

In quick succession this bird poured forth a volley of imitations. The Red-shafted Flicker, meadowlark, robin, Blue-fronted Jay, quail and Red-winged Blackbird, with a few notes in between that I did not know. As he sang he would hop two or three feet straight up into the air, as though the buoyancy of his renditions carried him off his perch.

For over a month the nurse knew when I was awake. When she heard the mocker, she came in to say good morning. To this day I am not sure whether this bird awakened me or awaited my waking to start his concert. But I rather suspect it was a case of coincidence in two habit forming creatures. On the stroke of six I awakened and quite likely that was the time allotted by the mocker, for mimicking the mountain birds.

I would see or hear this individual at other times of the day but only at six in the morning did it utter the notes, with which I am familiar.

Shortly after the mocker ceased his morning entertainments, I was allowed to spend part of the time in a wheeled chair. Then I was able to watch the happenings in the street. A line of cars was always parked in front of my window and the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) became my source of amusement. Up and down, on the side walk in front of those parked cars, these busy little fellows hopped. The insects impailed on the radiators were the attraction. As all persons know, the newer radiators afford no support for bird feet and the sparrows knew this also. They hopped along, inspecting each radiator until they came to the old crisscross type. Then up they would jump to pick that radiator clean before searching for another. If a car drove into the line they had already looked over, they would fly back to see what it was like, before proceeding onward.

After all the easy ones had been gleaned they would fly up and "catch as catch can" from the vertical radiators. Or, if the line-up presented none of the older cars, they did not waste time bemoaning that fact, but merely went ahead and got whatever they could. It interested me greatly to see how they made use of their heads instead of expending unnecessary labor.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Florence Lake, Big Creek, California, May 2, 1934.*

American Egrets at the Jornada Experimental Range, New Mexico.—Two migrating American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) were observed at the Jornada Experimental Range near Las Cruces, New Mexico, on April 23, 1934. As this species is not listed in Mrs. F. M. Bailey's "Birds of New Mexico," this note is offered as a migration record. Since they probably are becoming more numerous as a result of protection, these rare birds doubtless have been observed previously by others within the state.

These American Egrets remained most of the day around the water tanks at the Headquarters of the Jornada Experimental Range, on a desert mesa about fifteen miles east of the Rio Grande, and attracted the attention of everyone at Headquarters. The distinguishing marks of the species, the white plumage, black legs and feet, yellow bill, and on one bird aigrette plumes, were clearly observed with prism binoculars of 8 diameter magnification at a distance of 125 feet. Pictures were taken at this distance also. The egrets stayed near the tanks with the cattle and were not easily frightened. When approached too closely by persons, they would fly to another tank a short distance away.

On the morning of October 16, five more egrets on their southward migration were seen at Road Tank, six miles northeast of Headquarters.

In order to be certain that these birds were not the smaller, Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), the writer examined a specimen of the latter species in the museum of the New Mexico State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Living Snowy Egrets also were seen at Picacho-Bosque on the Rio Grande near Las Cruces, where about twenty-five pairs nested this year.—ELBERT L. LITTLE, JR., *Las Cruces, New Mexico, October 22, 1934.*

The Golden Plover on the Beach at La Jolla.—On the morning of November 2, on the beach at La Jolla, San Diego County, California, we saw a bird that looked very much like the Black-bellied Plover and yet there was something odd, something different about its manner or its appearance that attracted our attention. As we

approached, the bird trotted ahead of us in true plover fashion, going toward the sea. Where the water slid up gently on the wet sand it mingled with a mixed company of godwits, willets, and Hudsonian Curlews. A racing dog put the whole flock to flight and we lost the stranger as the birds swept out over the sea.

On the afternoon of November 16 Mrs. Michael and I happened again to be on the same stretch of beach and again we saw the strange plover. This time when the bird took wing we discovered that it had a black tail instead of the white tail of the Black-bellied Plover and that there were no black patches under the wings. Now we were intrigued. And fortunately we had binoculars with us. The following notes were made while we had the bird under observation: A plover—first cousin to the Black-bellied—a trifle smaller and darker in general appearance. Black bill as short or possibly shorter than the Black-bellied, upper mandible slightly curved. Wears a dark crown patch set off by light eyebrows and a light area at the base of the bill which makes the crown patch appear as a little round cap. Looking straight toward one the face appears white, that is, a white area appears to surround the black bill. In certain lights there is faintly visible a dark ring around the neck which appears darker than the throat or chest. The chest is softly veiled with a speckled bib, slightly buff in color tone. The back is much darker and more distinctly speckled than the back of the Black-bellied Plover.

Even when this plover posed on the beach the tail was noticeably black and when on the wing the black tail was strikingly apparent. Also on the flying wing a light band shows. When standing motionless on the beach it has the hunch-shouldered, thoughtful attitude of the Black-bellied Plover, but if approached it shows a certain nervousness and in a quick, jerky movement up-bobs its head in the manner of a willet.

On November 17, we were back again for a visit with the Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). We found it probing in the wet sand fifty feet back from the wash of the waves. We were able to get close enough to see that it probed with its mandibles held slightly apart and that it got a worm with almost every probe. The bird probed twenty or thirty times within the space of a square foot and in the course of two minutes we saw it capture and swallow nine worms. In probing it often sunk its bill down to the white forehead. Often it braced and tugged on the worm in the manner of a robin. During our two-hour visit with the plover we routed it from its feeding grounds three times. We would herd it down toward the sea until the waves forced it to fly. It would fly out over the sea and then a wide circle would bring it back to the original feeding site. All its probing was confined to a strip of beach ten feet wide and about one hundred and fifty feet long. This strip, that was literally pock-marked with probings, would be under water at high tide, but while we were with the plover the tide was out, and it foraged some distance back from the wave line where most of the other shore birds were feeding. A little company of five Killdeers constituted the only companions of the plover.

The Golden Plover probes for its food. The Black-bellied Plovers pick their food from the surface of the beach; we have never seen them probe. The Black-bellied Plover does not like to get its feet wet, the Golden Plover seems not to mind. Once while herding the Golden Plover down the beach we forced it into the feeding territory of the Black-bellied. The Black-bellied Plovers immediately proceeded to herd out the Golden. The birds trotted down the beach, the Golden retreating, the Black-bellies urging it on. Finally the Golden waded belly-deep into the water; the Black-bellies refused to follow.

While feeding on the beach the Golden Plover was absolutely silent, but twice when put to wing it uttered a call similar to the Killdeer's, but not so querulous.—CHAS. W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, June 4, 1934.*

Ring-billed Gull from Barrow, Alaska—a Correction.—In a recent issue of the Condor (36, 1934, p. 169) Dr. L. B. Bishop and I made several addition to the list of birds of the Barrow Region, Arctic Alaska. *Larus delawarensis* should be withdrawn from the list, for the specimen (C. A. S. no. 6300) proves to be a second year *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*. I am indebted to Major Allan Brooks for calling attention to my misidentification.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *The Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois, September 17, 1934.*