

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*, subsp.?). Some twenty-five miles off San José del Cabo, at 2:00 p. m., one was seen. It was still on deck just before dark. The next morning the same bird, or a similar one, was seen.

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*). Soon after daylight, September 30, some eight miles off Mazatlan, one flew past the steamer. On account of the steamer's crew going on a strike, we remained at Mazatlan five days.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*). Many of these flew about the steamer as we were lying off the town of Mazatlan.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps urubu*). In sight constantly; often to be seen flying about with the Frigate Birds.

Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*). On October 2, one visited the steamer for a few minutes.

American Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). In the early morning of October 5, the steamer still in the harbor, I looked over the side of the vessel and saw a Mourning Dove sitting on the water. A few minutes later the hawk saw the dove, but was afraid to come so close to the steamer. It circled around twice and then disappeared. After the hawk was out of sight, the dove arose lightly from the water and flew safely to shore.

As we were passing Cerralvo Island, on the morning of October 6, a Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*, subsp.?) was seen aboard.—CHESTER C. LAMB, *La Paz, B. C., Mexico, November 11, 1928.*

**Some New Records for Santa Barbara Island.**—I spent November 11 and 12, 1928, on Santa Barbara Island, California, and noted the following species of birds not heretofore recorded for that island.

Eared Grebe (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*). A single bird spent most of its time during the two days close to my boat which was anchored near some kelp. It frequently made short dives after small fish.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). A single bird spent much of its time close to the Eared Grebe and allowed of a close inspection of its characteristics.

Heermann Gull (*Larus heermanni*). A dozen or more of these distinctive gulls were seen.

Bonaparte Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). Quite a few of these small gulls, with the black ear patch, were in association with the larger gulls about the kelp.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna maxima*). Several individuals were seen as they flew rapidly over the kelp, and two were seen to dive after small fish.

California Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias hyperonca*). Two of these large herons were seen resting on the kelp.

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*). A single bird was seen flying from the entrance of a large cave into which the waves entered to another similar cave where it perched on a rocky point and scanned the water below. It was not seen to dive.

Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*). Two ravens were noted. They have been doubtlessly attracted to the island by some recently imported sheep which are rapidly dying because of the absence of fresh water on this island. There will be plenty of wool for their nests next spring.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Beverly Hills, California, November 26, 1928.*

**Golden-crowned Sparrow without the Gold.**—Recently, while carrying on some bird banding work at Woodacre Lodge (formerly Mailliard Station, Rancho San Geronimo), Marin County, California, I captured an adult Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) that was in the characteristic plumage of this species except that there was no trace of yellow upon the head. The median crown stripe was broad, absolutely gray and well defined between the very black lateral crown stripes, but with not even a tinge of yellow on any of the feathers composing it.

Not being able to call to mind any case of the total absence of yellow from the head of an adult bird of this species, I examined the Academy collection upon my return to San Francisco and therein found an adult female with the same absence of "gold" as in the above case. The Academy specimen, no. 19761, was taken in

Lake County, California, by an assistant in the Department of Ornithology of the Academy, on April 30, 1919. Evidently the bird was not critically examined at the time, or note would have been made of its peculiar marking. The fact that I have examined hundreds of birds of this species, as museum specimens, in field collecting and in banding operations, without having before noted an adult that did not have at least a little yellow on the head, makes it seem as if such cases as the two just mentioned are worth recording.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, October 31, 1928.*

**Some Observations on the Feeding Habits of the Burrowing Owl.**—Since early childhood the sight of one or more Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*), suspended on fluttering wings in silhouette against the sunset sky of early summer evenings, has been a familiar sight to me. Sometimes, at a considerable elevation above the ground, they hover thus for some time, perhaps dropping to a lower level to hover again before the final descent to capture the prey observed from their vantage points. I have also known for years that, when the young are nearly full grown and are making great demands on the parents for food, the adults do considerable hunting in broad daylight.

Late in June, 1927, I had an opportunity to observe the daylight hunting of one parent of a hungry brood. Each week-day, about noon, I stopped to eat my lunch near a burrow inhabited by six nearly full-grown young. This burrow, the remodeled tenement of a ground squirrel, was on a small rise of ground at the edge of an alkali flat; and the mound of earth scratched out of it sloped down to this flat and was clear of weeds on the side toward me. The young owls were usually in a compact group on the highest part of the mound, while the adult, only one parent being observed, had several lookout stations, the nearest one being the top of a pile of baling wire and other junk on the alkali flat, and the others were fence posts at various distances from the burrow.

The usual program was as follows: The adult, frequently looking skyward, sighted some flying insect passing over, launched out in pursuit, climbing rather laboriously upward at a sharp angle and sometimes spirally, often to a height of 150 feet or more, and on overtaking the flying prey seized it with one foot. Then came a pause during which the prey was transferred to the beak, then a long glide, on set wings, directly to the nest. The young, on seeing the adult coming with food, rushed down the slope toward it, and then turned and rushed back as the adult passed over their heads to alight on the highest point of the mound. Then came a scuffle that would have done credit to a football game. However, actual possession of the coveted morsel seemed to be respected, and the lucky youngster was allowed to devour it at leisure. After a brief pause the adult returned to a vantage point to watch for more game.

This performance was observed many times, over a period of two weeks or more, with only slight variations in the sequence of events. The young are quite good runners and sometimes use their partly feathered wings to help them along. On one occasion the adult was seen to stop and feed a young one that had wandered about twenty feet from the burrow, and, after doing so, the old bird flew on to the mound before returning to the lookout. Once the adult flew at, and scolded, a ground squirrel that ventured too near the burrow; and several times it was itself annoyed by a California Shrike while on lookout. Once the adult seemed to miss the prey it was after, and an alarm note was sounded as it flew toward the burrow, whereupon the young did not rush to meet it as usual but dived into the burrow. No cause for this alarm could be seen.

During June, 1928, I had further opportunity to observe this method of hunting. A brood of four young in the same neighborhood was watched and more distant observations made of several other families in the same pasture. In this case both parents were engaged in feeding the young. The first case of "flycatching" was observed on June 9, and it continued until about the end of the month, when the young were scattered and learning to hunt their own prey. There was more variation, with this pair of birds, in the observation points used and in the technique of hunting: They were observed sometimes to transfer the prey to the beak while in the