

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.*