

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Hummingbird Accident.—On March 25, 1940, Colonel Oscar Krupp, Commanding Officer of the government arsenal at Benicia, California, informed me of the presence of a dead hummingbird hanging by the bill in the screen enclosing the front porch of his quarters. He took me to the scene and I took the accompanying picture (fig. 77).

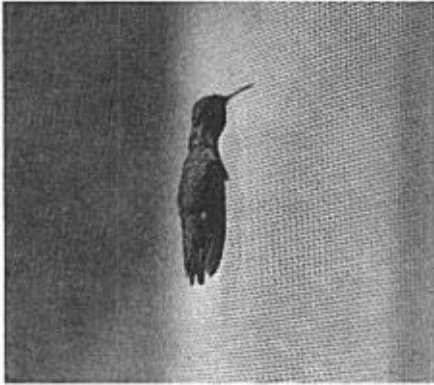


Fig. 77. Anna Hummingbird killed by flight into porch screen at Benicia Arsenal, Benicia, California.

With little doubt, the bird, which was a male Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), in attempting a transverse flight through the porch at a height of about ten feet from the ground, did not see the screening and crashed into it. The mesh of the screen was of just the right size to accommodate the long bill which was wedged therein to the base.

Hummers are much in evidence about the trees and flowers of the "officers' row" at the arsenal and the Anna Hummingbird breeds there commonly.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, June 13, 1940.*

Nesting of Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Redlands, California.—Throughout the years

1938 and 1939 and the spring of 1940, Western Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula cineraceus*) have been observed regularly in Prospect Park, Redlands, California. On April 24, 1940, we were fortunate enough to find there a young Ruby-crowned Kinglet at the base of a pepper tree. While we were still at close range, an adult, probably the female, approached with an insect in its bill and fed the young bird. We notified Harold Hill of the discovery and later he banded the young bird. After it was banded it was fed by the male bird, whose ruby crown-patch was plainly visible at the time. On April 25, 1940, I succeeded in finding the nest in a near-by olive tree. It also contained young. The nest was later collected.—MILTON MOORE and DONALD MOORE, *Prospect Park, Redlands, California, June 18, 1940.*

The Lucy Warbler in New Mexico.—When Florence Merriam Bailey's book, the "Birds of New Mexico," was published in 1928, only one record of the Lucy Warbler (*Vermivora luciae*) was known from the State. This was a specimen taken by M. French Gilman on May 19, 1907, in the northwestern corner of New Mexico, at Shiprock on the San Juan River. Examination of subsequent literature reveals no later published record for the State.

The writers spent the period from February 13 to June 4, 1937, on field work in the southwestern corner of New Mexico. During this time the Lucy Warbler was frequently noted, and subsequent correspondence with ornithologists discloses some additional unpublished occurrences for New Mexico, which, by permission of the observers, we here record with our own.

May 14, 1928. A male collected at nest near Redrock by J. Stokley Ligon, of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

June 30, 1929. A nesting male taken on the Gila River at mouth of Mogollon Creek by R. T. Kellogg. This specimen is now in Mr. Kellogg's collection at Silver City.

April 17, 1932. A pair seen and the female taken by R. T. Kellogg at Redrock. Specimen now in Mr. Kellogg's collection at Silver City.

May 1, 1932. Female taken on the Gila River near Cliff by R. T. Kellogg. Specimen now in Mr. Kellogg's collection at Silver City.

May 17, 1932. Considered by R. T. Kellogg to be one of the common birds in Guadalupe Canyon in the southwestern corner of New Mexico.

April 9-12, 1937. Found to be one of the common birds in Whitewater Canyon, about seven miles northeast of Glenwood by Mellinger and Stewart. One male was collected on April 9 and another on April 10. One of these was deposited in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History at New York, and the other remains in Stewart's collection.

April 17-19, 1937. At least one noted daily near camp on the Gila River about one mile south of Cliff by Mellinger and Stewart.

April 29, 1937. One found along Gila River about midway between Cliff and Redrock by Mellinger and Stewart.

