

"On September 15, 1923, Bushnell and Miss Lela Stillman, while riding horseback near my cabin, flushed a pigeon from her nest twenty feet above the ground on the horizontal limb of a white oak tree. They reported the find to me and when I went to the nest the bird flew off at a great rate, uttering a hoot-like note and clapping her wings. The nest contained one egg. Shortly thereafter a cold rain began falling all over the mountain country and continued without cessation for days. It rained until I thought that the bird would drown on her nest or die from exposure; but whenever I visited the nest I found her at her post. I believe that for at least forty-eight hours she could not have left her egg without its being chilled and spoiled. On the afternoon of September 22 the sky cleared and the sun shone brightly; and then I saw the bird leave her nest for a short time. That night another storm swept over the region. The next morning the pigeon was not at her nest, nor was she seen again. On September 24 I collected the nest and egg and presented them to the Natural History Museum, San Diego.

"That successive young pigeons are sometimes raised in one nest the same season was proved by Bushnell in 1925. He found a nest on March 8, containing one egg, from which the squab hatched and grew up. Then the pigeon laid an egg in the same nest and started to incubate. The second young bird hatched about the middle of May and lived to leave the nest.

"Five Band-tailed Pigeons' nests were located in the neighborhood of the cabin during 1926, all found by George Smith: (1) July 3; in white oak about twenty-five feet up; one egg; deserted prior to July 15, when I returned to Mesa Grande after an absence. (2) July 21; in white oak about eighteen feet up on small branch, almost hidden in a mass of poison oak; both pigeons left the tree, uttering a succession of harsh notes; one egg; female unusually timid and deserted after five days; nest small and poorly constructed; egg collected July 26 and donated to the Natural History Museum, San Diego. (3) August 2; in black oak about thirty-five feet up, built in a bunch of mistletoe; one egg; bird sat close and returned within five minutes. On the morning of August 19 the pigeon was absent and when the nest was examined about 9:30 A. M. the egg was found to be pipped. By 1:30 the youngster was completely out of the shell, but the old bird never returned. About 6 P. M. we took the squab and put it in a Mourning Dove's nest, where it was apparently thriving on August 22, when I left Mesa Grande. (4) August 4; in black oak about fifteen feet up, on large horizontal limb overhanging road; one egg; both birds seen near nest. (5) August 8; in white oak about fifteen feet up; one egg."—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, September 21, 1926.*

**Food of the Spotted Owl.**—The Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*) is a bird of the night. I have never yet observed one moving about in the day time, when it seeks some dark, shady canyon or dense tree wherein to spend the daylight hours in seclusion. As a result of these habits it is a bird that is seldom seen. During August of this year I found in a dark canyon west of Reserve, New Mexico, three young Spotted Owls that had left their nest and were seeking their own livelihood. They were so tame that I succeeded in capturing one of them, and, wishing to study the bird and its diet, I brought it home. Placed in a small barn I have which was literally overrun with mice and rats, in a very short time the bird had cleaned the barn of these pests. I kept it in a big box for a while and offered it the bodies of several birds and also parts of chicken, but these the owl absolutely refused to touch, even when very hungry. I believe he would have starved before eating bird or fowl.

My owl was very tame and seemed to enjoy having me stroke his fluffy feathers. When I approached with a rodent I could notice an expression of pleasure creep into his countenance—it seemed as if he actually smiled! He never refused at any time of day to take a squirrel, chipmunk, rat, or mouse from my hand. He would also eat rabbit, but he was most fond of the small rodents. One day I took two mice to him, one in each hand, and gave him one which he took first with his beak and then changed to his talons. Then he spied the other in my hand, at my side. I suppose he thought I had fooled him, for he first thrust the foot that was holding the mouse clear up in front of his eyes, then looked down again to the mouse I held. When I offered it to him he at once took it from my hand and seemed very much pleased. I had intended

to take some pictures of him but I changed him to another building and the first night he slipped out. I suppose he at once returned to his mountain fastness.—ED. S. STEELE, *Reserve, New Mexico, November 26, 1926.*

**New Bird Records from Lower California.**—In the course of field collecting carried on the past two years in northern Lower California, the representatives of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology working there have found several species or subspecies of birds apparently not previously taken in that territory. In order to make a knowledge of these occurrences available without undue delay to other active students of bird geography, a list of them with the chief appertaining facts is now presented, as follows.

