

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Third Record of the King Eider in California.—I collected a juvenal female King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), now preserved as no. 1659 of my personal collection, at the mouth of Tomales Bay, Marin County, California, on December 16, 1933.

The bird was shot at 9:30 a.m. in the middle of the narrow channel which forms the entrance to Tomales Bay, about 200 yards east of Avalis Beach (see U. S. G. S. map, Point Reyes Quadrangle), at a point where the water is 45 feet deep. It was one of a group of three eiders which was found resting on the surface there. One of the other birds was either a juvenal or immature male and the third, a female of undetermined age. An hour later, I crippled but lost either the latter or another female eider as it flew along close to the shore a hundred yards north of Avalis Beach. This bird was hit hard by a charge of shot while it was flying about ten feet above the surface, whereupon it dropped to the water and dove immediately. It apparently swam so far under water that it was not seen when it finally came to the surface.

The specimen that was secured is mainly in the first plumage and is definitely a bird of the year. A small percentage of the flank feathers, most of the contour feathers of the back from the interscapular region to the rump, and the scapulars are of the succeeding plumage. This bird measured 550 millimeters in length and weighed 3 pounds 1 ounce; it was in rather lean condition with nearly empty stomach.

There are but two published records for occurrences of *Somateria spectabilis* in California. Henshaw (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, vol. 5, 1880, p. 189) recorded a young male from near Black Point, San Francisco Bay and Loomis (*vide* Grinnell, Bryant and Storer, Game Birds Calif., 1918, p. 193), a female from the Suisun Marshes, Solano County. Neither of these localities presents eider habitat and the birds were doubtless vagrants. The environment at Tomales Bay where my bird was taken is more characteristic of the species' maritime winter habitat and the fact that three or more individuals were seen indicates that at least a small company of King Eiders had migrated far south of their normal winter range. Ornithological observations are so few off the California coast in mid-winter that it is possible that this eider is a more regular visitant than the few records would indicate. Other observers should be on the lookout for this species. Judging from my experience with these birds, eiders are easy to recognize by one familiar with other ducks. While I had never before seen wild, live eiders, I instantly recognized these birds as such when I first saw them a hundred yards distant. Their carriage is quite distinctive and not at all scoter-like, as might be supposed.—JAMES MOFFITT, 1879 Broadway, San Francisco, September 19, 1940.

Western Mockingbird and Desert Sparrow in Southeastern Oregon.—During a brief stop at Burns, Harney County, Oregon, on May 25, 1940, the first bird notes that struck my ears came from a Western Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) in full song. The bird was observed for fully ten minutes by several members of the La Grande Nature Club. Since Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon, 1940, p. 462) record five specimens from the Steens Mountains and Blitzen Valley, it is not surprising to find that the species, possibly by following the Blitzen and Silvies Creek valleys, has found a welcome in the few shade trees of Burns.

Later the same morning, in the course of a half-hour stop at Wright's Point, a few miles south of Burns, an adult Desert Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata desertyicola*) perched on top of a bush in front of me for perhaps a minute. It was at Wright's Point that Finley and Bohlman collected two of the three Oregon specimens recorded by Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*, p. 565).—A. S. HYDE, La Grande, Oregon, September 16, 1940.

American Redstart at Redlands, California.—On September 11, 1940, an adult male American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) was observed by us in a small group of pecan trees in Prospect Park, Redlands, California. The bird was extremely active, constantly fluttering through the green foliage, and flashing all the while its flaming red sides and orange wing and tail patches. Its sharp insistent call note was given at regular intervals. The bird was observed each day in the park from September 11 to October 21, 1940, and it seemed to restrict its activities to the same group of trees during the entire period, making accurate observation comparatively easy. The bird was also seen and identified as such by Herbert Hill who is familiar with the bird from observations made in the eastern states.—MILTON MOORE and DONALD MOORE, Redlands, California, October 21, 1940.

Sound Produced in the Nuptial Dive of Young Anna Hummingbirds.—Much thinking and some talking has been indulged in with reference to the source of the climax sound produced by the male Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) during its remarkable nuptial diving performance.