

**The Gray Gyrfalcon in Washington.**—Gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*) are so rare in the United States that, as Dr. Fisher has said, a man may consider himself fortunate if he sees one in a lifetime. It gives me pleasure, therefore, to record a specimen taken near Spokane about October 15, 1925, by Mr. R. L. Peel of Deer Park, Washington, which is now in my possession and which constitutes the second state record. According to Mr. Allan Brooks, gyrfalcons are rare but of regular occurrence along the boundary line of Washington and British Columbia, and likely, therefore, to be found south of it. He has four skins in his collection, and states that there are a number of records for Alberta and a few for eastern British Columbia. Professor Wm. Rowan, of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, writes me that he knows of at least seven gyrfalcons from that province, the skins being scattered in various Canadian and American collections. There are only two records for Montana, one of them a sight record. The trouble is that, although hawks and owls are generally knocked down by hunters and the best looking ones mounted, there are so few bird students in the regions mentioned that the records never get into print.

The first for Washington was a bird discovered in a taxidermist's shop in Spokane, about December 18, 1896, by the late Dr. J. C. Merrill, U. S. A., then stationed at Fort Sherman, Idaho. According to Withers Brothers, taxidermists here, this was a light colored bird and purchased by Dr. Merrill for a friend in Massachusetts. It is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge. My bird, a dark colored immature which has been examined by H. S. Swarth at Berkeley, California, may be described as follows: Length 24 inches, wing 16, tail 9.50, bill 1.50, and tarsus 2.50. Plumage above slate-colored, excepting a few white feathers on head, and tip of tail white. Below heavily spotted with reddish-brown. Tarsus with large tufts of feathers on the side. Sex undetermined.

Conditions here which might account for the appearance of this bird are interesting. The whole northwest, from Washington to Alaska, is having one of the mildest winters on record. The ice on the Peace River went out in December. Eastern Washington did not have the usual fall migration of northern ducks. Canada in general is just entering on the down phase of its ten-year animal cycle, so that food for Raptors may be getting scarce. Washington State has had an invasion of goshawks and rough-legs this winter, as well as quite a few Snowy Owls and Hawk Owls, the first in three years. Besides the gyrfalcon, a Great Gray Owl was brought in, as well as a Ferruginous Rough-leg, on January 22, both rare here, there being no state record for the latter bird after July. The rolling hills and vast treeless plains of eastern Washington, with their numerous jack-rabbits, may be the attraction.—J. L. SLOANAKER, *Spokane, Washington, February 1, 1926.*

**Blue-fronted Jays in Altadena.**—It has been suggested to me that some remarks on the appearance of the Blue-fronted Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*) in Altadena might be of interest to CONDOR readers. I have lived in Altadena for over forty years and as far as I can remember these jays were seen on this ranch only twice before the year 1900. On those two occasions they did not stay more than a month or two at each visit. I cannot recall any particular visit of these jays between 1900 and 1920, and if seen at all it was rarely. From the fall of 1921 to November, 1923, they were frequently seen at all seasons, generally around the house and barns.

In 1922 and 1923 the Blue-fronted Jays nested in eucalyptus trees and raised, to my knowledge, one brood each year, very likely more, as there were certainly several pairs about during the nesting season. None of these jays was seen here between November, 1923, and November, 1925. From November, 1925, to this date, February, 1926, they have been seen almost daily and I have taken three in my traps. The elevation here is about 1050 feet above sea level, and that part of the ranch where the jays have been commonly seen, about three-quarters of a mile from the base of the mountain at Mount Wilson Toll House, is fairly well covered with large eucalyptus, oak and citrus trees.—WALTER I. ALLEN, *Lamanda Park, California, February 27, 1926.*

**The Food of a White-tailed Kite.**—There came into my hands recently a specimen in-the-flesh of the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*). To say that all parts of this now threatened species were of great interest would be a mere platitude, and equally superfluous would be the statement that all preservable parts of the specimen were retained. One of the surprising things about this really small bird (a male) was the