

**A Northwestern Robin Reaches California.**—Soon after I published my question "Is the Northwestern Robin Migratory?" (Condor, 37, 1935, p. 173), I received from Mr. G. D. Sprot, of Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island, B. C., a most informative letter, setting forth various angles in the problem. Briefly, Mr. Sprot's own experience on Vancouver Island led him to the conclusion that "when prolonged periods of intensely cold weather prevail here, as they do some winters, then *Turdus migratorius caurinus* absents itself entirely until spring. If such weather starts early in December and continues more or less throughout January it usually extends far to the south of us and doubtless [Sprot says] carries *caurinus* before it even unto California. . . . It seems to me you and Jewett will simply have to let *caurinus* into your states in bad weather, for there is no other place for it to go!"

The facts Sprot gives, and the arguments he bases on them, are in themselves just about conclusive. But the clincher is his statement that there is a known "instance of a probable *caurinus* attempting to winter in California." This was altogether news to me. The particulars were not at his hand at the time Mr. Sprot wrote (under date August 22, 1935); so I turned his letter over to Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., of the Western Bird-banding Association. The latter at once undertook assiduous letter-writing in various directions. This brought pertinent replies from Mr. Patrick W. Martin, Mr. J. Alfred Flett, and Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln. All this correspondence Mr. Sumner has placed at my disposal and from it I offer the following summary.

On April 30, 1931, Mr. J. A. Flett placed on a nestling robin, band number A354325. This was in his own orchard, 6½ miles from Duncan, in the Cowichan district of Vancouver Island. This bird was accidentally caught in a steel trap of a fur-trapper near Point Reyes, in Marin County, California, "about" January 15, 1932. The report of this "return" came from State and Federal Deputy Game Warden Bert F. Laws, of San Rafael, California, to Mr. George Tonkin, then of Berkeley, whose letter giving these latter details is now in the files of the Biological Survey, in Washington, D. C.

Here, then, is record of a robin that could hardly fail of being of *caurinus* "blood", reaching the northwest coast belt of California in mid-winter. One thing to regret: *If only* that trapped robin had been preserved as a specimen, then its subspecific characters could have been checked.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 5, 1936.*

**Occurrence of the Red-naped Sapsucker in Santa Cruz County.**—While collecting birds in Scott Valley, Santa Cruz County, California, on December 11, 1934, I secured an adult male Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*). The specimen is now no. 68033 in the collection of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

The breeding range of this subspecies in California lies in the extreme northeastern portion of the state, and the fall dispersal is southward through the San Diegan and Colorado Desert faunal areas and on into Lower California. There are but four previous records for the San Francisco Bay region which the writer has been able to find, and all are more than thirty years old. Of course there has been considerable discussion of the status of this race in relation to the more common Sierra Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius daggetti*), but the specimen under question compares favorably with other winter-taken specimens labelled *nuchalis* in the Museum collection.

The locality of this record, Scott Valley, is situated some five miles north of Santa Cruz in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and is noteworthy for its extremely varied flora and fauna, and for the juxtaposition of life-zones. Many interesting records have come from this section in the past and the occurrence of this bird there adds another. The woodlands fringing the valley abound in woodpeckers of several species.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Oakland Public Museum, Oakland, California, December 4, 1935.*

**The Rusty Blackbird in Western Montana.**—Early on the morning of November 29, 1935, a flock of six Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*) appeared at my ranch home near Fortine, in the extreme northwestern corner of Montana. Alighting in a cattle feed-lot, the birds fed upon refuse grain and seeds for about fifteen minutes, while I watched them from distances ranging as close as ten feet.

The two larger birds, evidently adult males, were the darkest in color, being washed with rusty only lightly above, and slightly more strongly below. The bird which appeared to be the smallest in size was much lighter in color than any of the others, being decidedly yellowish-buffy both above and below. The remaining three birds were intermediate between these two extremes both in size and in color, their plumage being strongly washed with rusty. All six birds showed a conspicuous buffy superciliary line.