

corded, one bird and sometimes two, apparently like the Campus bird, were observed feeding in my rose garden on Grove Street near Cedar in Berkeley, and also in the high anise growing in a vacant lot next door.

On November 26 I observed a bird of this species in Carmel; this being the only instance at that place, in four successive Novembers in my experience. This bird seemed a trifle larger and may have been a Dusky Warbler.—BESSIE W. KIBBE, *Berkeley, California, December 5, 1920.*

The Black-throated Gray Warbler in Santa Cruz County, California, in Summer.—My friend, Mr. John Carroll, formerly an enthusiastic student of ornithology, recently sent me a number of bird skins. Among these is one of an adult male Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) which he collected at Brookdale, Santa Cruz County, California, July 5, 1910. This, I believe, becomes the first summer record for that county.—MILTON S. RAY, *San Francisco, November 1, 1920.*

A Flight of Harris Hawks.—Mr. Frank Richmond, of El Centro, California, tells me that on October 22, 1920, he observed between 400 and 500 Harris Hawks (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*). They were scattered over an area of about 80 acres in a field along the highway about half-way between Calexico and Heber. The birds perched on posts, hillocks and bare ground, and Mr. Richmond's attention was called to them by a party phoning that a flock of "eagles" was at that particular place. Mr. Richmond killed one of the birds to make sure they were not eagles.—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Eagle Rock, California, December 6, 1920.*

Red-bellied Hawk Eats Caterpillars.—A Red-bellied Hawk (*Buteo lineatus elegans*) caught in a trap set near Firebaugh, Fresno County, California, was recently received by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. In the stomach there were a number of insect remains. These were sent to Dr. E. C. Van Dyke, who identified them as larvae of the hawk moth (*Pachysphynx modesta*). This caterpillar when full-grown is from two to two and one-half inches in length, of a light green color, with yellow lines on the head and along the sides of the body, and feeds on various species of willow. Eight of these caterpillars were found in the hawk's stomach together with the remains of two mole crickets (*Stenopelmatus*, sp.), one beetle (*Coniontis*, sp.), one ground beetle (unidentified), and some grass and pieces of wood that doubtless were picked up with the food.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, November 24, 1920.*

Ring-necked Duck Again from near Corona, California.—I wish to report the capture of an adult male Ring-necked Duck (*Marila collaris*) on December 9, 1920, on the grounds of the Pomona Recreation Club, near Corona, California. The bird was shot by Mr. A. P. Hapwood, of Upland, and was brought to me for identification. The bird was one of a band of four, all likely of the same species. This duck seems to be a rather rare visitor in this locality, as during several years of hunting on this Club I only collected this species once (see CONDOR, XVIII, 1916, p. 85).—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, December 11, 1920.*

A Record for the Emperor Goose in Oregon.—On December 31, 1920, while collecting birds along the ocean beach at Netarts, Tillamook County, Oregon, I came upon a number of Glaucous-winged and Western Gulls around the mouth of a small creek, and in their midst was an Emperor Goose, *Philacte canagica*. When I drew nearer to the group and dismounted from my horse, the gulls took wing but the goose walked leisurely toward the ocean. When quite close I shot it. It proved to be a female. This, I believe, is the first published record of the species for Oregon.

Referring to the Emperor Goose, Coues (Key to N. Amer. Birds, fourth edition) remarks: "Its flesh is rank and scarcely fit for food." I found, however, that while less fat than other species of geese, the flesh of this individual was very palatable.—ALEX WALKER, *Blaine, Oregon, January 24, 1921.*

European Widgeon in Santa Barbara County.—I wish to report the taking of an adult male specimen of the European Widgeon (*Marca penelope*) by Mr. R. G. Fernald

of Santa Barbara. The bird was shot upon the grounds of the Guadalupe Gun Club at Guadalupe, Santa Barbara County, California, January 14, 1921, and was shipped to me in the flesh for mounting. It was in full plumage, with a marked development of coloration. The carcass, and such parts of the skeleton as were not required for mounting, we forwarded to the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, with the hope that they might prove of value to the research department there.—A. E. COLBURN, *Los Angeles, California, February 5, 1921.*

A Feeding Habit of the Varied Thrush.—From a ground-floor window of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, one commands a view of a bit of ground made shady and leaf-matted by a little grove of planted *Pittosporum* which hugs the eastern side of the building. Abundant rains this winter have kept this leaf-mat water-logged.

Here on January 10, 1921, I watched a Varied Thrush, presumably subspecies *naevius* of *Ixoreus naevius*, as it foraged among the dead leaves. For a little of the time the bird was working within ten feet of my eyes.

Its constant mode was as follows: A short jump forward as it grasped debris in its beak, and a return jump so immediate that the whole was almost a single movement. A clump of debris, sometimes quite a clod, flew backward at one side or the other with each return jump. Usually the debris described a low arc, landing ten or twelve inches away, sometimes more, frequently less. Often successive plucks landed material on alternating sides of the bird with a slight corresponding change of body axis in each succeeding pause. Perhaps as often the leaves were landed for several times successively on the same side of the bird. Each pluck was followed by a moment of "frozen" pause, with head at about body level, after which the bird either repeated the operation or proceeded to devour the food which it had uncovered.

There was no movement of the wings and I was unable to perceive any intentional moving of debris by the feet. Naturally, tiny bits were occasionally disturbed by a claw in the backward jump. But, as a matter of fact, the feet rarely touched the leafy carpet once the bird had started, for it "swept" a rather clean swath down to dirt, like a carelessly shovelled path through the snow. This path was roughly three to five inches wide and decidedly tortuous, and the bird at times even reversed its progress to work over ground already cleaned, and to later start off on a side tangent.

Food seemed to be abundant as the bird picked up and swallowed frequently, apparently tiny morsels and good sized morsels, though I could not determine their exact nature. From its manner of picking and swallowing I guessed that it was eating such lower insect life as was uncovered, and possibly vegetational germinations which look so grub-like. Later I examined this ground, and found, when the leaves were scratched away, an abundance of worm and insect life, mostly larval, and some tiny plant germinations as well.

Naturally a "path" like this bird made would only occur in just such a situation, viz., a complete mat of dead leaves, water-soaked, and with abundant food concealed in and beneath them. Birds working on sod or bare earth concentrate their efforts on scattered spots, and often spend some moments on one hole, making the dirt fly as did the leaves.

On January 15, another bird which I watched from the same station, confirmed this manner of feeding. It moved even greater masses of material (variable moisture content no doubt affects the tenacity of the leaf mat), and at one time pulled away a leaf mass as big as its body. Once, when activity indicated a big morsel, a jay (*Aphe-locoma californica oocleptica*) suddenly descended from the tree above, and would surely have alighted on the thrush's back had not the latter scooted off just in time. Two rods away the thrush at once proceeded with its feeding. I noted, too, that the jay had arrived an instant late, and after a disappointed scrutiny of the "diggings" it flew.—J. EUGENE LAW, *Berkeley, California, February 16, 1921.*

Anent Red-winged Blackbirds.—About a year ago, after considerable urging on the part of ornithological friends (?), I undertook a somewhat comprehensive study of the races of the *Agelaius phoeniceus* group, with the idea of possibly being able to find some more exact formulae for their determination and of perhaps being able to consolidate some of the present subdivisions. This work has been carried on as opportunity