

Unusual Birds of My Garden.—The three closing months of the year 1919 have been memorable ones in the bird world in my garden. Never in my twenty-one years residence in Los Angeles, have I had so many species so early in the season. On October first a large flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) appeared in my pepper trees, several weeks earlier than usual. I am sure that I heard them a few days before this, also. On the 24th of October the first Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) arrived, to be soon followed by a large flock that is still here (January 7, 1920), eating pepper berries, drinking at my bird baths and singing the regular Robin song.

November 9, a Mountain Chickadee was about for a short time. The only other time that I have had one in the yard was two winters ago when, later in the year than the present time, one was about for two or three weeks. November 12, a Crested Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*) was seen. This was not in my garden but a little farther up the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena (under California St. bridge); two of these birds were in my yard on January 13, 1920.

November 19 a Slender-billed Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis aculeata*) rested on the elder tree, head downward, for about five minutes and scarcely budged when I came out on the porch near him.

On November 25 a male Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) appeared in the pepper trees and came to a drinking basin. December 7, and once a day or two later, a female of this species was about. I have not seen her since, but on the 9th the male was again seen and has been an almost daily visitor ever since (up to January 18, 1920), defying the Robins at the bird bath and withstanding the onslaughts of the meddlesome Mockers.

December 6 a Dusky Warbler (*Vermivora celata sordida*) visited my food shelf. On December 11 a flock of Purple Finches were first noticed in the yard. These birds are fond of the fallen pepper berries as well as the fruit buds. They are still here and usually stay until March, at least.

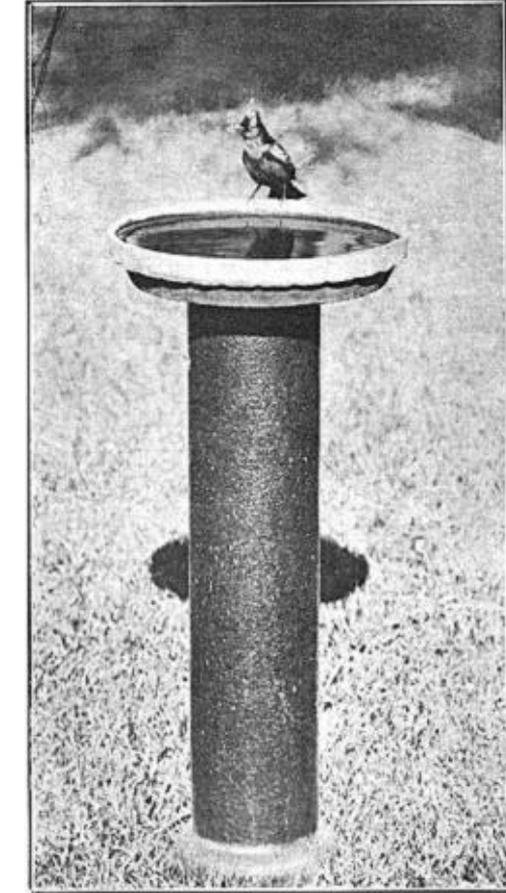


Fig. 13. MALE PHAINOPEPLA, PHOTOGRAPHED BY MRS. MYERS AT THE DRINKING BASIN IN HER YARD IN LOS ANGELES.

Besides the birds mentioned, almost daily visitors in my garden are the Plain Titmice, Wren-tits, Kinglets, Audubon Warblers (which are not so abundant as usual), a Spurred Towhee, Alaska Hermit Thrush, Gambel Sparrows, Black Phoebes, Anna Hummingbirds, Greenbacked Goldfinches, Willow Goldfinches, Mockingbirds, Linnets, Anthony Towhees, Song Sparrows, Bush-tits. Less frequent recent visitors are California Jays, Gnatcatchers, Chipping Sparrows, Flickers, California Woodpeckers (on posts along the walk), Willow Woodpeckers, Pasadena Thrasher, Valley Quail, and the despised English Sparrows.

For the last month the Waxwings have not been so much in evidence, although there are still plenty of pepper berries, which are their especial delight.—HARRIET WILLIAMS MYERS, *Los Angeles, California, January 18, 1920.*