

generally gray coloration and dark back and crown (dark gray or blackish but not black), its pointed, dark bill, yellow legs, white forehead, throat and under parts, and its rather short neck, satisfied me beyond any doubt as to its identity. The flight was slow and labored, as one would expect in a heron.

From such literature as I have been able to consult this appears to be an extension northwardly of the reported mid-winter occurrence of this species in California.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, January 28, 1924.*

Notes on Certain Horned Larks in California.—*Otocoris alpestris insularis*: The Island Horned Lark may not be such a casual visitor to the mainland of California as the present single record from the coast of Los Angeles County would indicate (Pac. Coast Avif., no. 11, 1915, p. 96). There are two specimens of this form in the Dickey collection, a male (no. CX 45), taken at Goleta, Santa Barbara County, November 26, 1915, and another male (no. K 534), taken on the sand dunes near Oxnard, Ventura County, August 22, 1922. The possibility of these birds being extreme examples of *Otocoris alpestris actia* has been considered, but they match island specimens of *Otocoris alpestris insularis* so perfectly as to convince the writers that they may safely be referred to that form. In both instances the birds were taken on the sand dunes, just back of the beach. It would be interesting to determine whether the form ever wanders inland, or whether it is confined to the littoral association. On the Santa Barbara Islands, the race is found almost exclusively on upland pasture lands. One would expect the birds to seek a similar habitat on the mainland during their fall and winter wanderings, but present evidence seems to negate this expectation.

Otocoris alpestris merrilli: A male horned lark (no. J 1831), taken at Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, December 31, 1921, is apparently of this race. It is perfectly matched by two birds from western Idaho, and is therefore quite distinct from *Otocoris alpestris sierrae*, examples of which were at one time referred to *Otocoris alpestris merrilli*. There is no topographic barrier to prevent *merrilli* from coming south to Buena Vista Lake through the great interior valley of California. Dr. Grinnell has recently found the race in abundance in the Sacramento Valley (CONDOR, XXV, 1923, p. 172). It will therefore probably be found to winter regularly south to the southern extremity of the San Joaquin Valley.

Otocoris alpestris enthyimia: Several horned larks in the recently acquired Howell collection were so at variance with our extensive series of the forms of *alpestris* known to occur in California, that we finally submitted the birds to Dr. Oberholser for identification. He pronounced them *Otocoris alpestris enthyimia*. Two more birds have been collected during the past year. These fall so naturally with the specimens examined by him that they are here incorporated under the same name. The data relating to the individual specimens, which are now in the Dickey collection, are as follows, it being noted that all captures were made in the desert area, east of the coastal drainage:

No. 8628, ♀, Fort Yuma, Imperial Co., Jan. 29, 1913.

No. 10037, ♂, shore of Salton Sea, Imperial Co., Feb. 1, 1913.

No. 11931, ♂, Newberry Springs, San Bernardino Co., Dec. 8, 1917.

No. 12509, ♂, Kane Spring, Imperial Co., Jan. 13, 1923.

No. 12510, ♂, Kane Spring, Imperial Co., Jan. 13, 1923.

It has been suggested that these birds might be intergrades between certain races inhabiting areas more nearly adjacent to the stations of capture, thus merely paralleling *enthyimia*, instead of representing that race. However, the characters exhibited by these birds are such as to apparently preclude the possibility of accepting this hypothesis, and to force, instead, the recording of *Otocoris alpestris enthyimia* as a winter visitant to California.—DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, February 4, 1924.*

Unusual Bird Nesting Records for Southwest Saskatchewan.—In a paper that appeared in the May-June, 1923, issue of the CONDOR I was pleased to be able to record the first appearance in this corner of Saskatchewan of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) in July, 1922. At the same time, I ventured to predict that before long we might see this species here again. Mr. Spencer Pearse, a neighboring rancher, tells me that last May (1923) a pair of Bluebirds appeared at his ranch. His natural hope that they would remain to nest in the spot was not fulfilled, as the birds departed after a couple of days' stay.

The Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) is a rare bird in this neighborhood. In June, 1914, I saw a solitary male bird in a low-lying piece of meadow land near Mr. Pearce's ranch. In June of last year he had some half dozen pairs of Bobolinks nesting in this same locality and was greatly charmed with the singing of the cock birds.

The Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) appears to be a common bird in most parts of Canada, so that its infrequent occurrence in this region is rather remarkable. In July, 1904, I saw a flock of about 30; in June, 1915, two pairs visited this ranch for a few days; and these are the only two personal records I have in twenty-two years. Mr. Pearce succeeded in finding last summer, for the first time, a nest of the Cedar Waxwing. It contained one egg; but on visiting the spot a few days later he found the nest deserted, though the egg was still intact.

On July 5, 1923, a friend gave me a Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) that had been killed by a cat. Upon examination it proved to be a breeding female, having a half formed egg in its oviduct. Until July 3, 1912, I never saw or heard of a cuckoo here; since then it has gradually increased, while last year I heard it in several places, and doubtless more than one pair nested in the district. It is a welcome visitor, for it appears to be one of the few enemies of the tent caterpillar, a pest that has increased considerably in recent years. In fact, it is more than likely that the increase in the numbers of this caterpillar accounts largely for the Cuckoo having extended its range westward.

In February, 1923, while out riding on horseback, I came across a band of about seven Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). They are fairly easy to approach if it is done quietly, and these birds allowed me to ride within forty yards before betraying any uneasiness. The only sound they uttered was curiously like the "wow, wow" of a dog barking in the distance. In fact, for a few moments I thought it really was the dog belonging to a neighbor living about half a mile over the other side of a hill.—L. B. POTTER, Gower Ranch, Eastend, Saskatchewan, February 8, 1924.

The California Condor in Washington: Another Version of an Old Record.—When David Douglas, the great botanical collector, published (Zool. Journal, iv, Jan., 1829, p. 328), his "Observations on *Vultur Californianus* of Shaw," he referred to the range of this bird north of California as follows: "I have met with them as far to the north as 49° N. latitude, in the summer and autumn months, but nowhere so abundant as in the Columbia Valley between the Grand Rapids and the sea." Audubon (Ornith. Biog., v, 1829, pp. 241-243) reprinted the paper, it was quoted both in the Fauna Boreali-Americana of Swainson and Richardson (vol. II, Birds, 1831, p. 1), and by Jameson in his edition of Wilson (American Ornithology [Constable's Miscellany] iv, 1831, pp. 259-261. It has been shown by Mathews and Iredale [Austral Avian Record, v, 1923, pp. 67-69] that this volume was published before volume II of the Fauna Boreali-Americana.) This record by Douglas has remained the chief authority for "formerly north to Columbia River" of our Check-List.

In the Canadian Naturalist and Geologist of 1860, there is a very good life of Douglas by his friend George Barnston, of the Hudson's Bay Company, in which (page 208), there is an interesting reference to Douglas and a California Condor as follows:

"The Spring of 1827 was severe, and much snow had fallen. The consequence was that many horses died at Fort Vancouver, and we were visited by the various species of beasts and birds of prey that abound in that country. Most conspicuous among these were the California vulture. This magnate of the air was ever hovering around, wheeling in successive circles for a time, then changing the wing as if wishing to describe the figure 8; the ends of the pinions, when near enough to be seen, having a bend waving upwards, all his movements, whether soaring or floating, ascending or descending, were lines of beauty. In flight he is the most majestic bird I have seen. One morning a large specimen was brought into our square, and we had all a hearty laugh at the eagerness with which the Botanist pounced upon it. In a very short time he had it almost in his embraces fathoming its stretch of wings, which not being able to compass, a measure was brought, and he found it full nine feet from tip to tip. This satisfied him, and the bird was carefully transferred to his studio for the purpose of being stuffed. In all that pertained to nature or science he was a perfect enthusiast. It has been frequently a matter of surprise how quickly these birds collect when a large animal dies. None may be seen