

escaped. The birds were very still again, sitting on the limb, and I moved back to my former position under the tree.

It seemed that not a single movement of the weasel was missed by the birds. At one place where the crust on the snow was thin, the weasel managed to work under and in doing so broke some of the crust. Both birds saw this and flew down to the place where the snow moved and crumbled. The fight was on again.

The weasel rushed out and made a few jumps, one a very long one of about four feet, with the birds after him at once. However, by now the weasel had reached a pile of brush. The last glimpse I had of his coat it seemed bloodier than ever. Very likely he was familiar with the brush pile, which was effective in concealing him. For a while the two birds rested on a low willow bush right over the brush pile. Slowly they quieted down. No more did they let me get as close as they had before. They seemed to understand the weasel was safe and would not venture from the brush pile. They seemed to understand that to wait would be a waste of time. Finally, flying separately one a little behind the other, they began to retrace their way.

Sensing that they were a pair with a nest nearby, I tried to follow the birds. However, I soon realized the futility of such an undertaking, for they led me up hill and down and nearly back again to where we had been first. About this time I realized that they did not intend to have their nest with eggs or young disturbed again. They were certainly entitled to peace; for had they not put up a firm fight, possibly to protect their young from an animal which is known as one of the fiercest small fighters of the woods?—OTTO WM. GEIST, *University of Alaska, College, Alaska, March 21, 1936.*

**Mockingbird in Eastern Montana.**—On May 14, 1935, near Miles City, Montana, Mr. E. J. Woolfolk and the writer saw a mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). The place was a low sage-brush plain, part of the old Fort Keogh Military Reservation, just west of Tongue River. The bird was on a barbed wire fence, about 100 feet from us. It had the same long tail with white outer feathers, the same broadish wings with white patches, the same stance and manner of flight, the same characteristics of song, only perhaps a little more subdued, that the writer has observed many times in southern California. However, this bird may have been slightly duller in color and a trifle smaller.

The bird was wary, but not especially timid. Although it would not permit us to come closer, it stayed in the vicinity, swooping occasionally with leisurely grace from wire to ground and back to fence post. But after that day it was not seen again.

This may be a record for Miles City, and perhaps Montana. The mockingbird is not catalogued in Saunders' distributional list of Montana birds, although it is recorded in the 1931 A. O. U. Checklist as occurring in southern Wyoming. P. A. Taverner, in his "Birds of Canada" (1934), says, "Lately stray individuals have been seen in southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and in southwestern British Columbia"; and he lists this as one of several species which periodically expand their ranges from the south, and contract them again.—LINCOLN ELLISON, *Miles City, Montana, April 21, 1936.*

**Bird Notes from the Papago Indian Reservation, Southern Arizona.**—Over a period of five and a half months, from September 1, 1934, to February 15, 1935, the writer was employed by the United States Indian Service in making a range reconnaissance of the Papago Indian Reservation in south-central Arizona. During this time, approximately 100 days were spent in the field, permitting the writer to make ornithological observations in every part of the Reservation, and thus to gain a cross-section of the fall and winter bird-life of the area.

The Papago Reservation has an area of approximately four million acres, and is almost entirely Lower Sonoran in flora and fauna. Practically all field work was done in this zone, which is characterized by such desert plants as creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), salt-bush (*Atriplex* spp.), giant cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*), cholla cactus (*Opuntia fulgida*), palo verdes (*Parkinsonia microphylla* and *Cercidium torreyanum*), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), and bur sage (*Franseria deltoidea*). The elevation ranges from 2000 to 4000 feet, the terrain consisting of small, rugged mountain ranges with intervening broad valleys.