*Columba fasciata fasciata.* Northern Band-tailed Pigeon. Specimens taken by C. C. Lamb as follows: Near San Antonio ranch, 2100 feet altitude, on upper Santo Domingo River, Sierra San Pedro Martir, April 25 (no. 47223, Mus. Vert. Zool.) and April 27 (no. 47224), 1925; Concepcion, 6000 feet, Sierra San Pedro Martir, November 13, 1925 (no. 46909). Seen also by Lamb in 1926, in October, in the neighborhood of Hanson Laguna, Sierra Juarez, November 15 at San Pablo, 10 miles southeast of Alamo, about latitude  $31^{\circ} 35'$ , and in 1927, January 20, in the live-oak canyons in the vicinity of Guadalupe Valley, latitude  $32^{\circ}$ .

*Sphyrapicus thyroideus thyroideus.* Pacific Williamson Sapsucker. Four specimens: two from near La Grulla, 7200 feet altitude, Sierra San Pedro Martir, October 2 and 13, 1925; one from Laguna Hanson, 5200 feet, October 25, 1926; and one from El Valle de la Trinidad, 2500 feet, latitude  $31^{\circ} 20'$ , November 18, 1926. The first, a female (no. 46248), was shot by J. Grinnell from the trunk of a large Jeffrey pine which showed a great amount of boring and bleeding from within ten feet of the ground up to a height of fully 100 feet. The pits were deep and in uniformly horizontal rows. The evidence seemed to show that the bird had been there a long while, and at the time the above notes were written both of us thought the species likely to be permanently resident in the San Pedro Martirs. The second bird, a male (no. 46249), was flushed by C. C. Lamb from a cascara bush and flew to a small pine; in this case, there was no circumstance to indicate that the bird might not have been a vagrant. The third sapsucker, a female (no. 49844), was shot by Lamb from the trunk of a willow at the edge of a meadow in the pine belt of the Sierra Juarez, likewise with no indication at hand of permanence in the region. The fourth Sapsucker, also a female (no. 49845), from Valle de la Trinidad, was shot by Lamb from the trunk of a willow near a stream in a canyon. The life-zone here was not above Upper Sonoran (altitude below 2500 feet), and the bird in this locality, which is just between the San Pedro Martirs and the Sierra Juarez, was certainly only a vagrant or transient. Thus, there is so far no positive evidence that the species is other than a winter visitant in Lower California. The great amount of "sign" in the first instance recited above may have been due to the return of the bird to the same spot in several successive winters.

*Asyndesmus lewisi.* Lewis Woodpecker. Found to be fairly common in the autumn of 1925 around the Meling ranch at San José, 2500 feet altitude, near latitude  $31^{\circ}$ . Four specimens were taken by Grinnell or Lamb, September 29, November 9 and 10 (nos. 46250, 46930-32). The pears and other fruits in the orchard at the ranch constituted the feature of attraction. Also a few seen by Lamb, January 20, 1927, in the vicinity of Guadalupe Valley, latitude  $32^{\circ}$ .

*Stellula calliope.* Calliope Hummingbird. Four specimens from neighborhood of Vallecitos, 8500 feet altitude, Sierra San Pedro Martir, June 2, 3 and 10, 1925. All are adult males, taken by A. E. Borell. One (no. 47279, June 2) was shot as it was doing "aerial stunts" above a female perched on a dry willow twig at the edge of a meadow. About a dozen all told were seen, and it was evident that the species was breeding.

*Otocoris alpestris leucolaema.* Desert Horned Lark. No. 49914, Mus. Vert. Zool.; adult female; El Valle de la Trinidad, 2500 feet altitude, latitude  $31^{\circ} 20'$ , Lower California; December 3, 1926; collected by C. C. Lamb, orig. no. 6842. "One of several flying over the meadow."

*Loxia curvirostra bendirei.* Bendire Red Crossbill. Fourteen specimens, nos. 47387-47400, all adults, taken by C. C. Lamb and A. E. Borell, June 4 to 12, 1925, at Vallecitos, 8500 feet, Sierra San Pedro Martir. Crossbills have been recorded hitherto from Lower California only from Guadalupe Island (several times, beginning with