

Now that we had three captive cowbirds we decided to move on toward chat territory. About an hour later we heard the chat's song. The chat is shy and retiring but we knew one weakness—he likes spiders. Accordingly we prepared a tempting meal and waited, possibly fifteen minutes, before we caught one, and soon after caught another—two very fine specimens, one mature male chat and a young male, a bird of the season.

The three Cowbirds and the two Long-tailed Chats are now objects of much interest in the aviary, where they remain in the best of health and condition.—JOHN A. BROCK, 5840 Seminary Court, Oakland, California, June 22, 1932.

**The Hawk Owl in Northern Idaho.**—On August 27, 1923, I was walking along the Lolo Trail which follows the divide between the Lochsa River and the North Fork of the Clearwater, Idaho County, Idaho, when what I believe to be a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) flew out of a thicket and alighted near the top of a scrubby hemlock within forty feet of me. It took wing again almost immediately, but during the few seconds that it remained I noted the unmistakable round head, particularly as its method of flight had led me to believe it to be some species of hawk.

On November 3, 1925, I collected a young male specimen of Hawk Owl at Stanley Butte, some ten or twelve miles south of the Lochsa River. The August record I present only as a possible indication of the nesting of this bird in northern Idaho. As a bit of corroborative evidence I might mention the fact that before I had shot the November specimen I was positive as to its identity with the bird that I had seen two years previously, even though these two were the only living specimens of the Hawk Owl that I had ever seen.—R. L. HAND, *Avery, Idaho, October 6, 1932.*

**Zonal Range of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in Northwestern Montana.**—The breeding range of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) is generally considered to be the Canadian life-zone. The latest A. O. U. Check-list (p. 238) names only this zone in describing the entire geographical breeding range of the species in North America. This limitation to the Canadian zone is concurred in by most references concerning the range of this nuthatch in the Rocky Mountain region. Thus Cary, in his report on the life zones of Wyoming (North American Fauna, no. 42, 1917, p. 44), lists the Red-breasted Nuthatch as a breeding bird only in the Canadian zone. In the adjoining state of Montana, however, according to Saunders (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 14, 1921, p. 159), this species "breeds in yellow pine forests in the Transition zone, and is only found in summer where such forests occur."

During the past twelve years I have become quite well acquainted with the habits of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in extreme northwestern Montana. Throughout the country with which I am familiar—which includes nearly all of Lincoln County, the western and northern parts of Flathead County, and portions of the western slope of Glacier National Park—this bird, during the breeding season, ranges from the lowest forested valleys to timberline, nesting regularly in the Transition and Canadian zones, and probably at times in the Hudsonian zone. During spring and summer, individuals may be found locally in every type of coniferous forest occurring within this area.

The birds seem to nest most commonly in Transition-zone woods of western larch and Douglas fir, and in forests containing these two trees with a mixture of western yellow pine or of lodgepole pine. (A census of the breeding birds inhabiting an 80-acre tract of fir-larch-yellow pine woods near Fortine, taken each season during the four years of 1928 to 1931, showed the presence of 11, 9, 14, and 11 pairs, respectively, of Red-breasted Nuthatches.) Less commonly, during the nesting season, these birds regularly inhabit yellow pine forests of the Transition zone; fir-larch-lodgepole pine forests in the lower portions of the Canadian zone; upper Canadian zone woods containing one, two, or all of the last named trees together with alpine fir; and forests of alpine fir and Engelmann spruce in this zone. The preferred Canadian-zone habitat appears to be the basins and valleys at the headwaters of mountain streams, where the spruce-alpine fir type of forest predominates. In this zone the Red-breasted Nuthatch is comparatively rare in forests representing various mixtures of western white pine, western red cedar, grand fir, and western hemlock. It occurs frequently, how-