

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

was found feeding about a small snow bank. There was strong suggestion that the three birds constituted part of a family reared in the immediate vicinity. The date was July 15, 1919.

I was surprised also to find on two occasions the Western Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea obscura*) at timber line on Mount Tallac. Nine thousand feet is pretty well up for this species, commonly considered Sonoran.

I was further interested to obtain a specimen of the Western Redtail (*Buteo borealis calurus*) in the timber of a deep canyon, and to find in its crop the remains of a full grown Douglas Chickaree (*Sciurus douglasi albolimbatus*). The Chickaree is seldom seen in the open. He is almost limited to the denser timber. My concept of the Red-tailed Hawk was that he is a plainsman—a bird of the open country feeding upon the ground squirrel and the jack rabbit. To take the Douglas Chickaree must have required a quickness of wing action not generally conceded to this rather heavy hawk.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, January 26, 1920.*

Some Winter Birds at the Grand Canyon, Arizona.—Although the Grand Canyon is visited each year by thousands of sight-seers, there has been almost nothing published about the birds of that region. This may be, perhaps, because of the all engrossing scenic attractions, causing even the most confirmed bird lover to abandon his hobby for the time being, or because of the relative scarcity of bird life. However that may be, there seems to have been but one paper published upon this subject, a "List of birds noted at the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, Arizona, September 10 to 15, 1889", by C. Hart Merriam (U. S. Dept. Agric., North American Fauna no. 3, 1890, pp. 38-41).

The present authors spent three days at the Grand Canyon, December 18-20, 1919. Although our time was short we covered as much ground and of as great variety as could well be done in that period. We arrived early in the morning of the 18th. That afternoon, through the courtesy of Mr. W. F. Peters, Acting Superintendent of the Grand Canyon National Park, we were enabled to join a party he was conducting into the Canyon. We descended the Hermit's Rest Trail to Hermit's Rest Camp, where we spent the night. The next day we rode some nineteen miles up the Canyon on the Tonto Trail, to the junction of the latter with the Bright Angel Trail, by which we returned to El Tovar. Our last day was devoted to walks along the rim.

Early in the morning of the 18th there had been a rainstorm, but before noon the sky cleared and it remained clear during the rest of our stay. On the rim the temperature fell below freezing at night, but the snow melted in the sun during the day. The air was appreciably warmer down in the Canyon. There was considerable snow on the ground on the rim, and extending downward into the Canyon over the first mile or so of the trail.

Astur atricapillus atricapillus. Eastern Goshawk. An adult bird seen December 18, at close range, at the rim of the Canyon near the Hermit's Rest Trail.

Dryobates villosus leucothorectis. White-breasted Woodpecker. A single bird, observed near El Tovar Hotel, December 20.

Dryobates scalaris cactophilus. Cactus Woodpecker. A woodpecker was seen December 19 on the Tonto Trail, about midway between Hermit's Rest Camp and the Bright Angel Trail, flying from one agave stalk to another. The surroundings and the appearance of the bird were both so strongly indicative of this species, that although this is no more than a "sight identification", I have no doubt as to its accuracy. There is a record from a point still farther northwest in Arizona: confluence of Beaverdam Creek and the Virgin River (Fisher, N. Am. Fauna, no. 7, 1893, p. 47).

Colaptes cafer collaris. Red-shafted Flicker. Two or more seen and heard near El Tovar Hotel.

Cyanocitta stelleri diademata. Long-crested Jay. Seen at various points along the rim between El Tovar Hotel and the Hermit's Rest Trail.

Aphelocoma woodhousei. Woodhouse Jay. Not as numerous as the last mentioned species, or at any rate not so conspicuous. Not more than three or four observed.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clarke Nutcracker. While not abundant, some individuals of this species could be seen about the hotel and other buildings at any time.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus. Pinyon Jay. Seen and heard at various points