

Hawk is no mean hunter. Furthermore, he plucks his kill almost as completely as does a falcon, even wrenching out the strongly attached primaries.

Mr. John Cole was a member of the party and was good enough to climb to the nest and report the contents.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, April 25, 1930.*

Valley Quail and Sharp-shinned Hawk.—Some forty Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica californica*) frequent my garden on the outskirts of Oakland, attracted by the bird-food trays. A Sharp-shinned Hawk from the nearby hills has twice been seen to fly over the flock, and then perch in a neighboring tree. The "freezing" behavior exhibited by many of the quail under the circumstances was quite interesting.

A sudden high medley of alarm calls and whirring of wings was heard—an explosion of birds—and instant quiet—as the shadow of the Sharp-shin passed over the ground. Half the quail had reached the cover of tree, shrub, or brush-pile. But half of them had not, and these were scattered about, some alongside of a tuft of grass or other slight leafage, some wholly in the open. They were difficult to see at first glance, as they were motionless, "frozen" in a peculiar posture, half-squatting and with tail held at a high angle. They looked as if they were in readiness to spring into flight. The position of the tail was notably unusual.

The hawk did not attempt to molest them, though several seemed to be in his range of vision, of the eighteen that had come to a stop before reaching cover. They kept absolutely still for a full five minutes while the hawk remained. When he flew away, a few male quails moved their heads a little and clucked softly, but that was all for another five minutes or so. Then the birds slowly "unfroze" in a subdued, hesitating manner, the males first.—HERMAN DE FREMERY, *Oakland, California, January 23, 1930.*

A Black Rail Leaves the Salt Marsh.—On August 31, 1929, a female California Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis coturniculus*) was presented in the flesh to the O'Rourke Zoological Institute of San Diego and now reposes in the collection of that organization. This specimen was picked up the day previous near the towers of the U. S. Naval Radio Station just east of San Diego. There is a small fresh-water pond nearby and a considerable growth of cat-tails in adjacent cañons. However, since this location is about six miles from the normal habitat of the black rail in the salt water marshes of the coast, it seems probable that this bird was in migration at the time of its death.—FRANK F. GANDER, *O'Rourke Zoological Institute, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, February 11, 1930.*

Bird Notes from Santa Catalina Island.—More than sixty years have passed since the Pileolated Warbler and the Brewer Blackbird were reported from Santa Catalina Island by Dr. J. G. Cooper. Since then, there appears to be no other published record of their occurrence on the island. On the morning of January 2, 1930, I saw a Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*) gleaning insects from a cassia bush near the Avalon High School, and on the following morning, in the same bush, was the same or another male bird. On the second morning the possession of the bush was disputed by a Dusky Warbler which finally succeeded in driving the Pileolated away.

Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) seem to be fairly common migrants during favorable years. On March 9, 1929, I saw a lone male bird on the main street of Avalon, and on April 15 of this year I saw two males and a female at Middle Ranch. Captain McKay, an old resident on Catalina Island, has told me that flocks of the birds have been seen on the island several times. On one occasion, about 1913, he said, Brewer Blackbirds were common for several weeks around a horse corral in Avalon.

Juncos of an undetermined species were seen by Harry Harris near Avalon in March, 1919 (*Condor*, xxi, p. 172). On March 25 of last year, I saw a flock of twenty birds near the hay-press at the upper end of Grand Cañon, and a specimen collected proved to be a female *Junco hyemalis thurberi*. This definitely establishes the Thurber Junco as an Island visitor.

A male Bullock Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) was seen in an elder tree near Avalon on April 15, 1929. The birds have been reported from several other of the channel islands, but this seems to be the first record from Catalina. I recently learned that a cage-bird of this species escaped from the Catalina bird park about a year ago, and there is a possibility that the bird I saw was the one that had been brought to the island. It is quite possible that the native avifauna of Catalina Island will be seriously affected by introduced species within the next few years.—DON MEADOWS, *Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California, April 20, 1930.*

Hawks Unwelcome Visitors at Banding Stations.—Six Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter velox*) and six Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) have been trapped at our station. All but two of these have been caught in the original Michener Warbler trap with a dead bird tied to the bottom of the trap for bait, usually a bird that the hawk had killed in one of the other traps. In the case of one of these exceptions, a Sparrow Hawk went into one compartment of a four-compartment trap having Potter type doors. It was after birds in the other compartments. In the other exception, a Sparrow Hawk was in a two-compartment Potter trap set on a stand pipe with a water-drip for bait. There was no other bird in either compartment of this trap, but the hawk had killed a Gambel Sparrow in a trap on the ground about forty feet away. Our journal records another occasion on which two Sparrow Hawks were seen at this water-drip trap; but in neither case is it known that they were there because of the water, though they must drink sometime somewhere.

These hawks are quick to take advantage of the birds in the traps and usually kill one or two before they themselves can be caught or driven away, and it seldom is easy to do the latter here where shooting is not permitted. Because of their persistence in returning to the traps after the other birds, we felt it necessary to dispose of the hawks when we caught them. For a while this was done by killing them and presenting them as specimens to those persons who desired them. Of late we have adopted a scheme which suits us better. It follows a suggestion made by Mr. Roland C. Ross that we band them and release them at a distant point. The last five, all Sharp-shinned Hawks and all caught during the last six months, have been banded and given to Mr. Law who, after keeping most of them for a few days to study their feeding habits, has released them at points several miles away from this banding station.

The persistence of these hawks, particularly the Sharp-shinned, is illustrated by the following entries taken from our journal. Under date of October 14, 1929: "C9934, House Finch, male. Killed by hawk in number 4 trap at 5:30 p. m." Then on the following day, Mrs. Michener writing: "After I found C9934 dead in the trap I set the hawk trap with him in it. It was almost dark. The hawk watched me from the shed roof (about thirty feet away) while I arranged the trap, then flew to the eucalyptus tree (about one hundred feet away). After a few moments I went out and saw the hawk leaving the vicinity of the trap. Early this morning, 6:45, I went out and found that it had sprung the trap. It was there. It flew to the eucalyptus and I reset the trap. Shortly after, I went out and found it in the trap with the finch well eaten." "353086 Sharp-shinned Hawk, immature, in trap no. 12, 7:00 a. m. Mr. Law took it to release at his station."

It was only the intervention of darkness that kept this hawk away from the bird it had killed, for thirteen hours. Or did it go there in the darkness, spring the trap without getting caught and stay around there until daylight? Probably not, but we do not know. Usually the hawks are back and into the traps in a very few minutes, sometimes before the one who has set the trap is out of sight.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Pasadena, California, April 2, 1930.*

Saw-whet Owls in Oakland, California.—On November 30, 1929, a Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) was seen near Mosswood Park in Oakland. It had been in the neighborhood for over a month, but, though heard by both Mr. Phillips Kloss and myself, had not been recognized. We continued hearing it at intervals until April 8, 1930. On the 8th of March it appeared that two owls had been in the vicinity, for two were seen that night.

The owl's identity was established on November 30, an exceptionally dark day. In the middle of the forenoon a great clatter of jays arose in my back yard. As