

which is terminated abruptly, rather than the somewhat prolonged strident *caw-caw* of the Common Crow. When first heard, one gets the impression that the bird has a decidedly sore throat which renders calling very difficult and unpleasant and that a decision *not* to call is made after the call is started. There is that certain difference between this call and that of the crow as there is between the Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, and once heard it would never be forgotten. The Fish Crows were never seen away from moist areas and it is assumed that crayfish and the like form most of their food. Rice is the only local cultivated crop and is not planted every year; so, while the birds feed in the inundated rice fields, it is doubtful that they eat the rice.—J. R. PEMBERTON and A. J. KIRN, *Tulsa, Oklahoma, January 1, 1923.*

A Nest of the *Leucosticte* on Mount Dana, Tuolumne County, California.—While climbing Mount Dana on August 2, 1922, in company with H. L. Mason of the Carnegie Institution party, I noted a female Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis dawsoni*), at an altitude of about 11,300 feet, on a moderately steep southwest-facing slope not far from the top of the main ridge. Presently, as I watched the bird, it disappeared under a broad, flat rock, and on investigating I found, six inches back, a nest containing three small young in natal down, apparently not many hours out of the egg. The nest was built principally of sedges, the plant bases or stubble having been utilized for the mass of the nest, with finer materials for the lining. There was little vegetation in the immediate vicinity, the closest being an *Arabis* sp., and the nearest sedges being at least one hundred feet distant. The bills of the young birds were bright yellow. The only sound we heard them utter was a faint *peep*. When they noticed any disturbance in the vicinity of the nest, the little ones raised their heads and opened their mouths to the widest possible angle.

Only one parent, apparently the female, was seen. She was not shy, but several times came and went to and from the nest while we were close by. During the examination of the nest she remained close at hand, giving a call note resembling *plirp* or *plirp plirp*. Once she caught and ate a winged insect of considerable size. As soon as we left the nest, the parent proceeded to it and brooded the young, conversing with them in a soothing manner, using syllables like *tik tik tik tik tik* as she covered them. One of the young birds, after I took it from the nest, had dropped some fecal matter on a rock near the entrance to the nest. The parent picked up the fecal matter in her bill and carried it away over the rocks; the nest was noticeably clean, no eggshells or feces being observable either in or outside of it. For twenty minutes while we were eating lunch (11:45 A. M. to 12:05 P. M.), the mother steadily brooded the young, as well she might, for a decidedly cool wind had come up, and a thunderstorm was brewing.

After reading Dawson's thrilling account of the discovery of numerous nests of this Rosy Finch in the Mammoth Pass region and elsewhere (Jour. Mus. Comp. Zool., 11, 1922, pp. 8-26) the nest here recorded seems chiefly notable for its unusually prosaic surroundings, little more of adventure or of daring being recorded in the course of its discovery and observation than is usually the case with a junco's nest.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *U. S. Biological Survey, La Jolla, California, November 17, 1922.*

Bobolinks in Oregon.—The observation of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) in any of the Pacific Coast states or provinces is of interest. I am therefore prompted to mention two records of long standing, which came to my notice while connected with the Department of Zoology of the Oregon Agricultural College.

The first observation was made in 1903. Two of my students, working at the branch Experiment Station at Union, Oregon, reported a strange bird in the fields. To obtain an identification they sent a pair to Corvallis. The birds were later mounted and photographed by the writer. The data accompanying the photograph are "Photo 37, *Dolichonyx*, female, male; Union, Oregon, June 29, 1903; W. T. Shaw. Collected by F. C. Houghton and Leroy G. Matley." One of these birds, the male, is now in the collection of the Oregon Agricultural College.

The second observation was made at Lake Malheur, Oregon. On July 4, 1906, while collecting along the low grass-lands bordering this lake, a colony of Bobolinks

was located. At least eight or ten birds were seen, apparently well established, the males in full song, reminding one of a June day in the clover fields of the East. At least one specimen was taken, and now bears this data: "*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, male, Lake Malheur, Oregon. Collected and mounted by W. T. Shaw." This specimen is now in the Oregon Agricultural College collection.—WILLIAM T. SHAW, Pullman, Washington, January 10, 1923.

Band-tailed Pigeons Increasing in California.—Until May, 1922, I had for some years seen only occasional Wild or Band-tailed pigeons (*Columba fasciata*). About May 30, 1922, however, during a trip along the coast north of the Russian River and in the vicinity of Fort Ross, I saw one morning seven flocks; the smallest flock numbered ten, the largest flock, from thirty to thirty-five pigeons.

Toward the end of November, 1922, in Pasadena, near the residence of Mrs. Howard Huntington, I saw two large flocks on several successive days. There were possibly 125 pigeons all told, and they were resting in some large eucalyptus and sycamore trees in a canyon below the house.

January 5, 1923, in Bollinger Canyon, Contra Costa County, back of San Ramon, I saw two flocks, one of about twenty, the other of about seventy-five pigeons. They seemed to be feeding on toyon (red) berries.

January 13, 1923, near Jolon, Monterey County, I saw probably three hundred pigeons, scattered over a territory about a mile square. January 15, 1923, at the same place, I saw one flock of 200 to 250 birds. They were feeding on acorns and were probably a gathering of the scattered birds seen on the 13th.

January 20, 1923, near Ojai, Ventura County, I saw several flocks. One flock, feeding in a grain field, numbered from three to five hundred—nearer five hundred.

January 25, 1923, I was again in Pasadena, and the canyon near Mrs. Huntington's house was full of pigeons flying around and alighting in the high trees near by. When they flew they made a loud, quite noticeable, flapping noise. I do not think that there was one less than 500. Mrs. Huntington told me that the pigeons had been there since I first saw them, in November, 1922, and in larger numbers. They were evidently using this canyon for a resting place, and going out to some other place to feed. They were so numerous that they were exciting much local attention.—ALLEN L. CHICKERING, San Francisco, California, February 1, 1923.

The English Blackbird in California.—For a number of years there has reposed in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology a dark plumaged thrush which was thought by some people to be merely a melanistic example of the Western Robin. In fact, the writer had so accepted the bird, and had used it on two or three occasions in demonstrating color abnormalities to classes in vertebrate zoology, contrasting it with an almost complete albino Robin of undoubted identity. But a recent critical study, made at the suggestion of Mr. H. S. Swarth, showed that the bird was not a Western Robin at all. On the presumption that the bird in question was an individual which had strayed out of its normal path of migration, the descriptions and illustrations of dark-colored thrushes in Central America and eastern Asia contained in Seebohm's Monograph of the Turdidae were examined, but without revealing any species with which the specimen in hand might be linked. The bird was then submitted to Dr. Charles W. Richmond for comparison with the National Museum material and he identified it as a female English Blackbird, *Planesticus merula* (Linnaeus).

The specimen in question was collected by F. O. Johnson at Oakland, California, on December 6, 1891. It came with the rest of the Johnson collection to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and is now number 10688 of the bird collection. In an article published soon after its capture (Zoe, III, 1892, pp. 115-116), Johnson described the bird, identifying it as a melanistic Robin (*Merula migratoria propinqua*). He also gave the circumstances of capture and these are worth quoting in the present connection.

" . . . While pursuing a Townsend's sparrow which had flown to the top of a tall growth of jasmine, I noticed on the opposite side of the bush a strange bird moping in the shade. It observed me just as I saw it, and hopped sluggishly to another branch