

now be observed making daily visits to a cluster of tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) near my home and methodically probing all of the tubular yellow flowers. Frequent examinations of the blossoms have disclosed no insects. I have often seen these orioles about my cultivated flowers and have been told by Mrs. I. G. Silver, of National City, California, that the orioles tear open the blossoms of her morning-glory vines to secure the nectar and that they utterly ruined the appearance of a row of Easter lilies in the yard of a neighbor by splitting open the flowers for this purpose. I have also seen this species on numerous occasions sipping nectar from the blossoms of several species of *Eucalyptus* in Balboa Park. The gaudy color of the male is well suited to a prober of bright blossoms.

On January 30, 1929, and on many subsequent occasions, I watched a banded Audubon Warbler feeding from the flowers of the sugar gums (*Eucalyptus corynocalyx*) of a certain area. The bird would fly to a cluster of blossoms, carefully probe each one and then flit to another cluster. On February 7, two unbanded Audubons were observed feeding from the flowers of the same trees. On April 19 a full-plumaged male House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) was seen feeding from these blossoms and after sipping from several of them it carefully wiped its beak on a branch before taking flight.

Black Phoebes (*Sayornis nigricans*) are common residents in Balboa Park, and on May 24, 1929, I was surprised to see one of these flycatchers kill and eat a Jerusalem cricket (*Stenopelmatus longispina*). I did not see how the phoebe secured this subterranean form. Black Phoebes have often been seen to alight on a lawn and pull out gray lepidopterous larvae from deep in the grass. On October 31, 1928, I watched a Black Phoebe extract from the pod and swallow one of the dry hairy seeds of the bottle tree (*Sterculia diversifolia*).

Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) are frequently seen in Balboa Park during the winter and spring months and at such times their food apparently consists almost entirely of the seeds of the various species of *Eucalyptus*. They not only obtain the seed from the pods of the trees but also hunt among the fallen leaves on the ground. At such times they may often be approached to within five feet or less. Green-backed and Willow goldfinches (*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus* and *A. tristis salicamans*) also feed freely on the seeds of these trees.

On June 2, 1929, a male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*) was seen perched on an electric light wire in East San Diego and from this perch it would make short flycatcher-like flights, presumably after insects. While the insects were not actually seen, the actions were so typically those of flycatching birds that no doubt as to the purpose of the flights was left in the mind of the observer. On June 5, a female Arizona Hooded Oriole was seen flycatching from a perch on these same wires. Her catch was fed to a well-grown young and the insects could be plainly seen in the beaks of the two birds. The writer has found this habit to be common to many species of birds besides true flycatchers.—FRANK F. GANDER, *O'Rourke Zoological Institute, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, June 5, 1929.*

Additional Bird Records from the Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea.—Since the last general report on the Pleistocene birds of Rancho La Brea (Miller, L., Carnegie Inst. Wash., Publ. 349, 1925, pp. 63-106) several thousand specimens in the collections of the Los Angeles Museum have been examined, first by Miss Rachel Husband, and later by the present writer.

The writer wishes now to record two species which have come to light as a result of these surveys; neither species has heretofore been reported from the Rancho La Brea deposits. Both species are of the family Ardeidae. It is highly probable that when the Anseriformes and Charadriiformes from these deposits are restudied in detail, there will be still further additions to the avian record from the asphalt pits.

Florida caerulea (Linnaeus)? A complete left tarsometatarsus from Pit 61; Los Angeles Museum specimen no. K1136. Comparison has been made with tarsometatarsi of modern *Florida caerulea* and *Egretta thula*. The identification is questioned, in spite of the similarity of the fossil to *Florida caerulea*, because of the absence of a specimen of *Hydranassa tricolor* for comparison. The fossil tarsus corresponds

in size with that of the Louisiana Heron (measurements made on skins) as well as with the Little Blue Heron, and it is possible that structurally, also, the species are similar.

Measurements of fossil specimen:

Greatest length.....	92.2 mm.
Breadth of proximal end.....	8.3
Breadth of distal end.....	8.5

Nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus). A complete left tarsometatarsus from Pit 67; Los Angeles Museum specimen no. E1839.

Measurements of fossil specimen:

Greatest length.....	91.0 mm.
Breadth of proximal end.....	12.3
Breadth of distal end.....	11.7

—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Los Angeles Museum, August 29, 1929.*

Woodpecker Perching on a Wire.—The Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) has the reputation of possessing a number of characteristics not usually associated with its family. In sustained flight it has the appearance of a small crow, reminding me strongly of the European jackdaw. Its aerial sallies after insects, with return to the starting point, are performed in true flycatcher fashion. But most un-woodpecker-like of all, it seemed to me, was an act observed this summer, when I saw a Lewis Woodpecker standing on an electric wire, as comfortably balanced as any perching bird. Behind a cottage which I was occupying at the time, near Colorado Springs, Colorado, ran a service line of poles and wires, which was used as a sort of highway by a pair of Lewis Woodpeckers. They commonly progressed by passing from one pole to the next, describing a downward arc between poles and alighting on or near the top of each pole. But on July 4, I saw one of the birds standing on a wire some distance from a pole. Observers to whom I mentioned the incident stated that they could not recall ever having seen a woodpecker of any kind perched on a wire.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, July 29, 1929.*

California Black Rail in Marin County, California, in August.—On Sunday, August 11, 1929, while on an Audubon Association of the Pacific field trip, one of the members, Mr. Albert B. Stephens, picked up from the salicornia, about 25 feet east of the railroad track at Manzanita, a dead female (young of the year) California Black Rail, *Crecisus jamaicensis coturniculus* (Ridgway), which through the interest of Mr. C. Lockerbie, leader, was brought to the writer for identification. The date of this rare find in this locality seemed to be an early one and prompted the query in the minds of some: has this tiny mite been nesting right under our noses after all? Who knows? Through the courtesy of Dr. Grinnell, the specimen was identified and placed on file (no. 53990) in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley.—BESSIE W. KIBBE, *Berkeley, California, August 15, 1929.*

The Elf Owl in Western Arizona.—An attempt last year to find out where one might expect to meet the Elf Owl (*Micropallas whitneyi*) in Arizona showed me that there was much uncertainty on the part of various authorities regarding its seasonal and its geographic distribution. The field notes which I was able to assemble add some evidence to the small total. The species seems to be rare west of and south of the middle of the state. Four camps were made in the saguaros between Mohawk and Yuma—two in February, one in May, and one in the first week of June. During February a ladder was used to search nearly a hundred woodpecker holes in the cactus, but no evidence of elf owls was found at any of these camps.

Beginning May 29, a survey was extended eastward. The first camp was made on the Papago Indian Reservation near Covered Wells, in typical saguaro association, and observation was carried on during several hours of the night and the