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

Utah in September and October, 1935. This influx was made more noticeable by the facts that the region had been practically devoid of this species during the two previous years of my observation there, few were recorded there in 1931 by Miller (Wilson Bull., 46, 1934, p. 163), and all observers from the time of Henshaw in 1872 had rated it as uncommon or rare.

The beginning of the influx was first noted on September 6, 1935, when three individuals were seen at Rainbow Point, 9105 feet, Bryce Canyon National Park. This, incidentally, was the second record of the species in Bryce. Three days later, while unsuccessfully hunting conies on the Sevier Plateau some twenty miles north of Bryce, Red-breasted Nuthatches were found to be quite common between 8000 and 10,000 feet. On September 18 the first record of the species in Zion National Park was made, when several were seen on the East Rim, about 6300 feet.

Maximum numbers were noted by the writer and W. S. Long at Cedar Breaks National Monument, 10,000 to 10,700 feet, between September 30 and October 3, no observations being made immediately before or after those dates to determine whether or not that was the actual peak period. On September 30, especially, the forests of Engelmann spruce and alpine fir were literally alive with nuthatches. Four males were collected by Long. Previous to that time I had heard but one individual at Cedar Breaks, and Miller had recorded none. A gradual diminution in numbers was noted as the season advanced. On October 10 and 12 there were few at Bryce and Pine Valley Mountains; and from October 19 to November 4, Long reported a scarcely appreciable decrease at Cedar Breaks.—C. C. PRESNALL, *Zion National Park, Utah, November 27, 1935.*

Late Nesting of Six Species of Montana Birds.—Despite a cold, backward spring, the earlier nesting birds in this mountain valley in 1935 began activities at about the usual time. For some reason, however, some first- and many second-brood nestings occurred unusually late in the season. The following records obtained near Fortine illustrate this unusual condition.

Perdix perdix perdix. European Partridge. Eleven eggs of a clutch of fourteen hatched July 31. Another brood of young, hatched at about this same time, was observed a week later. Three additional broods raised in the same locality, numbering respectively fifteen, sixteen, and twelve young, were hatched early in July.

Iridoprocne bicolor. Tree Swallow. Two of the sixteen pairs of Tree Swallows that nested in birdhouses about my home raised two broods of young in 1935. The nestlings of one brood first took wing August 10; of the other, August 11.

Turdus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. My Montana records covering the past fifteen seasons contain dates on 231 nests of the Western Robin. The last nest shows the latest seasonal date: the three eggs of a set were deposited July 18, 19, and 20, 1935, and the young birds left the nest August 14. This species regularly produces two broods of young each season here.

Sturnella neglecta. Western Meadowlark. A brood of young left their nest July 20. This is the latest nesting for the Western Meadowlark that I have recorded in Montana. Two broods are normal in this locality.

Pooecetes gramineus confinis. Western Vesper Sparrow. The young birds of one nest observed in 1935 hatched July 19; those of another nest hatched July 25.

Junco oreganus montanus. Montana Junco. The first egg of a late 1935 set was laid July 2. Previous late dates for this species near Fortine are these: the eggs of one nest hatched July 14, 1927; young birds left a nest July 25, 1934.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, December 8, 1935.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The eleventh annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in Los Angeles, Friday to Sunday, April 17 to 19, 1936. The regular sessions will convene at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park. Special features at at this meeting will be illustrative materials. The committee of arrangements urges immediate response as to availability of moving pictures or slides of birds, to be presented in person or lent for the occasion. In this regard, correspondence should be undertaken at once with the chairman of the committee, Wright M. Pierce, Box 343, Claremont, California. It is none too early to make plans for attending, and especially for contributing to the program either pictures or papers or both.

It is a satisfaction to be able authoritatively to announce substantial progress toward appearance of further volumes in Bent's Life History