

A Second Capture of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird in California.—One of the interesting results of field work carried on by Mr. Laurence M. Huey in the White Mountains during the past summer and fall was the taking of an immature male Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) in fresh post-juvenal plumage. This specimen was collected at an altitude of 9000 feet, on Cottonwood Creek, White Mountains, Mono County, California, August 23, 1921, and is now number J 1590 of my collection.

As early as May, 1912, Mr. H. S. Swarth, while engaged in field work in the Inyo Mountains for the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, detected the presence of this species within the confines of our State, and later recorded his experience (Condor, xviii, 1916, p. 130). His sight record and the accompanying prognostication were later confirmed by the taking of a female and two young in the White Mountains by another field party of the same Museum. In commenting on the taking of these first actual specimens in California, Dr. Joseph Grinnell (Condor, xx, 1918, p. 87) states that "the indications are that this Rocky Mountain species of hummingbird occurs regularly as a summer visitant to the high mountains along the eastern border of California, east of Owens Valley". The second capture, presented herewith, is merely additional proof that the earlier suppositions were amply justified, and that *Selasphorus platycercus* does occur regularly, if rarely, in the desert ranges of east-central California.—DONALD R. DICKEY, Pasadena, California, April 25, 1922.

An Unknown Near San Diego.—For the previous two winters a Green-tailed Towhee (*Oreospiza chlorura*) had frequented our back yard and fed from the bird-table there. This past winter I had been on the look-out for it to appear again. The first week in February I had several times caught a glimpse of a bird with some green on it flying away. I expected to recognize the towhee when I could get a good view of it.

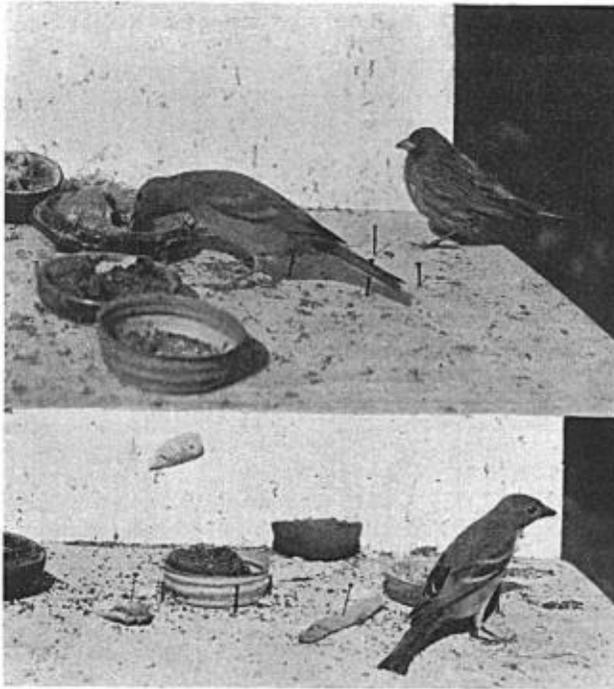


Fig. 34. TWO VIEWS OF AN UNKNOWN BIRD WHICH VISITED A FEEDING-TABLE NEAR SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, IN FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL, 1922. THE LINNET ALSO SHOWN FURNISHES A STANDARD OF COMPARISON.

This opportunity occurred on February 12, but instead of being a towhee it was a very different bird. Its general appearance was very like that of the female Arizona Hooded Oriole, a trifle smaller and more stockily built.

The shapes of the head and bill were quite different from those of the oriole. The bill was an orange yellow, rather brighter than that of the white-crowned sparrow. In size the bill was between that of the grosbeak and that of the oriole. The lower photograph (fig. 34) shows the shape admirably. The eye was prominent and bead-like. The upper parts of the bird were greenish, brightest on the head and rump, back washed with grayish, wings and tail brownish. The under parts were more or less yellow, brightest on throat and rump, whitish in middle. It had two white wing-bars, and later the tertials were slightly tipped with white.

It came regularly to the feeding table from one to a dozen times a day, from February 12 to April 10. Have not seen it since April 10. During those two months there were not more than three days in which I did not see it. It may have come without having been seen.

The table was ten or twelve feet from my window. Each morning I put a small quantity of bird-seed, some cracker crumbs, either a spoonful of canned fruit or a cut orange, and occasionally some suet on the table. I never saw this bird touch anything but the fruit; and it seemed to prefer the canned figs to any other fruit. It ate of the fruit voraciously, coming every half-hour or so as long the daily ration lasted. I did not hear it make a sound until a short time before it left and that was a very odd sound of several syllables that I cannot describe.

The bird was rather shy, especially when the camera was set up near the table, or when I used an opera glass at the window. At other times it did not much mind being looked at. There was no red in the plumage and no yellow on the wings. Its bill was much lighter in color than are the bills of the tanagers in the museum. If it had been two months later I should have called it a Western Tanager without question.

My record of the visits of the Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) is as follows: 1908—May 11 to May 15; 1912—April 23 to May 8; 1918—May 4; 1921—May 6 to May 29; 1922—May 12.

If not a Western Tanager what was my unknown bird?—Mrs. T. F. JOHNSON, *National City, California, May 29, 1922.*

Swamp Sparrow Recorded from California.—On their return from a collecting trip in the White Mountains of California this past fall, Mrs. May Canfield and Laurence M. Huey stopped at various stations to collect series of the local mammals and birds of east-central California. While camped near Keeler, Inyo County, California, on November 1, 1921, a strange sparrow came to a little spring near the camp. The bird was collected and proved to be a Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). This specimen is number J 1797 of my collection, and constitutes another addition to the California list.

In commenting on the specimen, Dr. Joseph Grinnell calls my attention to its agreement in wing length with middle-western birds, from Illinois, rather than with Atlantic slope representatives of the species, as a rough indication of the source of this straggler.

The bird has been recognized as a regular summer resident west as far as west-central Alberta (A. O. U. Check-List, 3d. ed., 1910, p. 276), but a distinct south-eastern trend of fall migration has been indicated, due no doubt to the barrier of the Rocky Mountains. That the bird occasionally straggles over these mountains far to the south and west is shown both by Howell's Arizona specimen (Condor, xviii, 1916, p. 213) and by the present California record.—DONALD R. DICKEY, *Pasadena, California, May 4, 1922.*

Nesting of the California Evening Grosbeak.—On June 14, 1914, W. W. Moore and myself found a California Evening Grosbeak (*Heaperiphona vespertina californica*). Just out of the town limits of Eureka, in a patch of green timber bordered on the lower end by a salt marsh, we were attracted by the loud whistling and scolding notes of the bird. When we were able to locate the noise, we found four birds feeding in the top branches of a white fir. The light being right we could easily distinguish the two males