The following 24 species of birds may be classed as the most common fall and winter birds of the Reservation, most of them being seen throughout the two seasons, and recorded on more than 40 days of the 100 spent in the field. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura teter*), Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*), Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*), Gambel Quail (*Lophortyx gambelii gambelii*), Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*), Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*), Gila Woodpecker (*Centurus uropygialis uropygialis*), Cactus Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris cactophilus*), Say Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris* subsp.), White-necked Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*), Arizona Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), Northern Cactus Wren (*Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi*), Common Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*), Palmer Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre palmeri*), Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila* sp.), Western Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Corthylio calendula cineraceus*), Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*

*lepida*), White-rumped Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus sonoriensis*), Common House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*), Canyon Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus*), Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), Western Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus confinis*), and Desert Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata deserticola*). Of these birds, only the following may be classed as purely winter residents, since they breed elsewhere than on the Reservation: Red-shafted Flicker, Western Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Vesper Sparrow, and Lark Bunting.

The following species uncommon enough to be of special interest were observed:

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One at Anegam Charco, November 2, observed at close range.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus atratus*). A flock of ten seen near Pacinimo, January 7.

Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*). Seen occasionally, especially in palo-verde-iron-wood woodland.

Mexican Goshawk (*Asturina plagiata plagiata*). One in Moristo Canyon, Baboquivari Mountains, on February 11. (The Baboquivari-Quinlan-Coyote mountain range, forming the southeast boundary of the Papago Reservation, reaches altitudes of from 6000 to 8000 feet, and from 4000 feet on up is Upper Sonoran Zone, the most prominent plant being the oak. The writer spent seven days in the field in this zone.)

Audubon Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway audubonii*). Seen but twice, near Old Fresnal, January 19, and in the Sierra de la Union, January 26.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*). One seen October 16 at Poso Redondo.

Mearns Woodpecker (*Balanosphyra formicivora aculeata*). One September 17 at Cocklebur, another September 27 at Bitter Well. Evidently a rare fall migrant.

Long-crested Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri diademata*). Seen generally during September, October, and November, in pairs or in small flocks at elevations below 4000 feet, entirely in the Lower Sonoran zone. Were especially common at San Pedro about November 15. It seems odd that they should wander so far from their breeding grounds in the Transition and Canadian zones considerably to the north and east of the Reservation. Such action on their part is perhaps infrequent.

American Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta rubescens*). Several flocks at Charco 19 on October 7, 8, and 10.

Lawrence Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*). Seen October 2 at Bitter Well, October 9 and 10 at Charco 19, October 11 at Toapit, October 12 and 16 at Poso Redondo.

Scott Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps scottii*). A few individuals seen February 10 and 11 in the Baboquivari Mountains at 4500 feet, where the species is undoubtedly a permanent resident.

Mexican Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis atrogularis*). Two seen February 10 in the Baboquivari Mountains at 5000 feet elevation; perhaps is a permanent resident there.

In all, 120 species were observed by the writer while he was present on the Reservation.—GALE MONSON, *Soil Conservation Service, Safford, Arizona, April 24, 1936.*

**Nesting of the Allen Hummingbird.**—On March 25, 1933, the writer was working in his garden in North Berkeley when a female Allen Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*) was seen to fly out from under a small covered entrance to his home. Upon making an examination an ivy vine was found to be hanging down about 6 inches from the ceiling, and upon this were found a few pieces of plant down, the start of a nest. This was located about 2½ feet above a person's head, and in such a location that anyone entering the door must pass directly under it.

On March 27, the female was seen to arrive at the nest with a bunch of plant down in her bill. This she deposited in the bottom of the nest and worked it in with her feet and body. On the 28th she was seen to arrive with a spider web in her bill. This she placed on the outside of the nest, and then wound it around the nest with her beak. Several times during the next few days the female was seen to come to the nest with plant down or spider webs in her bill. These she worked into the nest with her feet or bill, and then seemed to shape the nest by moving around and settling down in it.

On April 1, the nest was examined at 9:45 a.m. and there was one egg present. No eggs were laid on the 2nd, but when the nest was examined at 7:30 a.m. on the 3rd, a second egg was in it. During the next few days the nest was watched without anything of note, but on the 7th, the Hummingbird was seen to bring in some plant down in her mouth. On the 10th, one broken egg, partly incubated, was found on the floor below the nest.

Nothing had happened when the nest was examined late on the evening of the 18th, but when it was examined at 7:45 a.m. on the 19th, one young was present. An electric light turned on at night did not bother the mother bird, but when the door was opened in the day-time, she was off the nest in a flash.

