

2, 5 and 11, 1923; January 7, 1924; November 26 and December 11 and 23, 1924; January 16, 17, 27 and 29, and seven days during February, 1925.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). December 22, 1926, twenty-four seen in mountains near Libby; February 7 and 27, 1927, same locality. December 22, 1927, two seen in mountains near Fortine.

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). January 23 and February 16, 1921, at Fortine, one bird each time. A bird of this species, in company with Oregon Juncos, visited my feeding table at Libby every day except seven from January 14 to March 20, 1927.

Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus*). Four to six juncos identified as belonging to this species visited my feeding table at Libby on December 28, 1926, and every day except three from January 14 until April 3, 1927. They were watched through a window at a distance of a few inches, and one was examined in my hands.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). At Fortine we found this nuthatch common all during the winter of 1920-21, and fairly common the following winter. A few individuals were observed on November 10, 12 and 27, and December 22, 1927; one was seen January 5, 1928. At Libby, I found the species occurring commonly in the Canadian zone during November and December, 1926; a few were seen on January 10, and February 7 and 27, 1927.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, March 15, 1928.*

California Black Rail in Los Angeles County.—On a field trip to the Playa del Rey marsh, February 25 of this year, an adult California Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis coturniculus*) was found impaled on a barb wire fence that crosses the salicornia from the Pacific Electric tracks. The fact that the body was impaled, points to the work of a California Shrike. Due to the mutilated condition of the body, only the feet and a wing were preserved. The measurements of wing and tarsus correspond perfectly with those given in Bailey's "Handbook", while the speckled coloration and size of the wing proved convincing. The record has been verified by Dr. Loye Miller of the University of California at Los Angeles. There appear to be no recent records of the occurrence of this rail in this locality.—JOSEPH EWAN, *Los Angeles, California, March 13, 1928.*

Unusual Singing of the Eastern Chewink.—In THE CONDOR (XXIV, 1922, pp. 193-203) appeared a paper by Richard Hunt entitled "Evidence of Musical Taste in the Brown Towhee." In the same magazine (xxv, 1923, p. 134) further observations along the same line were recorded by the same author in a paper entitled "Another Musical Brown Towhee." Hunt in these articles is speaking of a western species of towhee, *Pipilo crissalis*. He heard the type of song in question on June 22, 1919, in the Santa Lucia Mountains, Monterey County, California, and again on May 2, 1922, in the Botanical Garden at the University of California. He says of this song: "Over and over again the bird sang the typical 'bouncing' song of the species, plus a low bubbling warble of four syllables." "They were low in pitch, and were sung softly, almost as if whispered." Hunt has discussed his theories accounting for this anomalous singing rather fully, and is inclined to believe they indicate a racial rather than an individual behavior.

I will now relate similar experiences with our eastern Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) which I observed in North Carolina while attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill during the winter of 1904. I shall give all my journal records bearing on this strange winter singing of these birds, which passed the winter in a patch of woods there.

February 12, 1904. "Through the winter I have heard a squeaky, unusual song, if it can be so called, which I could not identify. This morning I saw a handsome male Chewink in full view on a low tree, uttering a strange, squeaky song. Is it its winter song? It was interspersed with its familiar *tur-ee - tur-ee*. It finally flew into the under-brush with a lively *tur-ee - tur-ee*, frequently repeated, as if surprised at its own strange, unfamiliar musical efforts."

February 28, 1904. "In the woods back of the Dissecting Hall, I find the Chewinks ever busy, lively, cheerful. I have this winter become acquainted with a new expression of this bird, it seems quite unknown to students of birds, and unlike its