

land extending up to the tops of the ridges—while the whole eastern slopes of the ridges and the bottoms of the ravines sheltered from the prevailing winds are timbered, or at least clothed heavily with chaparral. These sloping grasslands formerly teemed with wild ruminant animals—elk, deer (at the edges of the chaparral), antelope (toward the south), with large carnivores as well as other fatal factors to account for a continuing supply of carrion from these vegetarian sources. And now the same slopes are grazing grounds of cattle, horses and sheep; while the seashore at the farthest bottom frequently, now as always, yields the bodies of seals, whales and the like.

In summary, if my inferences be tenable all through, the Turkey Vultures, *Cathartes aura*, [and formerly the California Condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) which we know to have occurred regularly north near the sea at least as far as the "prairies" of Humboldt] gain an easier than ordinary livelihood in our coast range territory by taking advantage of certain favorable circumstances—those circumstances of (1) east-moving air currents, sweeping up wide expanses of open grassy slope (2), which afford (3) odor-producing food. The birds seek this food by (4) riding the up-welling air currents near the crests of the ridges, which currents bring olfactory notice (5) of the food then to be sought for through the vultures' scouting flight (6), and lastly to be seen (7) by keen eyes because of the open nature of the ground surface on those western slopes.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, January 22, 1933.*

Phainopepla Observed on Barley Flats, San Gabriel Mountains, California.—On December 30, 1932, while engaged in a botanical survey of the Barley Flats area, north of Mount Wilson in the Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County, my attention was called to a single female Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*).

The elevation of Barley Flats at the place of observation is 5500 feet. At the time of observation, snow covered the entire region to a depth of about a foot.

The bird was observed first at 11 a. m. and again at 2 p. m. and lastly at 3:30 p. m. This would seem to indicate no desire on the part of the bird to leave this location. It seems strange that the Phainopepla, ordinarily so closely associated with a warm environment, should visit so cold a one when the Mohave Desert is no great distance away.—L. E. HOFFMAN, *University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, March 22, 1933.*

Black Phoebe Nesting in a Tree.—In looking over some old notebooks recently, I came across the record of a tree nest of the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans nigricans*). The usual nesting site of the Black Phoebe is under a bridge, or about buildings, and one that I found in 1926 was on a timber, about four feet below the ground, in an open well. I know of no case, other than the one here noted, of the nest being placed in a tree. On May 15, 1910, I found this nest while exploring a very thick growth of willows along an old flood channel of the San Gabriel River, about two miles southwest of Artesia, California. The flood channel had about two feet of stagnant water in it, and the willow trees on either bank leaned out over the water. One tree, about eight inches in diameter, had a dead limb on its lower side extending downward at a sharp angle, and on the end of this was a typical mud nest of the Black Phoebe, containing two young birds about a week old. The parent birds were nearby. Shreds of willow bark had been used with the mud and fringed the outside of the nest; the lining was of bark and hair. The nearly horizontal trunk of the tree formed a shelter about six inches above the nest which was about three feet from the water. The nearest building was about a quarter of a mile from this nest.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, March 21, 1933.*

Tracing Fall Wandering by an Albino.—In the CONDOR for July, 1932 (page 194), Mrs. Catherine E. Bower records the presence of a nearly completely albino Blue-fronted Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*) at Big Creek, Fresno County, California, from September 16, 1931, until November when it was observed down cañon at Power House (Number 2), a distance (by road) of ten miles.

I believe this is the same albino jay observed by myself and others that same fall at Huntington Lake, above Big Creek, from August 15 to about August 30, at which time we left the region. This would give the bird sixteen days to drift along the