

In a day or so a little green-backed hummingbird with all gray throat and breast, and tail feathers tipped with white (a female Black-chinned, I judged by the size) was feeding there frequently, going directly to this nectar-filled flower and seldom visiting the other blossoms on the bush. She evidently decided to take possession by right of discovery, and could nearly always be found sitting on one of several favorite perches commanding a clear view of this sweet "bonanza," and when other hummers came into the vicinity, would dart for them like a little fury giving a squeaking call, her tiny wings humming like a big bumble bee. At times, her fighting spirit well aroused, she would shuttle back and forth before a sparrow or linnet who happened to perch near by, until in fear of her long darting bill the interloper would fly away.

Two other hummers with dingy gray breasts and the green of their backs tinged with yellowish, would often succeed in cleverly eluding the little "guardian" and have many a sweet meal when she was off guard. All became so tame that any of them would come and eat while I stood near enough to touch the flower, and would nearly always buzz around my head when I renewed the flower or refilled the bottle which I had to do twice a day.

From about July 10 to August 25 the three hummers could be found feeding from this choice flower, or chasing each other around almost any hour of the day. Several times when I have been sitting in the yard one of them would come and swing back and forth about three feet from my face, whether with the idea of making my acquaintance or driving me away, I could never determine.

On August 9 I observed that the little yellowish-green-backed ones were showing a partial stripe of violet across the throat and a few black feathers were showing on the chin. These increased until, on August 22, the two birds were in full plumage with velvety black chins and violet gorget. About the same date the little "guardian" failed to appear on her usual perches and was seen no more. The two young black-chins were seen until on the morning of August 26. I went out to find a mere drop of honey left and both birds presumably departed for their winter home farther south.

Not having these birds banded, I can only assume that they were always the same three, but under the circumstances I feel justified in doing so. The bottle of sweets is still in place with the hope of enticing some wandering "Anna" to make its home in my garden.—JESSICA A. POTTER, *Los Angeles, September 24, 1923.*

A Correction.—Obviously, from the collecting stations given in the context of the description of *Dendragapus obscurus howardi*, the Sierra Nevada range of this bird should have read "north to about the 37th parallel of latitude," instead of the "31st parallel," as unfortunately given by us in THE CONDOR, xxv, 1923, p. 169, line 3.—DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, October 11, 1923.*

The Pectoral Sandpiper in Southern California.—The rarity of the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia maculata*) in this region gives special interest to the following record, which, if I am not mistaken, is the first in ten years or more.

On September 16, 1923, Mr. Ralph Hoffmann and the writer located two of these birds at the Del Rey marshes near Los Angeles. They were deliberate in action and showed none of the wariness attributed by some writers to the species, allowing us to study them at 25 to 30 yards as long as we pleased. Neither was taken, but close inspection with binoculars, and long familiarity with the species in the East, make mistake in identification to our minds, impossible.—L. E. WYMAN, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, October 13, 1923.*

Some Weights of Eggs.—A couple of large sets of eggs taken by me during the past few years are worthy of note. I am positive that neither of these sets could have been tampered with by anybody.

California Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*); Colton, California, June 17, 1919. The nest, 16 feet from ground, in top of willow sapling, and supported by wild grape vine, was a mere platform of coarse sticks which fell to pieces

when I tried to cut it out of the tree. The nest contained *six* eggs, this being the largest set of which I have ever heard. The eggs are very uniform in size, the weight in grams being 9.98, 9.96, 9.48, 9.44, 9.15, 8.37. In color three eggs are of slightly lighter shade of greenish blue than the others. Only one bird was noticed, and the incubation was slight in all the eggs. My experience leads me to believe that the usual number of eggs in a set is three, while sets of two and four are not rare. In two instances I have seen sets of five eggs.

Anthony Brown Towhee (*Pipilo crissalis senicula*); Colton, California, May 11, 1923. Nest in center of black sage, 2.5 feet from ground, was of usual construction; the bird was flushed from the nest by shaking the bush. The *six* eggs in this set were very uniform as to size, shape, color, and markings. The weights in grams were 4.18, 4.14, 4.05, 4.05, 3.98, 3.90. Only one bird was noticed and it made much fuss. I have never observed more than four eggs in a set and three is common.—WILSON C. HANNA, Colton, California, October 21, 1923.

Two New Sandpiper Records for California.—I took a young male of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) at Morro, San Luis Obispo County, on September 14, 1923. It was feeding close to the surf on the outer beach about one quarter of a mile south of the well-known Morro Rock, in company with a Black-bellied Plover and two Least Sandpipers. The specimen is now no. 43994, in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

In the hope of establishing a proper conception of the range and appearance in life of this sandpiper it may be as well to once more point out one or two general misconceptions in regard to it. First, it is not "casual" on the Pacific Coast, as given in the latest A. O. U. Check-List; for I have noted it during every year that I have spent on the British Columbian coast. As with several others of the Limicolae, it has so far only been recorded there in the fall, and its flight line is obviously along the coast-line or only a short distance inland. Some British Columbia record stations are Sumas and Chilliwack, regular fall migrant (Brooks); Sidney, Vancouver Island (C. B. Lindley); Comox, Vancouver Island (P. A. Taverner). Although a close lookout has been kept for it in the interior of the province for many years, no trace of it has been found.

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is of regular occurrence east of the Rockies in the prairie provinces, and I have several recent specimens taken in both spring and fall at different points in Alberta. This indicates two distinct lines of migration, one through the Mississippi Valley, and the other down the Pacific coast-line.

One of the possible explanations of the infrequency of the records for this species is the almost universal custom of comparing it together with the Baird Sandpiper, in appearance, with the Pectoral Sandpiper. Few sandpipers look more unlike than these two species in comparison with the Pectoral; contour, carriage, markings, and actions are all entirely dissimilar. The pronounced pattern on the back of the Pectoral Sandpiper seen in the fall is entirely absent in the Buff-breast, which has a sandy-colored "scaly" back, almost exactly as in the Baird Sandpiper. The last named species is extraordinarily like a Buff-breast, especially when the birds are wading in mud or water; the colors are almost identical and the greater amount of white on the lower surface of the Baird does not show in most lights owing to the principle of counter-shading; the best point of distinction is the white throat of the Baird. Both have the same short black bill and light brownish rump.

I have seen Baird Sandpipers climbing about in tall grass with all the actions of a Buff-breast, and conversely I have seen a Buff-breast pitch among a small flock of Baird Sandpipers which were feeding up to their bellies in shallow water and become practically indistinguishable from them. In the last instance I went over the flock of thirteen birds three times with a $\times 8$ binocular in a perfect light at 40 yards without being able to pick out the rarer species—and I knew well what to look for. On going closer I had to con the birds over very carefully before being able to collect the Buff-breast.

So I would advise all observers on the Pacific Coast to look out for a Baird Sandpiper which shows no white on the eyebrow or chin, and with yellow instead of black legs—and to take the bird if possible. In one feature the Buff-breast resembles the Pectoral Sandpiper, in that the male is a good deal larger than the female, a noteworthy exception in the general rule with the Limicolae.