

A near approach to flying underwater came to my attention while I was watching an ouzel at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall. The bird was foraging on the very brink and was inadvertently swept over the fall. The ouzel dropped perhaps thirty feet in the swirl of mist, came out flying and returned to its former position. The ouzel appeared not the least disturbed by what had seemed to me a perilous adventure.

Does any bird use its wings both for swimming and for flying?—CHARLES W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, November 20, 1937.*

**Cowbirds in Western Nevada.**—On May 30, 1938, I observed five cowbirds (*Molothrus ater artemisiae*), three males and two females, in a field on the old road to Verdi, about two miles west of the Reno (Nevada) city limits. They were watched with an 8×30 glass at a distance of fifty feet, for twenty minutes. Two males were conducting a sort of dance, with feathers ruffed at nape, in apparent courtship of one of the females. Had identification by the brown head of the males and the short stout bills not already been made, it would have been simple when a pair of Brewer Blackbirds alighted to feed with them.

This appears to be an unusual record for western Nevada. Jean Linsdale in "The Birds of Nevada" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936, p. 116) shows only one record for Washoe County, that of an adult male obtained by Ridgway at the Truckee reservation, on June 2, 1868.—DRYDEN KUSER, *Reno, Nevada, June 16, 1938.*

**Hutton Vireo with Young in February.**—On February 26, 1938, while studying birds in the hills back of Whittier, California, I was surprised to see a Hutton Vireo (*Vireo huttoni huttoni*) approaching a nest. This was situated on the extreme end of an oak limb, pensiled, and in an exposed position. It was approximately 20 feet from the ground. The nesting tree was in the center of a group of oaks on a hill side.

The nest was of the usual Hutton Vireo type, made of fine fibers covered with green moss and lined with fine grasses. Unable to reach the nest, which I supposed to be ready for eggs, I climbed a nearby oak and with the aid of field glasses obtained a good look at the nest and its occupants, namely, four baby vireos, which were probably a day or two old.

On March 14, I returned to the nest, to find it empty and the four young birds in a nearby elderberry tree. I caught one of them and it perched on my hand for some time. The parents were anxious as to its well-being and came very close to me. The young bird finally heeded their frantic calls and flew back into the tree. At this time an industrious pair of Green-backed Goldfinches was removing the nesting material from the vireo's nest and placing it in their own nest in a nearby tree.—E. M. HALL, *Whittier, California, June 9, 1938.*

**Harris Sparrow at Buena Park, California.**—In the late afternoon of April 23, 1938, a Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) was noticed in company of a small flock of Gambel Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) that were coming to the feed trays in our back yard. During the next four days it was observed at close range a number of times and it was last seen about 5:00 p.m., April 27. The last Gambel for the season was seen on April 28.—JOHN McB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, May 30, 1938.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

Readers of the *Condor* familiar with John L. Ridgway's ability as an illustrator will be glad to know of his recent book on "Scientific Illustration" (Stanford University Press, 1938, xiv +173 pp., 22 pls., 23 figs. in text). This is a manual which begins with the simplest fundamentals of the subject and treats ultimately the special problems and customs in many separate fields of science. To anyone, whether ornithologist or not, who contemplates publishing in scientific journals, this volume will give points of good advice. The plates illustrating lighting effects, arrangement of figures, and types of reproduction are excellent examples of the principles discussed.—A. H. M.

The late Junius Henderson, known so pleasantly to many Cooper Club members, and an

extensive contributor to the *Condor* from 1906 to 1927, is accorded fitting remembrance in a special number of the *University of Colorado Studies* (vol. 25, no. 2, March, 1938, pp. 117-160; Boulder, Colorado, price \$1.00). His was a truly broad scientific interest. He worked untiringly in geology, paleontology, conchology, and ornithology; he published importantly in all these fields, as well as, in a lesser way, in mammalogy and ethnology. Aside from the absorbingly interesting biographical portion of the present memorial, a permanently useful feature is the complete bibliography, enabling a student in any one of the several fields, quickly to locate whatever Henderson may have written within its scope. At the time of his death, November 4, 1937, Henderson was Professor Emeritus in the University of Colorado. Appropriately, four of his