

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

lake from Cedar Crest Camp to the cañon of Big Creek and down the abrupt gorge to the town of Big Creek, 2000 feet below.

The air line distances between these three stations is but eight miles in all, yet the jay dropped in altitude from 7000 feet to 3000 and accomplished this in the short interval between September first and November first. This means the traversing of three life-zones: Huntington Lake at 7000 feet being Canadian, the town of Big Creek at 5000 feet being Transition, and Power House Number 2 at 3000 feet being Upper Sonoran. In autumn and winter this species becomes more numerous in the lower mountain habitats. That individuals or flocks may wander from one extreme of the vertical range to the other seems interesting in a species considered to be a permanent resident and which is never completely absent from any part of its range.

I do not hesitate to connect Mrs. Bower's record with mine because of the perfect tally in description, the wandering status of the race at that season, the natural drainage channels leading to Big Creek and Power House Number 2, and the sequence of dates.

It may be added to Mrs. Bower's description that the present writer was impressed with the bluish tinge to the white plumage; this was most readily observed in the quills of wing and tail. I believe this is the graying effect noted by Mrs. Bower. The bird was almost fearless, flitting and hopping close to groups of campers.—**ROLAND CASE ROSS, Los Angeles, California, March 22, 1933.**

Bird Notes from Southwestern Oregon.—It was the authors' privilege to spend a few days in December, 1932, in the vicinity of Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. Frequent field trips were made in the Rogue River Valley and in the lower levels of the Siskiyou and Cascade mountains. A study of a recent paper by Gabrielson (*CONDOR*, 33, 1931, pp. 110-121) has led to the conclusion that some of the records obtained deal with species not often recorded from the Rogue River region. The number of duck records may be explained by the fact that large lakes to the east, such as Klamath Lake, had frozen over during a period of unusually cold weather in December and had driven birds to open streams. A list of the birds, all from Jackson County, follows.

Anas platyrhynchos. Mallard. Six of these birds were seen on Butte Creek, December 18.

Mareca americana. Baldpate. We examined a female of this species collected by Chester Fitch on Butte Creek, December 12.

Nettion carolinense. Green-winged Teal. A female was shot on Butte Creek, December 13, and is now in Stevenson's collection.

Nyroca affinis. Lesser Scaup. A female scaup was seen December 18 on Butte Creek.

Falco mexicanus. Prairie Falcon. A falcon was seen perched on a telephone pole at the Fitch Ranch, six miles south of Medford, on December 17.

Fulica americana. Coot. A coot was found swimming in Butte Creek December 18, and another, freshly killed bird, was discovered.

Capella delicata. Wilson Snipe. One was found in a tule swamp along Butte Creek, December 18.

Glaucidium gnoma californicum. Pygmy Owl. A female (no. 62760, coll. Mus. Vert. Zool.) was shot from a Garry oak at the Fitch Ranch on December 15. Another female, collected in a willow thicket along Butte Creek, December 18, is now in the Stevenson collection.

Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa. Great Gray Owl. Fitch saw one of these owls on the Lake of the Woods highway, seven miles east of Ashland, December 16, altitude 2800 feet. Fitch collected a specimen of this species (sex unknown), during the last week of December, 1929, at the Fitch Ranch. The skin is now in his collection.

Dryobates albolarvatus albolarvatus. White-headed Woodpecker. A male was seen in yellow pine timber at 3100 feet elevation on the Lake of the Woods road, December 16.

Chamaea fasciata subsp. Wren-tit. A colony of these birds is established in the Garry oak and chaparral area on the Fitch Ranch. Birds were seen and heard several times during the latter part of December.

Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus. Rock Wren. A female Rock Wren (no. 62771, coll. Mus. Vert. Zool.) was collected at a rocky hillside five miles east of Ashland on December 16.