

a Pacific Nighthawk circled over the camp, and at dawn on July 31 and August 1 a Great-horned Owl called repeatedly. The Sierra Hermit Thrush sang the first two days in the forest near the camp and was seen on August 2 feeding upon the fallen buds of red firs. A family of Blue-fronted Jays kept close watch of each camp group and Spotted Sandpipers and Mountain Quail were found on the shore of Gold Lake.

Slender-billed Nuthatches were seen but once (near Lake Center Camp). Red-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Warblers were identified only by the songs which were heard on July 30. The chattering call of the kinglet which is such a common note in the bay region in the winter season was not heard; which raises the question whether this note is used in summer territory.

My record of birds seen during the week included the following species which were not listed by Miss Wythe during her June and July visits:

Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*), found on the summit divide between the Feather and Yuba rivers.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*), on the same divide and also near the shore of Gold Lake.

Vaux Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), on the north shore of Gold Lake associated with Violet-green Swallows.

Traill Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). One silent bird was seen in the top of a willow on the edge of a meadow; another near the shore of Gold Lake gave call note.

Hammond Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondii*), a family found first in young red firs soon disappeared in the thick branches of a tall tree.

Wright Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*). A large group of these flycatchers was encountered on the edge of a dry slope on the divide between Frazier and Bear creeks. The shrubs in which they were perched were thrifty at the tops but had many dead branches which ran out almost horizontally a few inches above the ground. From these low branches the birds flew out or dropped to the ground to pick up insects in the grass.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina lepida*). A flock of white-bellied swallows was seen in the distance over Bear Creek on July 28. On Gold Lake next day violet-greens were identified.

Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*). A few came into the top of a fir near camp on August 1 and 2.

Western House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon parkmanii*). The scolding chatter of a wren was heard in meadow or riparian brush on four different occasions. The bird was seen but once.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa olivaceus*). A family of these kinglets was associated with the Hammond Flycatchers seen on August 1 and was seen high up in the firs on other dates.

Lutescent Warbler (*Vermivora celata lutescens*). A Lutescent Warbler came to bathe in a pool at my feet on July 30. They were abundant in the meadows.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*). On August 1 several Yellow Warblers were singing near the shore of Gold Lake.

Tolmie Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*). Both old and young Tolmies were abundant in the willows and a few were seen in the chaparral above Bear Lake. One family of smaller young was being fed in a group of small lodge-pole pines near Lake Center Camp. The male was still singing.

Sierra Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*). The loud calls of these birds directed my attention to a small flock which alighted among the cones at the tip of a large red fir. They were seen on August 1 and 2.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, Berkeley, California, August 12, 1928.

**Observations on the Feeding Habits of Some Common Birds.**—As published accounts of observations upon the feeding habits of our native birds are none too plentiful, the following may be of interest. On the morning of March 25, 1927, in Balboa Park, San Diego, California, I watched a flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) and several male Arizona Hooded and Bullock orioles (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni* and *I. bullocki*) feeding from the very heart of the flowers of the blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*). These birds were all feeding alike, thrusting the bill deep

into the heart of the flower and holding it there as though sipping nectar. On May 16 of the same year I again saw the Arizona Hooded Orioles feeding from the eucalyptus flowers, and without doubt they were sipping nectar. None of the flowers examined contained any insects. On August 9, 1928, at San Diego, I watched a male Arizona Hooded Oriole probing the tubular flowers of the Cape honeysuckle (*Tecomaria speciosa*). The actions of these birds in feeding were precisely the same as those of captive Arizona Hooded Orioles which I observed sipping the juice from grapes. The flowers of both the blue gum and the Cape honeysuckle are favorites of the Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*).

On April 5, 1928, at Pensacola, Florida, I observed several Palm Warblers (*Dendroica palmarum* subsp.) sipping the nectar of the flowers of the common yucca (*Crataegus*) of that region. These flowers were also examined for insects; bees (*Apis mellifica*), only, were found and they were visiting the flowers in numbers.

On August 23, 1927, and on several subsequent occasions, in Balboa Park, San Diego, California, I watched a Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) feeding on the berries of the lantana. The phoebe would hover in front of the bush and pick a berry or two, would fly back a few feet and settle to the ground for a few moments, and then would repeat the performance. On September 21, 1927, in San Diego, I again saw a Black Phoebe feeding on berries, this time on the orange-colored fruit of an ornamental shrub which I could not identify.

On August 31, 1927, at San Diego, I saw two Pallid Wren-tits (*Chamaea fasciata pacifica*) feeding on the green berries of the laurel sumac (*Rhus laurina*). In banding birds I have three times trapped this last species with a bait of seeds and grain. In 1924, I watched a captive wren-tit which lived for several months in a cage of sparrows and finches and fed freely on the seeds and grain supplied to those birds.—FRANK F. GANDER, *O'Rourke Zoological Institute, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, September 6, 1928.*

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## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Again this year we are indebted to outside aid in certain of our editorial chores. In providing the index to the current volume of THE CONDOR, Mrs. Amelia S. Allen prepared the entire manuscript—an arduous labor, as those who have done similar work will understand.

In connection with the transfer of his center of activity away from the editorial offices of THE CONDOR, Mr. Harry S. Swarth, our Associate Editor of long and appreciated service, finds himself unable longer to function in that capacity. Mr. Jean M. Hensdale, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, who has already served an unrecognized apprenticeship on the editorial staff, has been asked to accept the Associate Editorship of THE CONDOR for the coming year.

Ornithological activity in Arizona centers in Tucson, where the thriving Tucson Natural History Society is located. Under its auspices a series of "bird observation trips" is conducted, with Messrs. Charles T. Vorhies and Walter P. Taylor as leaders. Mr. Taylor in his field work in

connection with the work of the United States Biological Survey is constantly on the lookout for significant relationships of birds to their forest and range environments. Mr. Vorhies has recently published a thoughtful contribution to the current discussion of the "southwestern quail and water" question, in the *American Naturalist* (vol. 52, 1928, pp. 446-452).

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, on July 26, 1928, at 8:00 p. m., with twenty members and visitors present. In the absence of president and vice-president, Mr. C. B. Lastreto occupied the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for June were read and approved. June minutes of the Southern Division were read.

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Drew reported