

At 2 p. m. the same day, farther down the coast, between Anaheim Landing and Seal Beach, a second Sabine Gull was studied; it was in the winter plumage, only a remnant of the dusky hood on back of head and slaty ear coverts remaining. It, too, seemed worn with long flight, allowing the Audubonites to approach within fifty feet, where a good study was made. A Western Gull was patrolling the beach in lordly style and ordered the Sabine to "move on", emphasizing the command with ruffled plumage and open bill attacks. Neither of the Sabines were feeding.

This report was telephoned to Mr. L. E. Wyman, Ornithologist of the Los Angeles Museum, the same evening before any books were consulted and his questions were answered from notes made of the birds as studied first-hand in the field. He did not question the identification.—MRS. F. T. BICKNELL, *Los Angeles, California, September 1, 1921.*

**The Gray Vireo in Los Angeles County, California.**—On May 31, 1921, I discovered a Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) in Mint Canyon, twelve miles from Saugus, California. So far as I am able to learn, this species has not previously been recorded west of the Cajon Pass region, which is some fifty miles east of Saugus. The bird was not taken, but it was studied for three hours under favorable conditions. Only the one bird was seen, presumably the male, as it was in full song. It had established a station in the chamisal among typical "gray vireo conditions". From this station it was driven again and again only to return to the same point each time. Prolonged search failed to reveal the nest although it seemed certain that one must be located within a short distance. Identification was based upon song, the ashy gray color, and persistence in plant association all made more or less familiar through previous acquaintance in Arizona and in the Cajon Pass country.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, September 19, 1921.*

**Eclipse Plumage of Cinnamon Teal.**—On July 11, 1921, A. W. Anthony, H. C. Cleaves and I explored Cuyamaca Reservoir, a lake in the Cuyamaca Mountains, San Diego county, for material for a habitat group of grebes for the Natural History Museum of San Diego. A year previously I had found grebes breeding abundantly in the tule patches covering several acres at the east end of the lake. Last winter's rains were scanty here and the steady draft on the water of the reservoir had lowered the water so much that the tule patches were high and dry and the grebes had gone elsewhere, though we did see a brood or two, too large for our purpose.

Several broods of young ducks were present and I saw a group of three Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) that I thought were nearly grown and shot two of them. These proved to be adults in a stage of plumage new to me. On skinning them I found both to be males. They are in the "eclipse" plumage which is undescribed in any publication accessible to me here. Probably individuals will vary somewhat, as is the case with these two birds. No. 7455 may be described as follows:

Similar to the usual female plumage; crown and nape dark brown; sides of head, throat and neck a pepper-and-salt mixture of dull cinnamon and light gray speckled with blackish; back and rump as in the spring plumage except that the mottling is coarser and the light edgings to the feathers narrower; the wings and tail are not yet molted and perhaps would not show any changes; plumage of breast and lower surface similar to that of the female and immature male, the feathers being brown centrally, with lighter edgings; this edging is dull pale cinnamon on the breast, passing to light gray and dull white on the belly. There are a few small patches of the old cinnamon plumage on the sides. The lower surface of the other bird is still nearly half cinnamon colored. It had yellowish brown irises, while those of no. 7455 were red.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, August 17, 1921.*

**Concerning Incubation on the Part of the Male Belted Kingfisher.\***—In the volume entitled "Michigan Bird Life", by Professor Walter Barrows, published in 1912 by the Department of Zoology and Physiology of the Michigan Agricultural College, under the head of Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), on page 343, the statement is made that "The female alone incubates, but the male carries food to her at frequent intervals." This may have been taken from Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds", in which

\*Contribution from the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences.

the latter author says, page 38, "The male does not assist in incubation, but supplies its mate with food while so engaged, and she rarely leaves the nest after the first egg has been laid; at any rate I have invariably found the bird at home if there were any eggs in the nest". Major Bendire is referred to in the sentence just previous to the one first quoted above.

For more light on this subject I have recently looked up far too many authorities to mention in this brief article, but the only other reference to the matter of the incubating habits of this species that I have so far found is in Nuttall's "Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and Canada", 2nd edition, page 720, where it says "incubation, in which both parents engage, continues for 16 days". So here are two well known ornithologists responsible for absolutely contradictory statements! The matter is "side-stepped" by every other authority that I have consulted.

Now it happened on June 24, 1921, that Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, of the California Academy of Sciences, my brother, John W. Mailliard, and I were lunching at noon time in the bed of Nicasio Creek, Marin County, California, at the base of Black Mountain, and while so occupied noticed a Belted Kingfisher fly into a hole in the opposite bank. Soon after finishing lunch we proceeded to investigate this matter and discovered a nest containing five eggs, about one-third incubated, with the male bird in the tunnel and apparently on the nest. This tunnel was about ten feet long and only twelve or fourteen inches below the surface of the ground, which was rather sandy and friable, and the cavity was easily pried open by means of an old fence picket.

The bird did not attempt to leave until the nest was almost reached in the upheaving process. As it flew off it was secured for evidence and proved to be the male, with the abdominal region partially bare, as if from sitting on the eggs.

Earlier in the day two kingfishers had been observed flying up and down the creek, and shortly before lunch a female had been taken as it perched for a moment on a snag about seventy-five yards below the nest, which we had not at that time discovered. This female was apparently the other owner, yet showed practically no sign of having been incubating, as the plumage upon the abdomen was in a good state of preservation.

While this matter is not one of great importance it is one of some interest and, as part of the life history of a well known bird, might as well be cleared up if possible, hence this short paper is written in the hope that some other observer, who may have had better opportunities to study the question, may come forward with sufficient evidence to prove the point one way or the other.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California, August 10, 1921.*

**Eastern Kingbird at Mono Lake.**—On July 19, 1921, I saw an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) near Mono Lake, Mono County, California. In Grinnell's Distributional List (1915), there are only two records for the bird from California.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpenteria, California, September 25, 1921.*

**Chronicle of Additions and Eliminations Pertaining to the California State List of Birds.**—The present note carries the chronicle of the birds of California forward from Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 11 (1915) and from my supplementary note in THE CONDOR of January, 1919 (vol. XXI, pp. 41-42) to October 15, 1921. I have followed the rule of letting all definite proposals "ride", as if the findings set forth were final in every respect, unless and until someone has brought forward good reasons for doubting the conclusions involved. No attention is here paid to mere changes in names; only the addition or subtraction of "concepts" of species or subspecies is considered.

#### ADDITIONS

1. *Larus occidentalis livens* Dwight. Dark-mantled Western Gull. (See Dwight, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 32, February 14, 1919, p. 11.)
2. *Phaethon aethereus* Linnaeus. Red-billed Tropic Bird. (See Law, Condor, XXI, March, 1919, p. 88.)
3. *Chen caerulescens* (Linnaeus). Blue Goose. (See Grinnell, Condor, XXII, March, 1920, p. 76.)
4. *Polyborus cheriway* (Jacquin). Audubon Caracara. (See Heath, Condor, XXI, March, 1919, p. 125.)
5. *Otus asio macfarlanei* (Brewster). MacFarlane Screech Owl. (See Grinnell, Condor, XXI, July, 1919, p. 173.)