

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

notes of the natural song of this species were given before its voice broke into the unnatural one, but these preliminary notes were very faint and would not have been detected at any distance away. Certainly one would have guessed almost any other bird in the A. O. U. Check-list as the producer of these curious sounds rather than a Russet-backed Thrush. In fact, up to the moment of the solution of this problem, I had about made up my mind that the bird must be an extralimital escape from some cage.

Soon after reaching the camp the next summer, that is, in June, 1919, I was greeted by this now familiar sound in the same place as it had been heard the year before, although the bird seemed to stay about a hundred yards higher up on the hillside, for the most part, than in the previous year. Having Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Director of the Museum, California Academy of Sciences, as my guest for a few days during this stay at the Grove, I took particular pains to lead him to the bird's favorite singing ground so that he, too, might hear this peculiar song and be witness thereto. While we did not catch sight of this bird in the act of singing, if such a combination of sound could be called by that name, he can bear witness to the fact that the song was most certainly unique.

This bird assuredly returned to the same spot two years in succession, so why may not its mate have done so as well?

In the second case of a bird's return, it was seen again not only in the same locality but in the same bush. This bird was a Nuttall Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*), in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, which had been particularly noticeable in the early part of 1919 from the fact that the auricular and malar regions were very decidedly paler than is usual with this species. As is the case with most of the birds in the Park, it was fairly tame, and in March and early April we would frequently see it in some bushes near the main entrance to the California Academy of Sciences on our way to and fro. After that it was lost sight of until one morning in September, when it showed up again, but this time with the lighter colored spots almost pure white. While it is true that this species breeds in the Park, and that this individual may not have gone far away during its temporary absence from our pathway, the chances are equally good that it was one of those that winter in this latitude and breed farther north, as so many of this species do. This case is the reverse of the first one, in that the bird returned in the fall to its favorite spot, instead of in the breeding season, but if it returns to one spot at one season, why not to another spot at the other season of the year?—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, November 1, 1919.*

**Clarke Nutcracker at Sea.**—On the boat coming up from Lower California, in September, what I took to be a Clarke Crow (*Nucifraga columbiana*) came on board somewhere between Los Angeles and San Francisco and remained until we came into port. I noticed the bird in the morning after leaving Los Angeles, but some of the other passengers said it came on board the evening before, when we were only a short distance out from that place. This is so far out of the normal range of this bird that I was much interested in speculating as to whence he came and whither he would eventually go. Will he find his way back again to the mountains?—G. F. FERRIS, *Stanford University, California, November 9, 1919.*

**Nesting of Western Robin and Spotted Sandpiper.**—Records of the finding of actual nests of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) in southern California are still unusual enough to be worthy of record. On August 1, 1919, near Kern Lake, Tulare County, and at an approximate altitude of 6800 feet, I found two nests containing four eggs each, situated under pieces of driftwood on sandbars in the river. These eggs hatched next day. There were probably several broods raised in the vicinity as fully grown young were common, a fact indicating that the nests found by me were second sets.

I am not aware that the Western Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) has ever been reported as breeding in the Lower Sonoran Zone. In June, at Visalia, Tulare County, I discovered two nests of this bird in oak trees, both containing young. Many adults were noted about the town during the summer months.—A. VAN ROSSEM, *Los Angeles, California, October 22, 1919.*