

In Montana this species has been known to occur rarely as a migrant in the far eastern part of the state, but has not previously been reported to occur west of the Rockies, or during the winter season.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, December 8, 1935.*

**Shrike Craftiness.**—Today (November 18, 1935), as I went back and forth to the clothes line, I was attracted by an unusual bird call. Finally I walked slowly into the vacant lot next door toward the call. I found a shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) sitting in the shadow about half way up in a mesquite bush. When I first saw him he was giving a low plaintive call which aroused the curiosity of several birds and drew them toward him, as he had drawn me. They were a mockingbird, a thrasher, an English Sparrow and several House Finches.

He then changed to a whistling call, similar to that of the Abert Towhee, but not as loud. All this time one House Finch was working down through the branches nearer and nearer the shrike, keeping up the usual House Finch talk. The shrike kept his eye on the finch all the time and began to answer. He carried on a conversation for several minutes, in tones surprisingly like those of the House Finch.

In the meantime the shrike had moved out in the open. I was so fascinated by the shrike and House Finch that I did not notice that the mockingbird had worked around on the ground almost under the shrike. Like a flash the shrike dropped down, striking at the mockingbird, but missed. A chase by the mockingbird ensued.—RUTH M. CROCKETT, *90 Columbus Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, November 18, 1935.*

**Northern Records of the Mockingbird.**—During the last ten years the list of western Canadian birds has been enriched by the appearance of several unexpected species. Of these one of the most remarkable is the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*).

On May 31, 1928, the writer was amazed to see a Mockingbird on his ranch (Eastend, Saskatchewan), and on June 4 he collected the bird (*Condor*, 30, 1928, p. 320). This record, however, was not the first; for one was seen on May 2 of the preceding year by Mr. Steve Mann, of Piapot, Saskatchewan, whose farm is about thirty miles north of Eastend. While this was only a sight record, Mr. Mann removed all doubts by securing the next bird he saw, on November 1, 1929.

During 1928 there were several reports of the Mockingbird having been seen in different parts of the prairie provinces, but few, if any, of these reports were substantiated. No doubt many of them were correct, for the species can scarcely be mistaken for any other, particularly if the bird is heard singing. Since that year, a considerable number of Mockingbirds have been seen, and the species can hardly be considered any longer an accidental visitant or straggler.

In 1931 a pair nested at Didsbury in Central Alberta (*Canadian Field-Naturalist*, 46, 1932, p. 67). In 1934 a pair was seen at Wilcox, thirty miles south of Regina, Saskatchewan, that evidently was nesting there. Mr. Mann tells me he noted the Mockingbird in 1932 and 1934 also. In 1935 there were two seen in this neighborhood. Mr. E. H. Knowles, of Regina, informs me that he saw one in 1934, and that more than one pair were seen near Truax, sixty miles south of Regina, in 1935.

In view of all these records for Saskatchewan alone, it is rather surprising to find so few records for the states that adjoin us to the south. Mr. Winton Weydemeyer, of Fortine, Montana, tells me that so far as he knows there are no records of the Mockingbird in that state; and the species is not included by Aretas Saunders in his Montana list (*Pac. Coast Avifauna* No. 14). Mr. H. J. Rust, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, writes me that he has no record for the northern part of Idaho, but thinks the bird may appear occasionally in the southern part of the state.

According to Mr. Otto McCreary, University of Wyoming, Laramie, the Mockingbird is a regular breeding bird of southeastern Wyoming, but he has no record for the northern half of the state. Mr. Pierce Brodtkorb, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, has no record for either Wyoming or South Dakota. According to Professor A. P. Larrabee, of Yankton, South Dakota, the Mockingbird is an occasional visitor to his section and other points in South Dakota. Apparently there are no records at all for North Dakota and none is given in recent issues of the *Auk* or *Condor* for that state or for any of the others mentioned.

