

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

Brewer Blackbird, a goodly number of which species always winter around the ranches on the prairies. My series of winter Red-wing skins does not as yet show marked differences in measurements worthy of tabulation. However, a series of winter Robins is proving to have some interesting differences as compared with the summer residents.

In view of Professor Henderson's notes on the activities of Pinyon Jays (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*), I will say that on October 15, 1919, I saw a flock of about twenty-five passing over the Denver business district, in spite of the smoke and the city sounds, headed in a northeasterly direction. Then again at Elbert, Colorado, some fifty miles distant from Denver, and about the same distance from Pike's Peak, I observed several small flocks of from half a dozen to a dozen, flying high in a northeasterly direction; time about noon. On the same day there were scattered flocks feeding on grain stacks in the valley around Elbert. They all seemed to remove to the pine ridges in a southwesterly direction at night, which led me to think these latter were not engaged in the same movements as those seen earlier in the day. Occasionally they are seen in the summer around Elbert, but I am positive that they do not nest there.

I might say further that Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) appear to be on the increase in the region of Elbert, and that this is not due to an increase in rabbits, which latter are not so numerous on account of the growing number of coyotes (bounties having stopped because of the war). Trapping is growing in popularity again, and an astonishing number of eagles are being killed because of their absolute fearlessness of trap bait. Then, too, some of the country folk are killing them because of a popular belief in their destructiveness. Of five stomachs examined in 1917, one was empty, two contained evidences of cotton-tail, and two contained evidences of both cotton-tail and prairie-dog. Bald eagles are exceedingly scarce in Colorado.

During the summer of 1918, at least a dozen pairs of Mockingbirds nested along three or four miles of a small stream near Elbert, and this year I heard not a single bird in my travels about the county.—RALPH HUBBARD, *Elbert, Colorado, November 10, 1919.*

Birds Returning to Their Old Haunts.—At a late summer meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, in 1919, a discussion arose concerning the possibility of pairs of birds migrating separately and returning to the same spot to mate again the next season. In a matter of this sort there is vast room for discussion, of which I do not intend to take advantage here, but will advance the proposition that if one of a pair of birds returns to the same spot in succeeding seasons there seems no reason to suppose that the other may not do so also, provided, of course; that it has not been prevented by some fortuitous circumstance.

Two cases of the return of certain birds not only to general localities but actually to small, defined areas, have come to my notice during the past year (1919), and if one bird thus returns why may not its mate? Which opens up the possibility, if not the probability, of the two mating again.

The first of these cases occurred at the Bohemian Grove, near Monte Rio, Sonoma County, California, where it is an annual habit with me to pass at least a couple of weeks in camp during the midsummer. While there in the summer of 1918 my curiosity was greatly aroused by a remarkable bird call often to be heard in the brush just outside the main entrance to the grove proper, on land from which the large timber had long since been cut off. Several attempts to locate the bird had failed, and the prospect of identifying it in that hillside of thick bushes and small trees was anything but encouraging. However, continued study of the situation led me to discover that the sound came a little more frequently from one particular clump of redwood saplings not very far up on the hillside than from any other one spot. Hence one morning I scrambled on hands and knees under the bushes to this clump and lay there motionless for a long time.

Few birds came within the range of vision, but after a long wait a Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) appeared on a twig right over my head, not over three or four yards away, and, to my amazement, uttered the call which had been so impossible to identify, and which was no more like the notes of a thrush than the mew of a cat is like the bark of a dog. This bird remained overhead for some minutes, frequently repeating its queer cry; but in several instances one or two of the first