

rather expected to hear of its presence in the Imperial Valley, in common with a number of other birds which are extending their ranges over the irrigated delta of the Colorado River. Taken in this connection only, this note may prove of interest.—A. BRAZIER HOWELL, Pasadena, California, February 8, 1922.

**Some Winter Birds of the Colorado Delta.**—On January 22 and 23 of this year I was with a party hunting quail near Don Lorenzo in Lower California. We were from forty to fifty miles east of Calexico, and from twelve to sixteen miles south of the international line.

North of us we could see the sand hills that are still untamed if not unconquered, and beyond them the well-known mountain ranges of the desert. But we were not in a desert country at all—rather in a jungle. The true delta of the Colorado is overflow land, thickly covered with vegetation; ink-weed, rag-weed, and arrow-weed are the native names of the most common kinds. A few cotton-woods and many willows in the lower places, and the ever present mesquite patches, broke the monotony. The ground is not really level. Wind and water have combined to produce hills and depressions, and open places where sand was master were by no means rare. Still, in a general sense, we were on the edge of a flat scrubby country of several thousand square miles, covered solidly with a head-high growth that could be penetrated only with difficulty.

There was hardly a time when one or more of the Raptors were not in sight. When I woke the first morning a pair of Marsh Hawks were busily harrying the cotton-fields by the ranch house. Our old friend, the Western Red-tail, was conspicuously present, as were several other species of hawks and at least two species of owls besides the Burrowing Owl. Turkey Vultures were common. All of which speaks volumes for the abundance of the unseen rodent life in the brush.

The White-crowned Sparrow, in my judgment, was the most common bird, and Gambel Quail the next. Abert Towhees were seen everywhere, and the Mexican Ground Dove and the Northern Cactus Wren were very abundant, though both were outnumbered by the Western Mourning Dove. The Black Phoebe was as busy as anywhere around ponds and buildings. Ravens were plentiful, especially along the banks of the Bee River. I collected three Sparrow Hawks for the San Diego Museum.

Among other land birds observed were Shrike, Thrush, Bush-tit, Vermillion Fly-catcher, Dwarf Cowbird (quite common), Road-runner, Phainopepla, Tree Swallow, and Sonora Red-wing.

On January 24 we drove back to Hecheira and then turned south. We found a slough within eight or ten miles on which we shot ducks, mostly Spoonbills. My son and I each killed one of a pair of Fulvous Tree Ducks, and were much surprised to find them so far north at this season. There was a heavy tule growth around the slough, which was the home of innumerable marsh wrens, and the Sora was more common than I have ever seen it elsewhere.

We drove on to Volcano Lake and spent one morning there. Ruddies and Spoonbills were the most common ducks. Avocets, too, were present in large numbers. I was interested in obtaining from Mr. W. G. Hendricks an authentic statement of the presence there of the Roseate Spoonbill. In the summer of 1920 a flock of about twenty were on the lake, and in the summer of 1921 four were observed. A flight of Lesser Snow Geese apparently takes place over this lake every winter.—GRIFFING BANCROFT, San Diego, California, February 1, 1922.

**Water Ouzel Eating a Fish.**—On January 1, 1922, I caught sight of a small, plump bird struggling with something on a snow bank across the river, a foot or so from the water's edge. The bird was recognized at once as an Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*). It appeared to have a small fish in its beak, which it was shaking violently and beating in the snow. I went to the tent and got the field glasses and was able to determine that it really was a fish that the Ouzel was struggling with. The fish was about two inches long and very much alive. After beating and mauling the fish for a few moments the Ouzel would attempt to swallow it. At this juncture the fish would free itself and flop onto the snow, whereupon the Ouzel would seize it and the maltreatment would commence again. After tussling with the refractory fish for about five minutes the Ouzel with apparently tremendous effort managed to stuff the victim down. After the