

the birds which are here in winter do not assemble for banding in numbers.—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR B. MCCABE, *Indianpoint Lake, Barkerville, B. C., May 7, 1928.*

An Oven-bird in Santa Barbara County, California.—On Sunday, May 13, 1928, while walking with Dr. H. O. Koefod on the Brinkerhoff Ranch, near Los Olivos, in the Santa Ynez Valley, I was surprised to hear the song of an Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). We located the bird in a group of live oaks at the edge of a dry stream-bed. We sat down under one of the trees and watched the bird for half an hour as he walked daintily over the dry leaves under the trees, showing his orange crown and pink legs. At intervals the bird repeated his characteristic song, which sounded out of place among Plain Tits, Western Gnatcatchers and Lark Sparrows.

A previous record for the Oven-bird from California is that of two birds seen (and one taken) by Mr. Dawson on the Farallon Islands, May 29, 1911.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Santa Barbara, California, June 21, 1928.*

Observation on the Food Habits of a Desert Sparrow Hawk.—After all that has been written in favor of the Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*) it is interesting to note that the frequent response, that is, alarm or warning calls, of small birds when one appears near at hand is, sometimes at least, justified.

On the afternoon of April 30, 1928, about 4:30, while watching some Black Phoebes that were nesting under the eaves of a house in South Pasadena, I saw them suddenly exhibit signs of fear; and a moment later a Sparrow Hawk (there could be no mistake in its identity) hovered for a moment near the nest, then flew in under the eaves and, taking one of the young from the nest, flew away carrying the bird in its claws. The Phoebes made no particularly desperate efforts to drive off the enemy.

About twenty minutes after the first observed visit, the hawk appeared again, but seeing human beings quite close at hand flew away. During the next hour it made several appearances, but each time it was frightened away by our too close proximity. Suspecting from the Phoebe's actions that the last fledgling had been taken, the nest was examined and found to be empty. Soon after examining the nest we moved to a greater distance and within a few minutes the hawk re-appeared, went to the nest, searched for young, taking almost a minute to make sure that nothing had been overlooked, then flew away and did not appear again during the next hour.

A few minutes after the hawk's first visit, a Mockingbird, attracted no doubt by the distress calls of the Phoebes, flew close to the nest. Both Phoebes attacked furiously, one seeming to ride the Mockingbird's back for a moment. The Mockingbird made no attempt at retaliation so far as could be observed.—RAYMOND B. COWLES, *University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles California, May 15, 1928.*

Cormorants Nesting on Bare Island, British Columbia.—Bare Island, in Haro Strait close to the village of Sidney, on Vancouver Island, has long been known as an important nesting ground for Glaucous-winged Gulls, Pigeon Guillemots and, to a lesser extent, Pelagic Cormorants and Tufted Puffins. In the summer of 1927 the colony was increased by one pair at least of *Phalacrocorax auritus*, first detected by Mr. Walter Burton of Victoria, British Columbia. On July 19, accompanied by this gentleman, the writer visited the island in order to verify the identification, as this constituted a new breeding record for British Columbia.

The location proved to be a small ledge some twenty feet from the top of a cliff which forms the northwest corner and the highest portion of this rocky island. The nest, roughly two feet in diameter, was composed of fir branches, those which formed the rim having the green leaves still attached. The entire upper surface, rim and cup, was lined with gull feathers. The female was brooding two eggs, and on being flushed, readily returned to the nest after a short flight to sea. On one occasion observers were able to approach within a few yards before the bird launched into space, and the diagnostic yellow gular pouch was plainly seen. Two other empty nests of this species were found in similar situations. These were