

inhabited by this chickadee, are, south of the vicinity of Point Sur, much restricted and far scattered. The last mainland representation of such forest is in the vicinity of Cambria, San Luis Obispo County, some 75 miles south-southeast of Point Sur. There are several square miles of woods there, consisting almost solely of the Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*).

Mr. Joseph Dixon was collecting at Cambria, October 27 to November 3, 1918, and found Santa Cruz Chickadees to be not uncommon there; he took five skins (now nos. 30232-30236, Mus. Vert. Zool.) on October 28 and November 1. There, then, is an apparently well established and rather far sequestered colony of the species. Comparison with seasonally similar specimens from the vicinity of Monterey shows the Cambria birds to average paler, nearer white, on the mid-ventral surface. This feature, however, is not pronounced enough or sufficiently uniform to warrant my considering it positively of phylogenetic significance.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, June 20, 1922.*

**Road-runner Caught in the Act.**—Probably everybody "has heard" that Road-runners eat the eggs and young of quail. Heretofore I have been inclined to class this rumor with the other one about their corralling rattlesnakes with cactus.

On July 9 I was inspecting the quail crop at the Tome Gun Club, near Belen, New Mexico. On the bank of an irrigation ditch, grown to willow bushes with here and there a cottonwood tree, my dog flushed a quail, which looked like an old rooster. At the same time, from the same place, the dog flushed a Road-runner, which hopped into a cottonwood. A careful look showed the Road-runner sitting dead still among thick foliage, with a light-colored object in his bill. I shot him, and the dog retrieved. The dog then pointed under the same tree, another quail flushed (the old hen) and on looking carefully I discovered a whole brood of chicks scattering in the weeds. I then examined the spot where the Road-runner had fallen, and found a dead chick, still limber and warm but unmutilated, matching the live chicks in size, and lying within a foot of the blood. The dead chick was still in the downy stage, with  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch pin feathers on the wing—smaller than a domestic chick when hatched.

The evidence is practically absolute that the Road-runner was caught in the act. His crop was empty. Possibly by coincidence, each of the five other Road-runners seen during the rest of the day were in the immediate vicinity of quail.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 10, 1922.*

**The Cedar Waxwing in Mexico.**—On February 11 of the present year I was passing through the town of Tehautepec when I was greeted with what to me was a voice from the old home town, the low, subdued hiss of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). There were several small flocks of six or eight taking their morning's exercise in a banana grove and apparently feeding there. During the next several days I was passing up the Tequixistlan River and saw several more flocks of about the same size along the trail. In the vicinity of Port Angel on the Pacific coast during the latter part of February and early in March there were a few of these birds scattered here and there. On April 16, while spending the day in Chapultepec Park in Mexico City, I was again pleasantly surprised to hear these same notes. There was a flock of twenty-nine birds circling around and occasionally settling in the pines, from which they flew down into the grass where they were foraging. Just a week later I was in the city of Monterey in the state of Nuevo Leon in the northern part of Mexico, where again I met a small flock of Cedar Waxwings.

Tehautepec is in the southern part of Mexico, is but a hundred feet or so above sea-level, is very hot, and has an abundance of irrigated tropical vegetation. The Tequixistlan basin is under about the same conditions, but without the irrigated areas; Port Angel at this season is dry and the trees are for the most part bare. In all of these places the inhabitants are Indians. Mexico City is at 7600 feet elevation, and has a cool climate; its vegetation is of the Oregon or northern California type. In Chapultepec Park, the ancient Aztec kings, the subsequent Spanish conquerors, and the following Mexican presidents, have had their palaces. Monterey is but a few hundred feet above the sea, is very hot, and has the floral and faunal aspect, as well as the climate, of

southwest Texas. All of which goes to show that the Cedar Waxwing in winter shows little choice among different climates and surroundings.—R. H. PALMER, *Instituto Geologico, Mexico, D. F., June 17, 1922.*

**Some Birds Recently Observed in Southern California.**—The past year, during both the fall and spring migrations, the writer has hunted assiduously in many favorable spots in southern California for the different waders. During these hunts a careful lookout was kept for two of our rarest shore bird visitants, the Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*) and the Surf Bird. No Surf Birds were seen, but seven Ruddy Turnstones were observed. Near Point Mugu, Ventura County, on August 27, 1921, two were seen, and one of them, a male, was secured. Five were seen on the tide flats near Wilmington, Los Angeles County, on May 7, 1922, and two of these were collected. Both were females, one a young bird and the other in nearly full breeding plumage. There are quite a few instances of occurrences of this turnstone during the fall migration, but no spring records from the southern California mainland, though it was met with on San Nicolas Island from March 30 to May 11, 1910 (Willett, *Pac. Coast Avifauna*, 7, 1912, p. 41).

On August 21, 1921, on the mud flats near Wilmington, there were many large flocks of Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*) (later in the fall many *Phalaropus fulicarius* also), but I was indeed surprised to see a large flock of Wilson Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) busily feeding in the mud near the water's edge. Unlike the Northern Phalaropes, which were swimming constantly, they fed on the banks, though occasionally running into the shallow water. I estimated the flock of Wilson Phalaropes to be somewhat over two hundred birds. They kept in a compact mass and it was difficult to count them, though they were very tame and unsuspecting. All appeared to be in winter plumage, as were the specimens collected. The place was visited several times afterwards at intervals of a few days each, but the birds were not seen again.

On July 4, 1922, three Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*), all in winter plumage, or perhaps young birds, were observed near Venice, feeding among a mixed flock of Long-billed Dowitchers, Least Sandpipers, Greater Yellow-legs, Black-necked Stilts, Hudsonian Curlews, and Marbled Godwits. Were these birds very early fall migrants, very late spring migrants, or had they been there since the past winter?

On February 19, 1922, I took a female Eastern Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*) at the mouth of Verdugo Canyon, near Glendale, Los Angeles County. It is quite reddish but not to such an extent as the typical bird from the east.

A short trip to Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, was made on June 11, 1922, in company with Mr. Luther Little. What impressed us most was the irregular occurrence of some of the breeding birds, comparing different years. For several years the water of the lake has been very low, but now, the copious rains of last winter have made it higher than for many previous years. Last season, large numbers of White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) were present all summer, but did not nest; the water was not high enough to form their nesting island and it seems that these birds must have an island or they will not nest. This year, although their island was formed, there were but few Pelicans around and those were not nesting. The reason may have been that this year there are only a few fish left of the myriads that were there formerly.

Western Grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) were nesting abundantly. Last year none nested (in fact only one was seen), while the year before, Mr. Adriaan van Rossem tells me they were breeding commonly.

White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*) were present in a large breeding colony. This is the first time, after several visits to the lake, that I have found this species nesting there. In the same way, Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) breed irregularly; but Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) are more constant.—CHESTER C. LAMB, *Los Angeles, California, July 8, 1922.*

**Vaux Swift in Migration.**—On April 29, 1922, about 7 p. m., the largest flock of Vaux Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) I have ever seen or, in fact, heard of, circled over my house several times. By careful estimate I judged the number to be very nearly six