The writer does not know whether the few specimens, about three, taken in Saskatchewan belong to the race *polyglottos* or the race *leucopterus*, a question which when decided might indicate whether our birds originate from the southeast or the southwest.—LAURENCE B. PORTER, *Eastend, Saskatchewan, January 14, 1936.*

**The Little Blue Heron at Santa Cruz, California.**—For a period of about three months, a small white heron has been observed almost daily, feeding along the banks of the San Lorenzo

River within the corporate limits of Santa Cruz, and also along the west shore of Wood's Lagoon east of Seabright. Local observers have called the bird the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), but, as the bird's legs appear to be decidedly green instead of black, the writer decided that a closer check-up might be interesting.

On January 8 of this year, the writer, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Payne, managed to approach under cover of the wooded shore to within forty yards of the heron while it fed near the bank of the lagoon. Through binoculars, a peculiar shuffling movement of one foot was noted, appearing analogous to the scratching of gallinaceous birds, except that the foot movements were executed forward and laterally, instead of backward. In this way the bird drove its prey from cover for an easier capture.

In plumage, the bird was pure white; bill black except that it was much lighter near the base; the lower mandible, especially, appeared somewhat yellowish. The legs were decidedly green with the feet showing yellow. Dr. Loye Miller (Condor, 36, 1934, p. 178) describes herons observed in Ventura County in 1934 and expressed the belief that they were *Florida caerulea*, not *Egretta thula*. As suggested by Dr. Grinnell in a letter, our Santa Cruz heron is probably the Little Blue Heron (*F. caerulea*), an immature in white phase, similar to the one described by Dr. Miller. This would appear to be the northernmost record to date for the Little Blue Heron.—D. E. DANBY, Santa Cruz, California, January 9, 1936.

**Fall and Winter Records from the Coachella Valley, California.**—While observing Audubon Warblers feeding in cottonwood trees at Mecca, California, on December 8, 1935, the writer's attention was attracted to the cries of birds battling in the crotch of a near-by tree. In the tumbling mass of feathers, the yellow rump of an Audubon Warbler and the black cap of his antagonist were discernible. It was not until the Audubon had been routed and the victor had retired to a near-by limb to regain his composure that we were able to identify the latter as a chickadee. Further observation revealed a number of chickadees feeding in the vicinity. We were unable to estimate the size of the flock, although not over twelve were seen at any one time. One specimen was taken and our determination of the species as the Bailey Mountain Chickadee (*Penthestes gambeli baileyae*) was confirmed.

This flock of chickadees was still busy in the same trees when the writers visited Mecca a week later. On the same date, December 15, 1935, two others were seen in large cottonwood trees bordering a tule-covered reservoir ten miles northwest of Mecca. This locality is approximately eighteen miles by airline from the summit of the Santa Rosa Mountains where in 1908 Grinnell and Swarth found the Bailey Chickadee to be the most abundant species of birds above 5000 feet. Although these chickadees are known to be frequent wanderers to lower levels in winter, we believe this to be the first recorded occurrence of the species on this desert and at 197 feet below sea level.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) was seen in a cottonwood tree on Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella, California, on October 8, 1935, at 45 feet below sea level. When first observed this bird was working down the larger branches of the tree; it came within three feet of the observer's face. This is the first time the writers have known of the occurrence of the species on the floor of this desert valley.

Early on the morning of September 10, 1935, a Slender-billed Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis aculeata*) was seen on Coral Reef Ranch. When first seen this bird was hitching around the trunk of a small black locust tree five feet from the house. Observations were made at a distance of ten feet. The bird was driven off by a shrike, but late in the afternoon of the same day it was again observed on the branches of a large cottonwood tree about 200 yards from the house.

This species was again encountered on December 15, 1935, when a single individual was noted on a large willow tree on the edge of a tule-covered reservoir ten miles northwest of Mecca. It was observed for some time systematically working around the larger branches near the top of the tree, flying from the willow to the cottonwoods bordering the reservoir. The season on the desert had been mild and many green leaves still remain on the trees. Typical call notes were heard, but as there were no answering calls there was probably but the one individual in the vicinity. The places varied from 44 to 75 feet below sea level.—BEN CLARY and MARJORIE CLARY, Coachella, California, December 16, 1935.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow in Zion National Park.**—On January 16, 1936, Henry Grantham, CCC enrollee assigned to bird-banding in the Park, brought to the office a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) which had entered one of his traps. It was an adult female, and because of its rarity, it was prepared as a study skin and placed in the Park museum. As far as