From this time the parent bird was on the nest quite regularly during the day-time, but the

writer was unable to see her feed the young. At no time was the male seen near the nest. A few days before the young left the nest, it was noted that the female did not spend the night on the nest. On May 11, the young bird was heard twittering constantly, and when picked up it made its wings buzz as do the old ones when flying. Just before noon it left the nest and has not been seen since.

The old nest was removed, and on June 4, another nest was built in the same spot. On account of leaving for the mountains, the writer was not able to follow up the history of this second nest.—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, 44 Lenox Road, Berkeley, California, April 17, 1936.

**The Western Palm Warbler in New Mexico.**—White Sands National Monument is located 18 miles southwest of Alamogordo, in Otero County, New Mexico, at an elevation of 4000 feet. Adjoining the Sands on the east is a marsh of about 200 acres, which in this desert area attracts many birds. Here, on December 6, 1935, I saw a lone bird which I had not previously observed in this area. It was first seen on the ground, then among the tules, and later on top of a building. On the ground its appearance and actions were somewhat like those of a pipit.

The bird was collected and prepared as a study skin. It proved to be an adult female, and was later identified at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, as a Western Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*). This species is found west of the Mississippi valley only as a straggler, and there appears to be no previous record of it in the State of New Mexico. The specimen is now deposited in the study-skin collection at White Sands National Monument.—A. E. BORELL, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, March 28, 1936.

**Bird Records from Merced County, California.**—On April 6, 1936, a friend, Mr. T. D. Southward of LeGrand, Merced County, who has been banding birds for a year or more, called on me with a strange sparrow in his cage. After consulting Coues' Key and asking the opinion of Mr. J. A. Neff, I determined it to be a male Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) in molting plumage.

The specimen is now in my Merced County collection. Another young friend of mine from near LeGrand, Mr. Calvin Stevens, who also bands birds occasionally, has a record or two of interest. On February 28, 1936, he captured a male juvenile White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). On March 1, 1936, he added a Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) to Merced County records. On February 2, 1936, he shot a beautiful adult male Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) on the bank of a creek in Merced County near the Sierra Nevada foothills.—R. H. BECK, Planada, California, April 8, 1936.

**Twenty Condors Dine Together.**—On April 25, 1936, Mr. O. P. Brownlow, Captain of Patrol, Division of Fish and Game, was driving over the rolling plains country about mid-way between Bakersfield and Kern Canyon proper. There a smaller road, to the Kern River Golf Club, branches off the main artery. Along this small road and about 200 yards from the road he was traveling, Mr. Brownlow noticed a number of large black birds. At first he thought they were buzzards. He stopped to watch them and two of the birds had an argument, displaying white under-wing patches. He then realized they were California Condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

Walking toward the spot, he found there were 20 of the great birds eating the carcass of a sheep. Hundreds of these animals had but recently pastured there. As he drew nearer 19 Condors readily took to the air, flying in different directions. One huge bird had difficulty in getting off the ground. The white areas seemed unduly large to Mr. Brownlow. When this Condor finally arose Mr. Brownlow looked about for the others. Six had alighted about a quarter of a mile away. Several were headed up the Kern Canyon, the rest in other directions, Hoping they would return Mr. Brownlow hurried back to Bakersfield to bring a camera and other folk to see them. But when he returned not a Condor was to be seen.

I have heard on good authority that WPA workers have seen six Condors, this past winter, in the vicinity of Breckenridge Mountain, which is opposite Hobo Hot Springs. From the directions the various components of the large flock took Mr. Brownlow and I feel there is a possibility that it was a "gathering to the feast" of Condors from Breckenridge, the Tehachapi and Tejon.—LILA M. LOFBERG, Kernville, California, April 29, 1936.

**California Woodpeckers Storing Walnuts.**—At the corner of Del Mar Street and South Madison Avenue, in the heart of Pasadena, there stands an extra tall telephone pole that is literally pock-marked for a distance of twenty feet by the drillings of California Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi*). Also many long cracks in the pole were wide enough to receive acorns. Near the top of this pole one nesting cavity can be plainly seen.