May 7-17, 1937. Four nesting pairs found within a mile of camp on the Gila River near Redrock, by Mellinger, Stewart, and Leeman Green of Safford, Arizona. Two males were collected on May 8 and 12, respectively, at the above locality and are now in the Randolph Jenks collection at Tucson, Arizona.

The above data would indicate that the Lucy Warbler is a common summer resident up the Gila Valley at least to Cliff, and at least during one breeding season occurred in abundance in Guadalupe Canyon. It probably occurs during migration in suitable localities along the entire western edge of New Mexico. Further field work will doubtless produce records to extend this bird's regular breeding range farther up the Gila Valley, and also to include the several other river valleys of western New Mexico.

The writers are indebted to Mr. Randolph Jenks for permission to publish the portion of these notes which were made while working under him; and to Messrs. Ralph Todd Kellogg and J. Stokley Ligon for placing their records at our disposal.—E. O. MELLINGER, *North Lima, Ohio*, and PAUL A. STEWART, *Leetonia, Ohio, May 27, 1940*.

A Large Set of the Black Oyster-catcher.—On June 15, 1935, while making observations at Castle Rock, off Crescent City, California, we chanced upon a set of five eggs of the Black Oyster-catcher, *Haematopus bachmani*. It was the usual nest consisting of a slight depression in the gravel beach. It is highly improbable that the eggs had been laid by two birds, as there were only two pairs of oyster-catchers on the whole island and each pair had a set of eggs. The usual number of eggs is two or three (Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 146, 1929, p. 321).—L. ZERLANG and T. FRASER, *Eureka, California, July 12, 1940*.

Notes from the Salton Sea, California.—*Grus canadensis tabida*. Sandhill Crane. Among some specimens of cranes that were collected near the south end of the Salton Sea on March 2, 1940, for a habitat group at the San Diego Natural History Museum one individual was found to be a female Sandhill Crane. This has been preserved for the study collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History (no. 18110). The others were all Little Brown Cranes (*Grus canadensis canadensis*), which were fairly common until they left the region about April 3, according to Luther C. Goldman, federal agent in charge of the Salton Sea Wildlife Refuge.

Rallus obsoletus yumanensis. Yuma Clapper Rail. On May 13, E. E. Sechrist of San Diego presented to the San Diego Society of Natural History the skin of a male Yuma Clapper Rail (no. 18185), which he had captured by hand on May 11 at the Salton Sea. It was undoubtedly sick, for it permitted him to approach and pick it up, while he was searching for nests of the species. At the writer's request, he prepared the following notes on the discovery, by himself and his companion, Harry Heaton, of five occupied nests of this bird, which are believed to be the first on record. The only Yuma Clapper Rail's egg previously known was taken from the oviduct of a female collected on May 27, 1921 (see Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 135, 1926, p. 276).

"After planning for many years to run down the rare Yuma Clapper Rail, Heaton and I finally got around to it in 1940 when we made three trips of two days each to the Salton Sea, on May 4-5, May 11-12, and May 25-26. The marsh consists of thousands of acres of cattails and other growths running around the eastern end of the sea, and our first day and a half of diligent search yielded absolutely nothing, although we heard rails in several localities. However, on the afternoon of May 5, a nest was found containing one egg and a little later a second with two eggs, beside two empty nests. The following week-end we returned and spent the entire day of the 11th looking in another area, but without luck, although birds were heard. The voice of this rail is similar to that of the Light-footed Rail, but of a different tone. On the 12th we returned to nest no. 1 and found that it had been destroyed by some animal, raccoon and coyote tracks being plentiful. No. 2 fortunately contained a set of six eggs and of the two other nests, one was still empty and the other contained a nice fresh set of seven eggs. Before leaving the marsh we discovered a new nest which contained seven slightly incubated eggs, the bird flushing from almost under my nose. Of the five nests found, three were of black sticks with a few dead leaves on them and the other two were made of fine stems with dry blossoms on them. Two of the nests were on small mud hummocks, while the other three were in crotches of small shrubs just above the water in dense cattail and tamarisk associations. The water varied in depth from a few inches to knee deep. The eggs are the size of those of the King Rail, but