flying to the ground and returning to feed the young. We were unable to find out what their prey was. This performance was repeated for several evenings; then they were not seen again, although their soft call-notes were heard frequently throughout the summer. These owls are a welcome addition to our fauna and I hope they will continue to favor us with their presence.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, February 16, 1921.*

American Crossbill Eating Elm Aphis.—Opportunity for close observation on the feeding habits of the American Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) were afforded the writer on the University of Washington campus at Seattle on June 17, 1920. In the mid-morning I heard the *chup, chup, chup* of some Crossbills, and shortly a dozen or more of the birds alighted on the lower branches of some cork elms, within ten feet or less of the ground. The birds were not disturbed by my close approach and it was possible to get within three to five feet of them. Red plumaged males, other individuals of greenish yellow coloration, and one or two with streaking indicative of juveniles were noted in the flock which was scattered through half a dozen adjacent trees.

The birds seemed to prefer to feed while hanging inverted; in a majority of cases this was the position taken even when suitable forage could have been obtained from an upright posture. When climbing from one branch to another a few of the Crossbills were seen to use their bills, after the manner of parrots, but only in making a slight change of position while a bird was hanging upside down, or when regaining an upright position.

No buds were to be seen on the trees and for a short time I was puzzled to know what the birds were feeding upon. They were attacking certain of the leaves which were curled up on one edge, cutting these rolls open and getting something from within. Gathering a few similar leaves from a tree and picking up some that had fallen after being cut open by the birds, it became evident that a woolly aphis, which had caused the curling of the leaf margin was the item of food being sought by the Crossbills. The attack of this insect causes the blade of the leaf to curl over, forming a cylindrical roll within which the aphids can feed and multiply unmolested by most of their enemies.

Further watching of the Crossbills showed that the birds had learned the haunt of these particular aphids and also a method for obtaining them. The roll-like cases were cut open lengthwise, but in rather irregular fashion, as well as could be expected of a species with such an unhandy pair of "scissors"; then the tongue would be inserted and the aphids withdrawn. The process was not as efficient as it would have been with a typical insect-eating species possessed of a slender bill, and many of the insects adhered to the outside of the birds' mandibles. From time to time a bird would cease feeding and wipe the adhering bugs and "juice" from its bill.

That this method is not an entirely novel one with the birds observed by me is indicated by the fact that Visher (*Auk*, XXVI, 1909, p. 150) records briefly similar behavior of Crossbills in taking aphid galls on petioles of cottonwood in South Dakota. Still other observers have reported the taking of insect food by Crossbills. "Worms" [probably borers] have been eaten in South Carolina (Wayne, *Auk*, V, 1888, p. 208), and hairy caterpillars, the larvae of *Clisiocampa disstria* at Brandon, Vermont (M. M. Miller, *Auk*, XVI, 1899, p. 362), while in California lepidopterous pupae have been found in the crop of *Loxia curvirostra bendirei* near Lake Tahoe (L. H. Miller, CONDOR, XXII, 1920, p. 78.—TRACY I. STORER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 15, 1921.*

Further Notes on the Harlequin Duck's Food Habits.—The following may be of interest, with reference to Dr. Bryant's note, "The Harlequin Duck in the Yosemite Valley" (CONDOR, XXIII, p. 35), in which he says, that "apparently the Harlequin does not procure all of its food by diving . . .". On May 14, 1914, I was making my way up St. Leon Creek, British Columbia, when I saw a pair of Harlequin Ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) sitting out on a sand-bar, busily engaged in preening. A thick undergrowth enabled me to get very close to them. I had been watching them for several minutes, when another male flew down the creek and settled close to the pair. The first male resented this intrusion, and drove the new arrival into the water, and he was at once carried away by the swift water and lost to sight. The pair soon followed him into the creek, and I fully expected to lose sight of them, too; but they immediately com-

menced diving and I was surprised to see the headway they made against the current, which was very swift at this point. Coming to the surface, they were swept down stream and dived again to recover lost ground. I soon saw that the feet were not used to swim with, but that the birds shoved themselves along with them over the stony bottom, in very much the same way that the Dipper moves forward while under the water in swift current.

Apparently becoming tired by these exertions, the ducks ceased diving and were soon swept out of sight. Later in the day I saw a pair at the mouth of the creek where it empties into the Arrow Lake; both were diving in the deep water, and the birds were immersed for a far longer period here, than they were in the swift water. Soon the pair moved along the shore into a small bay, the beach of which is almost entirely made up of large granite boulders, at this time partly covered by high water. I kept the pair under observation with binoculars for about an hour, and during this time, though they fed continuously, I never once saw either bird completely submerged. Occasionally one would plunge its head beneath a shelving rock, sending out a spout of water with its feet; but more often they searched between the boulders at the water's edge, finding, apparently, the drowned ants and other insects that a north breeze was bringing ashore in great abundance from the surface of the lake.—WALTER B. JOHNSTONE, *Edgewood, Arrow Lake, British Columbia, March 4, 1921.*

Duck Hawk Wintering in Ontario, California.—During the first part of January, 1920, in the vicinity of Upland, California, a pair of falcons were seen flying high overhead, uttering their piercing cries. The birds were again seen, sitting in a large blue gum tree located at the corner of an orange grove about one-half mile from where they were first seen and perhaps two miles from the main business district of Ontario. These birds were far too wary to be collected. The birds stayed in this general locality until about the middle of February and were not seen again after that until about December 1 of the same year when they were located in the same large blue gum. On December 19, one of the birds was shot and proved to be an imature female Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). On December 31 the other was collected. This bird was a male, adult. The stomach of the first bird collected was empty, and we are indebted to Dr. H. C. Bryant for a report on the stomach of the bird collected December 31. It contained largely feathers, while the gullet held the feet, a few bones and feathers of the Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*), and pieces of flesh, apparently from the same bird.—GORDON NICHOLSON and WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, March 4, 1921.*

The White-eared Hummingbird in the Catalina Mountains, Arizona.—I want to report the White-eared Hummingbird (*Basilinna leucotis*) as occurring in the Santa Catalina Mountains, Arizona. In 1915, a female came close to my camp by the canyon stream several successive mornings. So far as I know this bird has never been reported nearly as far from the International line. Both the Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains touch the Mexican line. I am particularly interested in the bird because I discovered it in the Huachucas, and Dr. Fisher in the Chiricahuas, in the same month. Both specimens taken were females.

That makes ten species of hummingbirds for the Catalina Mountains, namely, Rivoli, Blue-throated, White-eared, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned, Broad-billed, Costa, Allen, Rufous and Calliope.—RICHARD D. LUSK, *Winkleman, Arizona, February 22, 1921.*

On the Flocking of Blackbirds.—In the November, 1920, issue of THE CONDOR I read a note relative to different species of blackbirds flocking together. While living in southern Nevada (Spring Valley, Lincoln County) a number of years ago, I saw three kinds of blackbirds in the same flock many times. One year (1904) the Yellow-headed Blackbirds made their appearance and far outnumbered the Brewer and Red-winged. In later years there were a few Yellow-heads, but not nearly so many as in 1904. Some years they did not appear at all. I have not been in that region since 1909, but have often wondered just what was the significance of the irregular appearance of the Yellow-heads.—MARGUERITE RICE, *San Gabriel, California, February 26, 1921.*