

varia). The bird was observed continuously from 8:45 to 9:30 A. M., at a distance of from six to thirty feet. The entire time was spent hunting over the bark of the larger limbs and trunk of a live oak. At the end of the forty-five minutes it flew to another oak about one hundred feet away. Mr. Ralph Hoffman also saw the bird and can vouch for my identification.—H. C. HENDERSON, *Carpinteria, California, January 27, 1920.*

A Swan Hunt.—Hunters reported that Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were coming in on the Sweetwater Reservoir again. A few were there last winter. Mr. Toms arranged with the caretaker to take us out to try to get a specimen to mount for the Natural History Museum, and we drove out to the reservoir December 10, 1919. The reservoir at its present stage is about a quarter of a mile wide and a mile and a half long. We first saw three swans standing on the shore. The field glasses showed that they were all young of the year so we passed on. Half a mile farther on were two bunches, five and six respectively, some of each bunch being adult. The five were on shore at the head of a bay and appeared to offer the best chance for a shot. They flushed before we got into the bay and passed by at such long range that we failed to reach them. All the swans in the reservoir promptly left for San Diego Bay and we turned back for the landing at the dam. On the way we looked over the ducks in sight to see if there were any not represented in the Museum's collection, but saw nothing I wanted except two Canvasbacks, which we collected.

On arrival at the landing the caretaker's helper asked if we had seen the flock of twenty-three swans that had just passed over, going up the reservoir. We had been so busy looking at the ducks that we had not seen the swans pass high overhead, so we ate our lunch and started after them. We found them swimming about on the upper part of the reservoir. The caretaker landed Mr. Toms and me on a rocky point where a few square yards of tules grew at the edge of the water, and then rowed across the reservoir and up the far side in an attempt to get around the swans and drive them to us. They flushed and flew past out of range, and lit again a quarter of a mile down the lake. The caretaker succeeded in getting past them this time and turned the flock toward us. He worked very slowly and at one time the whole bunch stopped swimming and went to sleep, heads down, but a slight advance of the boat awoke them and started them swimming toward us. Occasionally we could hear a low goose-like honk. I have never heard of this talking habit. The actions in general were very like those of geese. The swans were too suspicious to come close to the tules but swam past in line at long range. We fired with buckshot and got one. It was not fully mature but was a very nice bird. Weight fourteen and a half pounds, in rather thin flesh. The stomach was full of large seeds or small bulbs with sprouts half an inch to an inch long. Mr. Toms suggested that they might be grains of rice eaten in the Sacramento Valley and not yet digested, but the grains looked too large for rice. Later, these "grains" were identified at the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, as tubers of sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), an abundant freshwater plant in most marshes of California.

A female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) came to decoys on the Lower Otay Reservoir. San Diego County, December 7, 1919. The hunter did not know what it was and brought it to us.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, December 20, 1919.*

A Large Flock of Swans Wintering at Santa Barbara.—In the middle of November, about a dozen Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were observed on a small pond on the Hope Ranch in Santa Barbara. On December 24 their number had increased to forty-four. The pond is protected and is the resort for hundreds of water-fowl.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Santa Barbara, California, December 29, 1919.*

Is the Swan Increasing in Numbers?—Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) may be seen during the winter in flocks of considerable size at suitable spots in the central part of the state, but there are few places in the more southern sections where they are now considered at all common. Small flocks are sometimes encountered where the surroundings are congenial, and slightly larger ones linger for short periods at such places as Warner's Ranch, in the mountains of San Diego County. Swans occur off the coast, as well, coming inland at night to feed, but, on the whole, a southern hunter considers

the fact worth telling about if he has encountered more than a half dozen birds together, and during ten years of field work, I have never seen more than ten at one time. Hence, it was with considerable excitement that I found a flock of a hundred and fifty-one of these birds and a lone goose (presumably *Branta canadensis canadensis*) making themselves at home in Crane Lake, which is situated at the upper end of Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County. I examined them for some time through ten power glasses while most of them were within a hundred and fifty yards of me and the public road. Although automobiles were passing continually, the swans were unconcerned, and while a small company was sleeping on the shore, the head and one foot of each tucked out of sight, others were standing on their heads in the shallow water, or indulging in violent altercations, craning their necks to the fullest extent, rushing at each other and making a great racket. Still others were swimming about with necks curved into the characteristic posture. The scene called to mind accounts of the abundance of game in the old days and was a sight that I never expected to witness.—A. B. HOWELL, *Berkeley, California, January 4, 1920.*

Unusual Conditions for Southern California.—The closing months of the year 1919 have proven of especial interest to bird students in southern California because of the greater or less displacement of a number of species of birds from their average fall and winter ranges. It is to be hoped that all who have noted such unusual conditions will record their observations so that some more comprehensive view of the situation as a whole may be attained. The following notes are offered as a contribution toward this larger view.

On August 29, a male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra rubra*) in summer plumage came to the fig tree in my yard in the city of Los Angeles. The bird was twice seen and later secured. It uttered the typical call note of the species and seemed not at all shy. The specimen was submitted to the editors of THE CONDOR and was referred by them to the subspecies *rubra*. The only other record of the subspecies for the state was from the same locality in March of the same year (Condor, XXI, 1919, p. 129).

The Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) was noted on August 29 and on later dates among the sycamores in the Arroyo Seco within the city limits. The Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa olivaceus*) again spends the winter in the city. California Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus californicus*) were early in arrival and were unusually abundant in numbers. Sierra Red Crossbills were seen but will be recorded by others who took specimens. There have moved down from the Transition Zone, probably of the adjacent mountains, a number of Mountain Chickadees (*Penthestes gambeli baileyae*), and a colony of Blue-fronted Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*) both of which species have been in the vicinity for some months. Two specimens of the latter species were taken from a group of five seen at one time.

Finally, on December 22, an adult male Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina montana*) was taken just outside the city limits near my place. The specimen is the darkest I have ever seen. It was feeding on an open hillside where some scrubby cascara and elder bushes chanced to be growing. It was very fat and the crop was filled with the shelled kernels of cascara seeds.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, January 20, 1920.*

Notes From the Region of Lake Tahoe.—At Grass Lake in Glen Alpine Canyon, this summer, I took a specimen of the Sierra Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*) which had in its crop two pupae of some lepidopterous species. The pupae were more than ten millimeters in length so could not well have been taken as a mere accompaniment of other food. I had supposed the crossbill limited in its diet to the seeds of coniferous trees.

The distribution of *Leucosticte* is so consistently given as above timber line, that I felt some surprise at finding a family of the Dawson Leucosticte (*L. tephrocotis dawsoni*) at an elevation of only 7800 feet, just below Lake Lucile (see Pyramid Peak quadrangle). Abundant timber is found above that point in the immediate vicinity, and two juvenals were taken from a small tamarack pine within fifty yards of where an adult