

were still in the vicinity of the nesting site.—FLORENCE ANNE SUMNER, *Elk Grove, California, June 21, 1933.*

Do Black Phoebes Eat Honey-bees?—On June 15, 1928, I put up a male specimen (1862 of the Nature Study Collection, Los Angeles City Schools) of the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) which was assertedly killed by the sting of a bee. Mr. Carl Philippi, Principal of the Paducah Street School, Los Angeles, related the circumstances as an eyewitness.

The phoebe had been frequenting the grassy front court of the school for some time past and had become an object of interested observation to pupils and teachers. Mr. Philippi keeps a hive of bees in this same court, situated close to the ground. While watching the phoebe, my informant says, he saw it go into an agitated flutter after one of its forage flights and shortly fall to the ground. He picked up the still living bird and found a bee sting lodged in the roof of the bird's gaping mouth. This he removed, but the phoebe soon died. Although the sting was not brought to me, Mr. Philippi's long experience with bees and their stings is sufficient to validate his identification.

Is the introduced honey-bee such a new faunal element in the habitat of Black Phoebes that there is no racial experience to direct behavior? And if so, is the honey-bee frequently attacked by the phoebe, and with what success? Apiaries are frequent in the territory occupied by Ash-throated Flycatchers (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), but with this exception, it is my impression that the Black Phoebe more than any other California flycatcher comes into direct association with the honey-bee, both wild and hived. I judge this on the common predilection of both bee and phoebe for water pools, canyon walls, lush verdure and cultivated greenery.

The Black Phoebe has expanded in territorial occupation with the advent of man's culture of the earth. In spite of the unsociability of the phoebe toward its kind, I feel that the numerical abundance is not consonant with the enlarged habitat now available to the species. It is not the thinness of distribution that is remarkable, for that is probably psychologically the phoebe's nature, but rather the great gaps and unoccupied areas. Are there factors affecting the Black Phoebe population adversely in its newer associations?

F. E. L. Beal in his "Birds of California in Relation to the Fruit Industry" (Part II, 1910, p. 37) says: "Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants) amount to over 35 percent of the yearly food. . . . The great bulk of this item is made up of wild bees and wasps." In Farmer's Bulletin 630, U. S. Department of Agriculture (revised 1923, p. 22) Mr. Beal states that wasps make up the largest single item. Yet in both the above citations evidence of honey-bee consumption is denied. "Not a trace of a honey-bee was found in any stomach," of 333 examined. Mr. W. L. McAtee, in charge of Food Habits Research, United States Biological Survey, in answer to my query wrote on June 27, 1932: "We do not yet have a record of the Black Phoebe eating a honey-bee."

I wonder if Black Phoebes should try to eat honey-bees, would they be successful enough at it to live until collected and promoted to the records as honey-bee eaters? The wild wasps and bees they eat are presumably small fry, yet the phoebe kills husky moths and millers of greater bulk than a worker honey-bee, one species being in body much larger than the drone honey-bee. In Mr. McAtee's letter referred to above, he says that honey-bees have been found "in the stomachs of the eastern Wood Pewee and in those of vireos." Nevertheless, it remains a question: Does the black phoebe eat honey-bees? To this I invite the evidence and observations of Cooper Club members.—ROLAND CASE ROSS, *City Schools, Los Angeles, California, March 22, 1933.*

Band-tailed Pigeons in Southern California.—During recent, frequent trips into the Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County, I have had occasion to make some observations concerning the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). I herewith present my observations:

Pacoima Canyon (near Dillon's Ranch), November 5, 1932, approximately 50 pigeons observed among live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). This flock was seen throughout the day.

While at Camp Idyllwild, San Jacinto Mountains (San Bernardino County), I observed a flock of 65 pigeons on November 26, 1932.

At Barley Flats (north of Mt. Wilson), on December 27, 1932, a flock was observed.

Again at Barley Flats on December 30, 1932, a group of 50 pigeons was seen at 9 a.m. and a smaller flock at 4 p.m.

In Millard's Canyon, a large flock of 70 was observed at 4 p.m. March 24, 1933.

When I look back over my bird lists for 1922, I recall how surprised I was to observe a group of 6 pigeons in the Upper Tujunga Canyon.

From my recent lists, I call attention to the great increase of this once uncommon bird in this region.—L. E. HOFFMAN, *University of Southern California, Los Angeles, March 26, 1933.*

Oregon Vesper Sparrow in Sonoma County, California.—The Oregon Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus affinis*) is listed in Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 18 as a rather rare winter visitant, with only four records of occurrence in the Bay section which includes Sonoma County. On October 13, 1930, one was collected. No others were observed that year. October 3, 4, and 5, 1931, four were collected and a number of others observed on those dates. October 3, 1932, one was collected and one noted the following day.

From these occurrences I believe the Oregon Vesper Sparrow to be a yearly fall transient in varying but limited numbers in this section. There is a large number of Western Savannah Sparrows here as winter visitants and it is difficult to make positive identification of the Vesper Sparrow unless the birds permit close approach. For that reason it is possible that the Oregon Vesper Sparrows may be more numerous than the records indicate.

Five of the six birds collected are in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley. The ones not previously recorded are catalog nos. 62813-62816. All were collected in the same locality, about two miles north of Healdsburg.—C. W. EDGE, *Healdsburg, California, May 8, 1933.*

Southernmost Record of the Horned Puffin.—While walking on the beach three miles north of La Jolla, San Diego County, California, February 25, 1933, Mr. William R. Eastman, Jr., found the body of a peculiar sea bird that was unknown to him. After scrutinizing the bird, he threw it well up on the beach beyond the reach of the highest tides, and during the week following reported his find to the writer.

At my suggestion, he later retrieved the specimen, which proved to be a Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*). The condition of the bird prevented its being skinned in the regular way, but as it was well dried out it has been preserved as a mummy and now bears the number 16183 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. This occurrence constitutes the southernmost record to date for this species.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, June 8, 1933.*

Peale Falcon in California.—In the collection of the California Academy of Sciences there is a California-taken specimen of *Falco peregrinus pealei* that for many years rested unrecognized in the series of *F. p. anatum*. As this form has not to my knowledge heretofore been reported from California, and in view of the impending revision of the Southern California bird list, this occurrence should be placed on record. The bird (C. A. S. no. 11694) was collected by R. H. Beck at San Diego Bay, March 31, 1908. It is an immature female in extremely worn plumage, and at the inception of a molt that apparently was to include all parts. A general feather renewal seems to have been in progress, proceeding from the head backwards, but not far enough advanced to indicate whether or not the remiges and rectrices would be changed. This molting condition in March seems unusual, but then the whole occurrence is unusual, both as to time and place. It seems safe to assume that this was a non-breeding bird, lacking the usual incentives toward