

1905. Edgar Park and I had the pernicious craze of collecting eggs, albeit we collected "scientifically." We were hunting gnatcatchers' eggs among the stunted sycamores in a dry wash behind the school. We stumbled upon a Poor-will's "nest" consisting of the two squabs cuddled among the pebbles. I ran back to school and asked Donald whether he would take the picture. He would try, but had never taken any bird pictures before. (See fig. 7.)



Fig. 7. First picture taken by Donald R. Dickey; in 1904-1905, of Poor-wills in Ojai Valley, California.

The next time I saw Donald, after leaving school, was on the "Tanager" expedition where old acquaintances were renewed and delightful new ones with Alexander Wetmore, D. Thaanum and others were made.—CHAPMAN GRANT, *Maj., U. S. A. Ret., San Diego, California, November 8, 1935.*

Flammulated Screech Owl in the Sacramento Valley.—A Flammulated Screech Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) was taken from the roof of a hen house on the University farm at Davis, Yolo County, California, on October 31, 1935. The specimen, an adult female, is now in the collection of the Division of Zoology of the University of California College of Agriculture at Davis. Measurements are as follows: wing, 135.8 mm.; tail, 63.5; culmen (from cere) 9.65. The ovary was double; the right lobe was only slightly smaller than the left.

The present specimen, coming from a central point in the Sacramento Valley only 45 feet above sea level, furnishes apparently the first lowland record of this species in California.—JOHN T. EMLEN, JR., *Davis, California, November 22, 1935.*

Red-shafted Flicker Foraging on a Cement Pillar.—The fact that the Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) may depart from its typical habit of foraging in and beneath trees and shrubs and on open meadows was demonstrated to me on November 1, 1935. I was astonished to see a flicker fly up to and perch on the face of one of the fluted, cement columns or pilasters on the southwest side of the Life Sciences Building, University of California Campus. Here, approximately 60 feet above the ground, the bird clung in typical flicker manner—body parallel to the long axis of the column, feet grasping the substrate, tail braced against the cement—for approximately two minutes. Then it began to shift up the face of the pillar and to probe and peck with its bill into crevices in the cement, evidently gleaning insects. It continued its foraging tactics and movement upward until it attempted to progress across the face of one of the "cement bovine skulls", a molding on this side of the building. Here the footing must have been poor, for the bird slipped backward, flew downward a few feet, then upward to a ledge, coming to rest momentarily before flying away.

Time of day, 12:45 p. m.; lapse of time for observation, 5 minutes; weather cloudy, slow rain falling.

At a later date, under similar weather conditions, examination of the cement at the base of the column revealed the presence of numerous small ants, which were crawling over the face of

the structure. Since it is known to bird students that flickers often eat ants, it is possible that these insects, serving as a food supply, attracted the bird mentioned to the building.—EMMET T. HOOPER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, November 16, 1935.*

The Black and White Warbler in Marin County, California.—A Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) was picked up dead on September 6, 1935, by Margaret Dean in Murray Park, Kentfield, Marin County, California. It was in good condition, apparently just killed, though it was cold. Miss Dean took the bird to her instructor at the Marin Union Junior College where it now is, in the collection there. Dr. Paul T. Wilson, of the faculty, made the skin and later brought it to me. He was unable to determine the sex, but we thought it this year's bird.—ANNA MARGARET SMITH, *San Anselmo, California, October 10, 1935.*

Observations Upon the Night-roosting of an Anna Hummingbird.—I was watching the quail going to roost at sunset on October 26 in a small live oak about fifteen feet from the west window of the living room of my house in Piedmont, California. An Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) darted into the scene and alighted upon a thin, dead twig of the adjoining tree, not more than five or six feet from the noisy quail, about eight feet from my place at the window, slightly lower than the floor of the room and perhaps eight or nine feet above the ground. It seemed probable that this was the hummingbird's night roost; and, from time to time, until about ten o'clock that night, a flashlight was directed at the point and the hummer was seen each time, placidly occupying the roost, facing the window and apparently undisturbed by the beam thrown upon it.

The perching twig was in a very exposed location on the end of a drooping branch, the canopy of the tree itself being but thinly disposed. Except for the presence of the house to the east, the bird was exposed to all the winds that blow. There was no protection from rain and predators and it could be plainly seen from all directions. On the whole, it did not look like a good place for a hummingbird to roost. But the next night the bird was again on exactly the same twig and was observed at intervals up to eleven o'clock that night.

The bird was elsewhere the next four nights, but back again on October 31. November 1 was somewhat stormy and the roost was unoccupied; but from the 2nd to the 15th, inclusive, there were only two nights on which the hummer was not seen roosting upon the same twig. Since then the twig has not been used as a night roost, although Anna Hummingbirds are buzzing about the garden as usual during the day.

From this limited series of observations on but one individual, one is not, naturally, warranted in attempting generalizations. Nevertheless, it is at least clear that we have here an example of one solitary-roosting bird that returned repeatedly to the same roosting place, and it seems probable that its night-roosting habit follows a pattern similar to its day-perching behavior, but with song, preening and watchfulness omitted. There is at least one resident Anna Hummingbird at this place (perhaps the same bird) that usually, when at rest in the day time, selects one of about seven known preferred locations. All of these places are within an area which would be circumscribed by a circle of about fifty feet diameter. For several days in succession one of these places will be occupied almost to the complete exclusion of all others; then a shift will be made, and so forth indefinitely. This action has extended over a period of several years and, it is thought, involves the same individual.

On three occasions a watch was kept on the night roost to determine the time of arrival of the bird with reference to sunset, and on each occasion the sun's disk was either bisected by the western horizon formed by the hill-tops of San Francisco, or else it had disappeared in the same instant that the bird alighted.

The procedure was simple in the extreme: First, a bare twig; then a whir; then a lump about the size of a small walnut miraculously appeared on the twig where nothing had been before. The bird invariably faced the window with its back to the sunset point; there was nothing unusual in its posture and while it may have put its head "under its wing", it was not seen in that attitude. A caged bird of the same species, nursed back to normal and just released by a friend who received it from a lady who found it incapable of flight in her driveway, was under observation for several weeks and was not seen to place any portion of its head beneath its feathers.—ERNEST I. DYER, *Piedmont, California, December 4, 1935.*

Abundance of Red-breasted Nuthatches in Southwestern Utah.—Coincident with an abundance of Clark Nutcrackers reported from various localities, the writer observed a great influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) into the higher portions of southwestern