

being in the direction in which the flock was progressing. Certain of the birds were always on the alert more than others and when approached would utter a soft chucking sound which has been described as "*whit, whit, whit*". I have seen, on a few occasions, birds posted in orchard trees near where the flock was feeding. While they were usually engaged in preening their plumage they were probably sentinels on guard for they were the first to utter the cry of alarm when approached.

Early in April the large flock of birds began to decrease in size and instead of there being twenty-three birds in the flock there were at first two flocks of smaller size and later in the month I failed to find more than seven birds together at any one time. Also, instead of using the same brush pile as a place of refuge, two other brush piles at the opposite side of the orchard were appropriated by a part of the flock.

My observations were brought to a close the first of May and while no nests had been made as yet, it was probable that the flocks further subdivided into pairs or groups of threes for nesting purposes. The assemblage of the birds in large flocks after the nesting season will make an interesting study. Do the birds from each individual nest remain together and constitute a flock till the next breeding season, or do several families unite in the autumn?—JOHN F. KESSEL, *Berkeley, California, June 18, 1921.*

**The Doves of Imperial County, California.**—The intention of the observations recorded in this article was to determine the extent of the breeding season of the doves nesting in Imperial County. Of the three species nesting in this immediate locality (Brawley) two, the Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*) and the Mexican Ground Dove (*Chaemepelia passerina pallescens*) are residents. The third, the Western White-winged Dove (*Melopelia asiatica mearnsi*) is migratory.

A nest of the White-winged Dove was found May 24, 1921, about a mile from my ranch, containing two full-grown young.

The Mourning Dove furnished the following data in 1920:

January 18,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
February 7,	3 nests containing 2 eggs
May 10,	10 nests contained eggs or young
June 22,	16 nests contained eggs or young
July 17,	7 nests contained eggs or young
August 12,	5 nests contained eggs or young
September 23,	1 nest contained eggs or young

The Ground Dove furnished the following data:

January 22,	1 nest containing 2 full grown young
February 14,	same nest containing 2 eggs
April 10,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
May 5,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
June 2,	2 nests containing 2 eggs
August 12,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
September 23,	1 nest containing 2 eggs
November 7,	an old dove seen feeding half-grown young

The Mexican Ground Dove appears to be partial to old nests, using its own or that of a Mourning Dove generally; but I have seen a pair trying a Sonora Red-winged Blackbird's nest; and during 1921 a pair has used an old Abert Towhee's nest for three broods, beginning to sit January 30, on the first eggs, and June 21, on the third set. I have never seen more than five of these doves about at one time. The area covered contains about one acre, the farm residence and 83 trees, mostly eucalyptus and a few pepper-trees.—JOHN C. FORTINER, *Brawley, California, July 1, 1921.*

**A Specimen of the Black Swift from San Diego County, California.**—With one exception, all of the published records of the occurrence of the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger borealis*) in southern California, which have come to the writer's notice, have been based on "sight" records. The securing of a specimen by J. B. Dixon, 4 miles north of Escondido, San Diego County, California, on June 5, 1921, is therefore of interest. This bird was picked up under a telephone wire. It had met death by flying into the wire as

was revealed by the bruised body when the bird was skinned. The specimen was immediately forwarded to Berkeley where it was made into a study skin and now constitutes no. 41912 in the bird department of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The sex organs were so decomposed by the time the bird was skinned that it is not possible to state with absolute certainty the sex or breeding condition. The bird had the speckled plumage and square tail which usually characterize the female of this swift. There was nothing to indicate that it had bred recently or was about to breed. In the flesh, the specimen measured: length,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches; spread,  $15\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The bird was poor, weighing but 27 grams, whereas fat females average about 47 grams.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, July 1, 1921.*

**The Bryant Cactus Wren Not a Bird of California.**—I had opportunity recently to examine the Cactus Wrens in the A. W. Anthony collection of birds now owned by the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. The type of *Heleodytes brunneicapillus bryanti* (orig. no. 3879, coll. A. W. Anthony, now no. 17789, Carnegie Mus., San Telmo, Lower Calif., April 30, 1893) is in badly worn and stained breeding plumage; but the race is represented further by a good series and is a perfectly valid one, with characters as given by Anthony (Auk, xi, 1894, p. 212). However, the range of *bryanti* does not reach north in Lower California anywhere nearly as far as the International Boundary; specimens from San Diego County, California, which have been labelled "*bryanti*" prove to exhibit only a slight tendency in that direction, being much nearer *H. b. couesi*. Those individuals showing nearly or quite complete white-barring of the tail do not show the other diagnostic features of *bryanti*, namely very heavy spotting below and dark upper surface. The name *bryanti* must therefore be expunged from the California list of birds, and the name *couesi* used for all the Cactus Wrens occurring within the state.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 24, 1921.*

**Birds Observed in a Redwood Grove.**—I was pleasantly surprised at the number of birds I heard and saw while spending a few hours in the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, near Wawona, Mariposa County, California. The first birds to greet me were a pair of Northern Pileated Woodpeckers, fit denizens of such a magnificent forest. They were busily engaged in chipping off large pieces of wood from a dead log, presumably looking for insects, and admitted of close approach.

Next in line came a male Western Tanager, perching on a lichen-covered stump and catching his noon meal of insects. Blue-fronted Jays and Robins were everywhere. Sierra Creepers looked exceptionally small as they were running up the huge tree trunks. From every direction came the songs of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Mountain Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Occasionally an Audubon Warbler could be seen; and a Modoc Hairy Woodpecker came quite close in his quest for food.

What impressed me was not so much the variety of birds encountered, but rather the number of individuals heard and seen.—JUNEA W. KELLY, *Alameda, California, June 16, 1921.*

**Field Notes from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, California.**—*Mareca americana*. A pair seen June 25, 1921, in a tule-bordered lagoon near the mouth of the Santa Clara River, Ventura County.

*Marila valisineria*. A male seen June 25, in the same lagoon, perhaps a wounded bird.

*Sayornis sayus*. Nesting in a barranca just off the Coast Highway three miles west of Ventura. On June 24 the parents were feeding young on insects which they caught on the beach about an eighth of a mile away.

*Molothrus ater obscurus*. Frequent in willows and about a stock-pen near the mouth of the Santa Clara River, Ventura County. One egg found in a nest of the Long-tailed Chat. A few seen repeatedly at the mouth of the Ventura River, and a male observed on July 15 at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County.

*Ammodramus savannarum binaculatus*. Frequent on June 25 along the dry, gravelly flood-plain of the Santa Clara River, Ventura County, near its mouth.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, July 16, 1921.*