

was seen did it show signs of feeding. An hour later it was seen in the same vicinity perched half way up in a small redwood tree. It flew out of the redwood tree towards the fruit trees.

On August 8, a male Tanager was seen again in the redwood tree. On August 9, three birds were seen at 6:55 A. M. This time two males and a female or immature bird were flying about. At 8:30 A. M. on the same day, observations were made for an hour. Six Tanagers were seen—three males, two juvenile birds, and one female. Two of the males were very pronouncedly and clearly marked; the third had only a little red on the head and the yellow part back of the red and on the under parts, instead of being clear yellow, looked, particularly on the breast, gray tipped or dirty. This latter bird or a similar one was seen on August 16, also a female or juvenile bird—identification of the duller bird was not definite.

The birds were observed to be feeding on yellow plums; also on bees flying through the air, possibly some other insects, but I recognized two as bees. There are a good many bees in this vicinity just now, due to a red eucalyptus which is blooming, hollyhocks, and golden-rod. It was also reported that the Tanagers were feeding on some Rowan berries about seventy-five or one hundred feet away. I did not see them, however.—MILDRED KELLOGG, *Berkeley, California, August 18, 1924.*

Western Bluebird Nesting in Berkeley.—On May 8, 1924, while looking for nests in the pasture to the south of the University's upper dairy barn, I saw a pair of Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*). The female was soon observed to enter a hole in an oak tree, and this upon investigation was found to contain young which were only three or four days old. The entrance to the nest was ten feet above the ground and was about two inches in diameter. The cavity was about ten inches deep and lined with grass and fibers.

On May 30 the young were banded by the writer and given Biological Survey Numbers 124331,-32,-33,-34. On June 8 the nest was again visited and the young were found to be fully feathered and almost ready to leave. This was the last day the young were found in the nest.

This is the first recorded instance of the Western Bluebird nesting in Alameda County since 1886. In Belding's "Land Birds of the Pacific District," page 262, T. S. Palmer, reporting from Berkeley, says, "I know of only one instance of its breeding here. Last seen, March 18, 1886."

The only other record is in 1876 and is found in "The American Naturalist," volume 10, page 90. This is by J. G. Cooper in an article entitled, "California Garden Birds." He says, "A pair of Western Bluebirds, *Sialia Mexicana*, had raised a brood of young under the roof of the adjoining house, and all of them frequented the garden much after May 4th. In the garden at Haywood [= Hayward] 18 miles southeast of San Francisco."—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, *Berkeley, California, August 18, 1924.*

The Dickcissel and Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Montana.—On June 28, 1921, I collected a male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) a short distance east of Miles City, Montana. My attention was first attracted to the bird on June 26 by its call which was new to me. July 4 I saw ten singing males and two females of this species and on July 10, twelve males, and found a nest containing four eggs. On my next visit, the 17th, two of the eggs were hatched, the other two eggs being added. I also found another nest on this date with one egg; visiting this nest again on the 24th, I collected a set of four eggs which are now in the collection of the University of Montana. Other specimens of the Dickcissel collected were two on July 4 and one on July 10, all males. The birds were found frequenting irrigated lands on the O. C. Haynes and adjoining ranches; none was observed except on irrigated lands. Young and females were seen August 7, but the males had apparently ceased singing and were not again found about their usual haunts.

Some of the favorite resorts of the male Dickcissels while singing were in the cottonwood trees and weedy thickets along the fences skirting alfalfa fields; but birds of both sexes were found to be more plentiful in a cultivated orchard of wild plums, of about two or three acres, which was over-run with a tall, rank growth of sweet clover. The two nests were in this orchard and were placed in thickly leaved wild plum bushes about two to three feet from the ground. On July 17, I found the sweet clover

had been cut from between the rows and removed, after which date the orchard was abandoned except by two pairs of the birds. Previous to this cutting five or six pairs apparently nested in or near this small orchard. The next summer, on June 16, 1922, the first bird was observed, singing, in this orchard. The Dickcissel is not recorded in Saunders' Birds of Montana; evidently the present one is a new record for the state.

On July 10, 1921, I collected a male Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*) about two miles south of Miles City, Montana, in a brushy patch of small cottonwoods near the bank of Tongue River. This appears to be the first record of this species for Montana. Mr. Aretas A. Saunders mentions the finding of an egg, apparently *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*, at Flathead Lake, west of the Rocky Mountains, on July 3, 1900, by Mr. P. M. Silloway (Birds of Montana, Hypothetical List, p. 174). From measurements taken before skinning, I believe my specimen to be *americanus*; length, 276 millimeters; wing, 136; culmen, 24.

On February 27, 1921, I collected a male Rocky Mountain Creeper (*Certhia familiaris montana*) in a cottonwood grove near the Yellowstone River, Miles City, Montana. There seems to be no previous record for Custer County and none in eastern Montana in the prairie region since the specimen in June, 1860, between Forts Union and Benton, as recorded by Cooper (see Saunders, Birds of Montana, p. 158).

The Western Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) occasionally winters in Custer County. On January 30, 1921, I saw two birds of this species in a cedar gulch on Sunday Creek a few miles north of Miles City; and on November 11, 1920, I observed one eating wild-rose hips in a sheltered piece of woods at Fort Keogh, Montana, on a cold, windy day after a snow-storm.—CHAS. F. HEDGES, *Los Angeles, California, August 3, 1924.*

The Gambel Quail in San Diego.—An adult female Gambel Quail (*Lophortyx gambeli*) was trapped in Balboa Park, San Diego, by Mr. F. F. Gander of the San Diego Zoological Society on September 18, 1924. The identification was made by Mr. Clinton G. Abbott of the Natural History Museum and myself, with the living bird in hand. Every chance of the bird having escaped into the park has been checked as far as possible, and it seems established that she must have wandered in from the desert. Mr. Falconer and I are planning some experiments which will be interesting if we have any luck, as we have also captured her mate, a Valley Quail, presumably also her mate of last year. Mr. Gander tried last season to trap her, but without success.—GRIFFING BANCROFT, *San Diego, California, September 23, 1924.*

Nuptial Flight of the Black-chinned Hummingbird.—In the May, 1920, issue of the CONDOR, Mr. Richard Hunt describes very explicitly the nuptial flight of the Anna Hummingbird, giving a diagram of its flight and as accurate a translation in words of its song as is humanly possible. It happened that the writer, at an early hour on June 25, 1924, was hunting in a small patch of river-bottom woods near San Diego and observed a male Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) performing the nuptial flight. The female was perched on a dead, horizontal limb about five feet from the ground and the male took flight from a position approximately twenty feet above her on the twig of a cottonwood, against the trunk of which I was quietly resting. With a bold sweep and a whizzing noise made by the flight, which resembled that of the Costa Hummer except that the tone was not so intense, he passed very close to her and headed up to a point about fifteen feet above. There, while the upward motion died until a complete stop was reached, he seemed to pat his wings together underneath him, causing a sound much like that of a bathing bird flopping its wings in the water after they have become thoroughly saturated. After a second downward swing, with the whizzing noise, he rose to another point about fifteen feet up, where again the wing flopping performance was repeated. This U-shaped figure was repeated five different times, and, at each stop at the apex, the flopping of wings was indulged in, after which the bird again sought his perch on the cottonwood above his mate. I was close enough almost to hear his wing beats as he sped to and fro, and I watched the pair for three minutes, when they both flew off of their own will, without being disturbed. At no time during the minute and a half duration of the nuptial flight was there any vocal demonstration, though both birds were rather vociferous when perched.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, August 4, 1924.*