

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Western Robin Eating Ivy Berries.**—Since reading final proof of my paper entitled "Happenings in a Robin Household" (Condor, XXXII, 1930, p. 77), before its going to press, where the finding in the robins' nest of the seeds of the English ivy (*Hedera helix*) was mentioned and their presence there was spoken of as a "mystery unsolved", the matter has been satisfactorily cleared up. In fact, several people have helped in the clearing, these being members of the Cooper Ornithological Club to whom I had told the story of the ivy seeds and who had been fortunate enough to see robins actually eating the ivy berries.

In addition to this evidence, a day or two after the appearance of the paper, Mrs. Charles S. Newhall, another Cooper Club member, kindly wrote me a letter containing a detailed account of having found ivy seeds in her yard in Berkeley, under redwood trees which robins had been frequenting, of her going to the University botanical gardens and of having there seen the Western Robin taking berries from the ivy. Mrs. Newhall went on to say that after these birds had visited the redwood trees she found evidences on the ground beneath them of regurgitation of the seeds and that a "fine crop of English ivy has come up" since then.

As stated in my paper, Mr. W. L. McAtee, Food Habits Research Expert of the U. S. Biological Survey, remarked that the robin was not known to eat berries of the English ivy. As concerns the *Eastern* Robin this may be because there is no fruit on the eastern ivy at the season when the birds would want to eat it; but in California, near the actual coast, ivy is apt to fruit at almost any time and the robins evidently turn to it when other food is scarce.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 25, 1930.*

**Further Notes on the Harris Hawk.**—As a more or less tropical element in our California avifauna the Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*) holds the interest of many Condor readers. Along with the Lucy Warbler, Elf Owl, Vermilion Flycatcher and Cooper Tanager, it makes a visit to the Yuma district especially attractive. During the nesting season the tropical effect is not limited to the avian visitors, for the desert sunshine serves nobly to complete the picture. On April 18 and 19 of this year (1930) our party paid a visit to the old locality of Pot Holes (now Laguna Dam) on the Colorado River, and the Harris Hawks there gave us a brief item or two on their feeding and nesting habits.

The birds seem to be particularly localized about the California Lakes area. On four different visits to this region they have been seen in small numbers. The old nests have been noted in the tall cottonwoods on several occasions and have always been at considerable distance from the ground, quite unlike the first nest noted in 1917 and later recorded by Leo Wiley (Condor, XIX, 1917, p. 142) which was in a mesquite tree of scrubby proportions. Whether found in summer or winter, the birds seem to frequent the immediate vicinity of these nests.

The nest found this spring was at an elevation of nearly forty feet in a cottonwood and was of typical buteonine nature. In the nest there was a single chick, probably five or six days old, blind in one eye and covered with a complete coat of down of a rich brown color approaching the shade seen on the shoulders of the adult bird. Wiley described the newly hatched young as "light buff" in color.

On the edge of the nest were two fresh bird bodies, one a Florida gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) and the other a Sora (*Porzana carolina*). The Gallinule had been quite well plucked, most of the contour feathers and all the strong flight feathers having been removed. The hawk's talons had pierced the pelvis back of the acetabulum and the rib basket in the region of the posterior dorsals. The throat had been torn out, but otherwise nothing had been consumed. The Sora was beheaded, but otherwise was quite intact.

On a previous occasion some brief mention was made of the stomach contents of this species (Condor, XXVII, March, 1925, p. 71), the evidence being that it is an aggressively raptorial bird. Green-winged Teal and Gilded Flicker were identified in the stomachs. Add to these species the Florida Gallinule and the Sora, both secretive birds of rather dense cover, and the impression grows that the Harris