July, 1920

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

fication was due to the fact that suitable material was not at hand for comperison at the time that the collection containing this warbler was first studied and the skins identified. Fortunately this erroneous record seems thus far to have been overlooked by others and so has not been quoted elsewhere.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., May 26, 1920.

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Black-crowned Night Heron Gathering Nesting Material.—On April 27, 1920, while watching for Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*) at the Cohen Estate, Buena Vista Avenue and Versailles, Alameda, California, one of the birds flew into a locust tree near at hand. It began stretching its neck and taking hold of small dead twigs with its bill, trying to break them off. After several attempts at different branches it found a twig that it could break and proceeded to carry it off. It seemed odd to find a bird that we associate with marshes and water gathering its nesting material in this manner.—Mrs. G. EARLE KELLY, Alameda, California, May 28, 1920.

Lizard Eaten by Cactus Wren.—While collecting in the tree yucca belt about three miles west of the town of Mohave, Kern County, California, on March 30, 1920, I shot a male Cactus Wren (*Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi*). When retrieved the bird was seen to have the abdomen slightly protuberant in the region of the gizzard as though the latter was unusually full. Upon dissection I found that the principal item of food, and the one which formed fully 95 percent of the contents of the gizzard was a Desert Brown-shouldered Lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*). The reptile was about two inches long. It had been swallowed entire although the head looked as though it had first been beaten almost to a pulp. I can find no previous record of a Cactus Wren taking reptiles for food. Beal (Biol. Surv. Bull. 30, 1907, pp. 64-65), in an examination of 41 stomachs from southern California, found insects to be the usual food, the only vertebrate material being some of the long bones of a tree frog.

At the locality where this bird was taken there were very few cholla cactuses and the Cactus Wrens were using the tops of the tree yuccas as song perches.—TRACY I. STORER, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 14, 1920.

Bohemian Waxwing in San Diego County.—On March 29, 1920, I found two dead and badly decomposed Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*) on the camping ground at Vallecito, eastern San Diego County. Some one had shot them with a small caliber rifle. This is the first record for this county, I think. Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) have been rather common here in San Diego for several weeks. They feed on the berries of the pepper trees.—FRANK STEPHENS, San Diego, California, April 19, 1920.

Notes from Escondido, California.—On March 1 a friend brought me two Crossbills that were taken from a flock of six feeding in his orchard. Three were shot under the impression that they were Linnets. His cat got one and the other two, being shot with a 22 rifle, were pretty badly used up. Of one it was impossible to determine the sex; the other appeared to be a male. Both are young birds showing more or less of yellow in the plumage. A peculiarity of one of them is in the crossing of the upper mandible on the left.

These birds appear to be *Loxia curvirostra bendirei*, and are the first Crossbills ever seen by me here, and as far as I know are the first recorded from this county. It is very possible that they may work south through the county in the higher mountains, but so far none seems to have been reported, all authorities available giving the range as extending "as far south as Pasadena in winter".

The measurements of the two birds, in millimeters, are as follows:

Length	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen	Bill from nostril	Depth of bill
166	97	59	18	18.0	15.0	10
166	94	55	18	17.5	14.5	10

Another new record for this section is that for *Molothrus ater obscurus*, the Dwarf Cowbird. I have been looking for this species for many years, and I found my first egg in a nest of the Least Vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*) at Fallbrook on June 11, 1919. Al-