

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

I have been able to determine, this is the first record for Utah, as well as for Zion National Park. This bird must have crossed several hundred miles of deserts and high mountain ranges to get here from its normal range. Mr. Grantham says it was in a mixed flock of Gambel Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) and Mountain Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia fallax*).—W. S. LONG, *Zion National Park, Utah, January 26, 1936.*

Red-shafted Flickers Feeding on Aphids.—On the morning of November 14, 1935, my attention was attracted to the peculiar actions of a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*), outside one of the windows of a classroom in Hilgard Hall, University of California, Berkeley. It was attempting to perch near the end of a branch of a large shrub, but apparently the branch was not rigid enough at that point to support the bird's weight. It persisted in its attempts and grasped the branch in its feet, spasmodically beating its wings in an effort to maintain an upright position. However, the branch continued to bend until the bird was upside down. After a few minutes the struggle to gain a normal perching position ceased, but the flicker continued to cling to the branch and began to peck at the under side of the leaves and the branch.

I was able to approach quite close to the window without being seen by the bird and observed it for approximately half an hour. I noted from its brown malar stripes, or "mustache," that the bird was a female. The shrub is about fifteen feet from the building and the branch to which the flicker was clinging was about twelve feet above the ground. I suspected that it was feeding upon some kind of insect which probably was abundant on the shrub, as evidenced by the length of time which the bird remained there, repeatedly pecking at the under side of the foliage in kingleet fashion.

Three times the bird lost its hold on the branch, but returned each time. However, after the first mentioned occurrence, it no longer attempted to maintain itself upright, but immediately assumed the inverted position and resumed its feeding. A sudden move by myself caused it to take alarm and fly off.

Noting the position of the branch on the shrub, I immediately went out to investigate and found that practically all of the branches, near the ends, were literally infested with aphids (*Aphis* sp.). Upon pulling down the particular branch on which the flicker had been, I found that it had only a few aphids left on it.

In the afternoon I carefully approached the same shrub to see if the bird might have returned. Upon my arrival I found not one, but four individuals feeding there in the same manner as had the one in the morning. The following morning there were three flickers there, but none when I visited the site in the afternoon.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, November 16, 1935.*

The Range of the Sharp-tailed Grouse in New Mexico.—Mrs. Vernon Bailey in her work on the Birds of New Mexico (p. 210) records the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus columbianus*) only from Johnson, Barillo and Fisher Peak Mesas, east and northeast of Raton, from information secured by Mr. J. S. Ligon. As indication of a more extensive range in earlier times I wish to record the distal part of a tibiotarsus of a Sharp-tail identified in a considerable collection of bird and mammal bones collected during archeological work in a cave near Jemez Springs, New Mexico, and received for identification from Mr. Paul Reiter, Curator of the Museum of New Mexico at Santa Fe. Associated with the specimen were numerous bones of turkey and of dusky grouse, and fragments from a teal of the genus *Querquedula*, a hawk of the genus *Buteo*, the American Merganser, and the Great Horned Owl. The cave seems to have been used by Indians as a temporary camp site at a date set at about 1300 A.D.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., December 9, 1935.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The Cooper Ornithological Club will hold its eleventh annual meeting at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, 1936. The an-

nual dinner will be held Saturday evening, the 18th. Sunday, the 19th, will be devoted to a trip afield. The official hotel will be the Coliseum, at 457 West Santa Barbara Street, near the Mu-