

who recently saw the specimen, this is the youngest individual of the Marbled Murrelet yet collected, and it is doubtful if it had reached a sufficient age to have flown far from where it hatched.

Anthony Green Heron (*Butorides virescens anthonyi*). The Dowell collection contains the skin of an adult male of this species taken at Mercer Lake, Lane County, Oregon, on July 11, 1923. Although this heron had been recorded previously (Condor, xxx, 1928, p. 129) in the state on the strength of sight records, this skin in the Dowell collection is believed to be the first of the species ever actually collected in the state of Oregon.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*). An immature male taken on October 6, 1918, by Mr. Dowell on the ocean beach three miles west of Mercer, Lane County, Oregon, adds one more record to the few known occurrences of the species along our coast.

Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). This species is of sufficient rarity anywhere in Oregon to justify the placing on record of all specimens known to be preserved in collections. An adult female in the Dowell collection was taken on the Siuslaw River, four miles south of Mercer, Lane County, Oregon, on March 13, 1925.

Nevada Cowbird (*Molothrus ater artemisiae*). One of the surprises found in the Dowell collection was an immature bird of the year of this species, a male, taken on the Dowell Ranch at Mercer Lake, Lane County, Oregon, on August 18, 1925. This constitutes the first record of this species known to the writer west of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and was without doubt a straggler from its regular habitat in the arid Upper Sonoran Zone of eastern Oregon.

Mr. Dowell has kindly given me permission to place the above notes and specimens on record.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 31, 1929.*

Horned Owl Attacks Chickens.—At four o'clock, on the morning of November 16, 1929, I was awakened by something disturbing a hen with small chickens that was roosting in a small wire coop in my yard. I suspected a coyote, got out of bed and grabbed my shotgun, which was in the corner ready for emergency, and looked out the window. The moon was bright and I could see all over the yard. Nothing was in sight and I was almost ready to go back to bed, when I heard something leave the roof of a near-by shed and saw the owl sail down and strike the wire coop at the corner where the hen and her chicks were roosting. The owl stayed on the ground and I immediately shot and killed it, also killing the hen and two of her chicks.

I sent the owl to Mr. George Willett at the Los Angeles Museum, who, on comparing it with the series there, says that it is a Western Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus pallescens*). He also states that this is the second record of this subspecies for the coast district of California. In the Condor (xvii, 1915, p. 206) Wright M. Pierce records a specimen taken in San Antonio Cañon. The owl was a large female and is now number 16684 in the collection of the Los Angeles Museum.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, December 4, 1929.*

An Unusual Case of Mimicry by a Catbird.—The most interesting instances of mimicry in bird songs that have come to my attention occurred near Fortine, Montana, during the past summer (1929) when a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) repeatedly imitated in its entirety the song, and later the song and flight, of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).

The Bobolink, which seems slowly to be extending its Montana range westward as formerly-forested land is being brought under cultivation, does not yet occur in Lincoln County. A wandering male bird that appeared at our ranch on May 31 of this year probably was the first one ever to sing in that vicinity. It arrived alone, and sang almost continuously throughout the day. The following morning a few songs were given, and then the bird disappeared. A month later it again visited the ranch for three days (July 1, 2, and 3), sang a few times each day, and then disappeared again, to be seen no more during the season. (I presume this bird to have been the one that was observed earlier in the summer, as it fre-

quented the same small area within the farm, and, with hundreds of fence posts from which to choose, selected for a landing perch the same post used during the first visit.)

For at least half an hour during the morning of May 31, when the Bobolink first arrived, a Catbird from a near-by brushy flat perched on fence posts near the flying Bobolink and mimicked its song. At I watched and listened, three features of the Catbird's singing especially interested me. In many of its imitations it repeated the entire song of the Bobolink, without introducing distinctly foreign notes or phrases. This is contrary to accepted knowledge of bird mimicry. ("In no case does a bird mimic the whole repertoire of another but introduces into its own performance notes here and there that are copied from other species." Aretas A. Saunders, *Bird Song*, New York State Mus. Handbook 7, 1929, p. 82.) Although the Catbird did not reproduce correctly time and pitch throughout the song, the distinctive, pleasing quality of the Bobolink's singing was copied almost unbelievably well. The third interesting feature of the performance was the persistence of the Catbird in repeating the imitation so many times, without the interspersions of other singing; and there was a marked "enthusiasm" with which the song was mimicked. Its behavior in this regard strongly suggested an artistic appreciation of the song, to which it listened probably for the first time.

The Catbird was not present the next morning when the Bobolink sang a few times; nor was an imitation of the song heard at any time during the Bobolink's second visit, a month later. Although nearly every day during the summer I worked within hearing distance of the brushy flats on our ranch where about twenty-five pairs of Catbirds nested, after that first morning I did not hear an imitation of the Bobolink's song until fifty-two days later.

About nine o'clock on the evening of July 22, while at a favorite observation spot amid a jungle of brush in the Catbirds' territory, I was suddenly astonished to hear near-by what sounded like a typical flight song of a Bobolink. Turning toward the source of the song, I could discern only two Catbirds half hidden among dense willows. After a few seconds one of them flew out and upward until it reached a height of about thirty feet above the brush; then, while descending at an angle, its flight slow and jerky, but not fluttering, it gave a strikingly realistic rendition of a Bobolink's flight song. I waited there until dark, but the performance was not repeated. At no time during the remainder of the summer did I hear any further attempt to reproduce this song.

This case of combined song and flight mimicry is the only one I have ever noted in the Catbird. Perhaps to observers of wider experience, however, this behavior is not entirely unknown.

Presumably, the Catbird that gave the Bobolink's song on July 22 was the same one that mimicked the singing Bobolink on May 31. No proof of this assumption, but merely theoretical support, can be offered. Catbirds had been present for ten days before the Bobolink arrived, their migration seeming to have ceased; young were still being fed at the later date. And the nearest resident Bobolinks were at least sixty miles southeastward, in an entirely different type of country. But whether one individual, or two, did the singing, these instances of mimicry seem to me noteworthy because of the unusual features of each already described.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, September 30, 1929.*

Drilling Habits of the Flicker.—The propensity of the flicker (*Colaptes*) for drilling holes in unusual positions is well known. A rather amusing instance of this habit was told me lately. My informant, who is a grain elevator agent in a near-by town was passing by a box-car loaded with wheat ready for shipment, when he noticed a heap of some ten bushels of grain on the ground below. It was the work of a flicker, which had been busy on the side of the car.

In two instances, of late years, I have noted one of these woodpeckers nesting in a hole in a cut bank overlooking the river. According to Dawson in his *Birds of California* the Red-shafted Flicker occasionally chooses such a site; our birds are, of course, mostly Hybrid Flickers, and have to depend mainly on telegraph poles for nesting purposes, now that most of the dead timber in the woods has disappeared.

—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Eastend, Saskatchewan, January 6, 1930.*