165, U. S. Nat. Mus., adult male, Burns, Oregon, July 6, 1896, collected by Vernon Bailey; no. 141959, U. S. Nat. Mus., adult female, Narrows, Oregon, July 25, 1896, collected by E. A. Preble; and no. 140164, U. S. Nat. Mus., adult male, Elgin, Oregon, May 27, 1896, collected by Vernon Bailey. It will be noticed that all three of these specimens were obtained twelve years before the one that was first reported from the State by Mr. Jewett, although they have remained unmentioned until now.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C., October 1, 1919.*

**The Anna Hummingbird as a Fly-catcher.**—Mr. Tracy I. Storer (CONDOR, xxi, no. 3, p. 125) and Mr. Joseph Mailliard (CONDOR, xxi, no. 5, p. 212) have given a list of birds other than Tyrannidae which follow the flycatcher habit of catching insects on the wing. I have one more to add to this list. A letter written by me in January, 1919, to a friend reads: "I witnessed another deviation from the general habits of this bird [refers to the Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)] last summer. August 23 [1918] near five o'clock in the evening my attention was attracted by one perched on a wire in the back yard. I saw the bird dart into the air a short distance and return to the wire. Another moment and the act was repeated and this time just preceding the flight I noticed a movement of the head as if the bird were watching something passing over. I then suspected that the bird was catching insects and soon after I saw it snap a small white moth from the air. It continued feeding in this manner each evening for about an hour, until I left the city on October 20; and when I returned November 6, I found it had disappeared."

Last summer (1919) after an absence of about six weeks, I returned home September 4 to find the same wire occupied in the evenings by one, two, and at times three of this species, all darting into the air for insects. They continued feeding in this manner until about November 1, and at the present writing (November 20) they are still flying about this locality, but are visiting blossoms for food. Also last September (1919) I witnessed precisely the same performance described by Mr. Mailliard at the Bohemian Grove. I was resting in Union Square, San Francisco, when an Anna Hummingbird swooped over the palm tops, poised in the air about ten feet from the ground for a few seconds, and darted into a swarm of gnats, snapped up several of them and shot like a rocket over the St. Francis Hotel.—FRANK N. BASSETT, *Alameda, California, November 22, 1919.*

**Colorado Notes.**—My own opinion as regarding the winter members of a species coincides with that of Professor Henderson, namely, that they are merely the northern representatives moved in temporarily. As evidence of this, the Red-wings (some scattered birds) even as far out as Hudson, on the prairie, leave some time the last of February and the first of March. After this time there is a marked scarcity of Red-wings until the regular influxes of spring begin. Especially was this pronounced in the springs of 1916-17-18. During the same seasons this was also true of the Cowbird and