

fication was due to the fact that suitable material was not at hand for comparison 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.*

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 Linnetts. 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-

though the bird was not secured it was plainly visible at a distance of not over 50 feet, as it sat on a fence post watching me. It was without doubt referable to this subspecies.

This winter there has been a remarkable vertical migration of the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) from the higher mountains to the east of us, to the much lower canyons on the west leading to the coast. Such a migration is a very rare event here, even for a few birds. This winter they have come down in good-sized flocks and have not appeared to be any more wild than Mourning Doves would be. It has not been in any way an unusual winter in the mountains, so their coming is rather hard to explain.

There seem to have been an unusual number of the Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) seen in the state this winter. In the latter part of January my attention was called to a large white bird flying north very high up and which was undoubtedly of this species. A few days afterwards three were reported to me as having been seen on a lake near here. Stephens, in his paper on the birds of San Diego County, mentions the species as "a rare winter visitant". I have lived in the county for thirty years and never saw it before.—C. S. SHARP, *Escondido, California, April 15, 1920.*

Notes on Nutcrackers in Monterey County, California—Persistent reports during the past winter of the Clark Nutcracker, or Clark Crow as so many people call it (*Nucifraga columbiana*), at Pacific Grove and Carmel, Monterey County, California, finally proved too much for my curiosity to withstand and led me to investigate the matter in person. A trip to Carmel was made on March 8, 1920, and one of these somber but saucy birds was about the first bird in view as the main street was reached. For the next two weeks one or more of these fellows was seen almost every day, although there were a couple of days toward the last of my stay when none was seen or heard. On those two days I thought that they must at last have left for the higher altitudes which are their natural abode, but the succeeding days showed them to be still with us.

While the Nutcrackers were usually in small companies they did not seem actually to flock together and nine was the largest number that I was positive of having seen at one time. There may have been more in the town, but there appeared to be good reason to believe that there were not *many* more, if any, for the town is small and these birds are commonly very noisy. When this number had collected in a small area no others were heard, at any rate.

The Nutcrackers had discovered that kitchen doors and back yards were good for some free "hand-outs", and they systematically visited many such. While they fed to some extent on the Monterey pines, apparently more intent upon the tips of young buds than upon the contents of the cones, they picked also a good many scraps and bits of grain or crumbs in the streets, paying no attention to people twenty or thirty feet away, but becoming wary of closer approach. They seemed to have certain hours for being in certain places, and for the first few days of my stay appeared in the street opposite the dining room window while we were at breakfast.

The cook at the El Monte Hotel used to put some bits of food on top of an eight-foot stump, reachable from the kitchen steps, and this out-door dining room was visited at least once a day for quite a while. As the household cat also had an eye to this arrangement, which in fact was originally made on his account, and as his visits were very irregular we could not always count on when the birds would come to feed here, as the cat was apt to include his avian visitors among the list of edibles—as I found out to my sorrow.

Dr. Walter K. Fisher, living in Pacific Grove, Monterey County, reported them as being there during the winter, and on March 22 I went over to stay a few days with him. There were some of the Nutcrackers in the town, but not as much in evidence as in the smaller town of Carmel. Dr. Fisher said that they seemed to come and go and thought that possibly they often made the trip from one town to the other, a distance of only three or four miles, with a hilly forest between.

In Pacific Grove lived a young lady who had enjoyed the sort of education that trains the mind for accurate observation, and this lady told me that on March 24, while she and her mother were resting from a walk in a picnic ground outside the town limits, some Nutcrackers came around and were feeding on crumbs, etc., left by picnic parties. As they were watching them one of the Nutcrackers began gathering sticks and other