

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

in any direction, but in a few minutes after a horse or other large animal gives up the ghost they may be descried like specks in the æther, nearing by circles to their prey, when as yet one would not suppose the effluvia from the carcase had reached above a hundred yards. This renders it probable that their sight as well as sense of smelling is very acute, but that the latter can guide them entirely without aid from the other, I am certain, as I have started them from carrion within the edge of the forest under bushes which must have precluded the possibility of their seeing the carcase before they alighted on it."

Douglas sent a pair of California Condors to London. He gives the latitude and longitude of Fort Vancouver as the locality where they were taken. These were placed in the museum of the Zoological Society where they presumably remained till the museum was broken up in 1855. They are not in the British Museum, and it would be interesting to know if they still exist.—J. H. FLEMING, 267 Rusholme Road, Toronto, Ontario, February, 18, 1924.

Dotted Canyon Wren in Oregon.—On February 21, 1924, I collected a male Dotted Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus*), about eight miles southeast of Ashland, Oregon. The specimen was identified by Mr. Stanley G. Jewett, who told me that this species has probably not yet been reported from this part of Oregon.—WM. E. SHERWOOD, Ashland, Oregon, February 26, 1924.

Another California Record for the Gray-headed Junco.—I shot a Gray-headed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus caniceps*) in La Puerta Valley (eastern San Diego County), November 3, 1923. It was alone and not wild. The specimen is now no. 44256, Mus. Vert. Zool., Berkeley.—FRANK STEPHENS, San Diego, California, March 6, 1924.

What Birds Hold Food With the Feet?—It has been of interest to me to note certain perching birds holding their food with the foot, after the manner of birds of prey. The California Jay has a habit of clutching an object firmly while working at it with the bill. Certain other perching birds have been seen doing this; but is it habitual?

In the *Auk* of July, 1918 (p. 360), an instance is given of the Orchard Oriole eating berries held in the foot. Vernon Bailey (Handbook of Birds of the Western United States, p. 463), relates how a Verdin clutched a lycium berry and picked out the pulp, resting the tarsus across the twig.

During the fall season I have found the Bailey Mountain Chickadee feeding on the fallen pine nuts, probably of Jeffrey and sugar pines. Whole flocks engage in hopping about the ground, making considerable stir in the dead dry leaves. When a seed is picked up in the bill it is de-winged and carried to a limb, board or other hard surface, upon which it is placed and then held there by grasping with one foot. In a short time a hole is formed by very vigorous pounding, and enlarged by breaking out the edges. Through this small opening the seed is eaten bit by bit.

A Plain Tit I watched at another season held some object against a limb while pounding it.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet placed a long worm-like larva under one foot and stretched it by pulling with the bill. After repeating the stretching process from another limb, the larva was shaken, run through the bill sidewise, and swallowed.—ROLAND CASE ROSS, Pasadena, California, March 6, 1924.

A Wintering Ground of the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow.—The race of fox sparrow known as the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca brevicauda*) breeds in California on the Trinity and Yolla Bolly ranges, at 5000 feet and over, and in the Coast Range as far south as Snow Mountain in the northwestern portion of Colusa County. The latter range extends in a scattering way southerly, or southeasterly, through Napa and Sonoma counties, until it peters out just north of the San Francisco Bay region.

The Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow has been taken in midwinter in Marin County on various occasions (Mailliard, CONDOR, III, pp. 71-72; XIV, pp. 63-67; XX, pp. 138-139), and I have taken individuals of this race on Mt. St. Helena, Napa County, early in the spring and late in the fall, under conditions which made me think that these birds had chosen this locality for their winter resort. On this foundation, it has been my belief that a mid-winter examination of favorable localities would develop the fact that this fox sparrow regularly winters in this part of the Coast Range. For one