

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

from the two females. The noisy bird proved to be a male and seemed to have a quarrel with one of the females. He would stop all his racket and go to feeding; suddenly he would start scolding, drive the female from her feeding place, stop scolding and go to feeding there himself. We saw him do this several times before we left to see what was in a nest of a Black-headed Grosbeak nearby.

From there we went in search of a Western Winter Wren's nest, without success. All of this time we could hear that noisy male Evening Grosbeak at intervals. So back we went, to where the grosbeaks were feeding. We were back several minutes before the quiet male and female flew to another part of the timber. This seemed to set the noisy male agoing; he drove the female across several trees before she disappeared in a thick cluster of small branches near the top of a white fir. The male landed about twenty feet lower down, in the same tree, and all his racket stopped. In a short while he flew in the direction taken by the other pair, and was not followed by the female.

Up the tree I went and was within twenty feet from where the female disappeared when Moore called, "there she goes", and down she came to meet me. Up to the cluster of branches I went; there was the nest, placed in a crotch formed by two branches crossing, and was within reaching distance. The nest was made of dry twigs, that looked as if they were broken by the birds from a near-by dead fir. It was thickly lined with fine dry roots.

The nest contained four eggs, incubation from just right to nearly hatching. The eggs look like Red-winged Blackbirds', and the extremes measured in inches .50 to .64 by .87 to .98. All the time I was at the nest, the female made all the racket the male had previously made, besides snapping her beak. Her scolding must have been heard for quite a distance, but the male did not return.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, March 30, 1922.*

**The Gray Flycatcher in the White Mountains of California.**—The appearance of the Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax griseus*) in southern California in migration and in winter, and its disappearance during the breeding season, has for many years been a problem for which there seemed no logical solution. Until recently, there has been no basis of data which would serve to trace its movements in California, after it passes through the San Diegan district as a common spring migrant. However, the recently published records by Oberholser, of the summer occurrence of *griseus* in Nevada (Auk, xxxvii, 1920, p. 133), and in eastern Oregon (Condor, xxii, 1920, p. 37), coupled with the specimens recorded below, seem to shed a little light on the subject. There are, in the Dickey collection, four specimens of this flycatcher, taken by Laurence M. Huey and Mrs. May Canfield, in the White Mountains of east-central California. Three of these are nearly full grown juveniles, two of which were taken at McCloud Camp, Mono County, at an altitude of 10,000 feet, August 27, and the third on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, at 8000 feet, September 4. The fourth is also a juvenile, just coming into first fall plumage, and was collected on Wyman Creek, at 8000 feet, on September 3, 1921. The inference is that these birds were hatched somewhere in the vicinity, for scarcely-grown juveniles would hardly have undertaken any extensive wandering.

It would therefore seem that the Gray Flycatcher, after leaving the San Diegan district, passes north-eastward to the desert ranges to breed. The fact that this region has been but sparingly worked by collectors, accounts, in our belief, for the present scarcity of summer records. These remarks have, of course, nothing to do with the individuals of this species which breed in Lower California, but they do apparently solve the seeming vagaries of movement in the California population of *griseus*.—D. R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, May 30, 1922.*

**A Third Record of the Gray-headed Junco in California.**—The first records of an unexpected bird in any arbitrary geographic area are necessarily so casual in their very nature as to suggest the advisability of publishing further confirmatory notes. Dr. Joseph Grinnell (Pasadena Acad. Sci., Pub. 2, 1898, p. 38), and Mr. Austin Paul Smith (Condor, ix, 1907, p. 199) have already called attention to the occasional presence of *Junco caniceps* in California. Recent experience leads the writer to believe that this species is a more regular winter visitant to California than the previous records suggest.