

planted as early as 1853. The older trees have thick, fissured bark and are favored by creepers for roosting over the younger ones with less furrowed bark.

Presumably none of these trees developed thick enough bark to provide attractive roosting sites until about 40 years ago. Hence, since that time creepers have come to use them freely. This indicates that an inherent relationship exists between the bird and tree species and also shows the rapidity with which the bird species may take advantage of a favorable addition to its habitat. We in California well know the close relationship that exists between our races of *Certhia familiaris* and the two sequoias, also with the incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*) which has similar bark. Yet this relationship is in no wise critical to creepers, for they are found commonly in our mountains at elevations above which any of these trees grow. In fact the Holarctic species *Certhia familiaris* as a whole covers an enormous range which includes the temperate and sub-arctic regions of the entire northern hemisphere. Trees with sequoia-like bark grow over only a relatively small part of this area and there is nothing to indicate that creepers are relatively more abundant in areas of sequoias than elsewhere. Still, the Rankins' and Kennedy's observations prove a decided proclivity of creepers for these trees. The creeper is no doubt a highly successful form with a wide tolerance of ecological conditions, and it may be that sequoia and cedar forests provide about the acme of successful habitat. Naturally many other factors are involved to determine the success, that is, numerical abundance per unit area, of a species in any environment. With other factors being relatively equal, I would expect greater creeper concentration in forests of rough-barked trees than elsewhere. The question might be answered by censuses over areas of similar size in Great Britain where sequoias have and have not been planted. Results of such observations would be highly interesting to me.—JAMES MOFFITT, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, September 20, 1940.*

The Fourth Record of the Brown Thrasher in California.—Last March a neighbor told me that she had several times observed a bird at her bird bath which she believed to be an eastern Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). On April 17, 1940, the bird entered my trap, and was given band number 39-253372. It was not observed in the neighborhood after that date.

So far as I can ascertain, there have been but three previous published records of *Toxostoma rufum* in California: one seen by Dr. J. G. Cooper at Clear Lake in September, 1870 (Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, *A History of North American Birds*, 3, 1874:500), which van Rossem (Condor, 35, 1933:161-162) thinks probably is a valid record; one photographed in Altadena in 1933 by van Rossem (*loc. cit.*); and another banded by Mr. C. V. Duff in Hollywood in January, 1939 (Duff, Condor, 41, 1939:121).—ETHEL C. AYER, *Pomona, California, October 18, 1940.*

Lewis Woodpecker Migration.—While engaged in field work near the town of Mt. Shasta, Siskiyou County, California, on September 10, 1940, the writer noticed a large mass movement of Lewis Woodpeckers (*Asyndesmus lewis*) traveling south in an irregular but continuous stream. The birds had been passing over for an undetermined time prior to 9:25 a.m. when first noticed, and the flight was still in progress when the writer left at 10:45 a.m. No further flight was seen in the area until September 14. Resident birds remained in the area for at least another month.

During the half hour from 9:25 to 9:55 a.m., 1,018 birds, by actual count, crossed over a fixed line, and many others undoubtedly escaped notice because of being too far away to be seen. Although at times only one or two individuals were in sight, on several occasions the numbers crossing the line were so great as to make it difficult to count them all. The speed of flight was typical of their manner on and about foraging grounds, and averaged about the same throughout the period of observation. Well over 5,000 birds must have passed within sight during that time. Some of the birds seemed tired, and took advantage of the proximity of several snags (relics of an old fire) to rest for a short time. Probably no one bird remained perched for more than a minute or two, and there were rarely more than two birds on a snag at any one time.

The line of flight was between Mt. Shasta and Black Butte (Winton Butte). At this point an extensive brush field of manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), ceanothus, and other chaparral covers a fairly level area about two miles wide, at an average altitude of about 4,300 feet above sea level. The flight probably extended over the whole two-mile front. The woodpeckers flew at heights of from 10 feet above ground to those at which they were barely discernible.

The flight was quiet and no vocal sound was heard, although many birds passed within earshot. None of the birds was seen to feed, and they seemed indifferent to my movements, even when close by. Smaller flights passed over the same area on September 14 and 17. These later flocks flew by in groups of as many as 78 birds, but there were intervals of a half hour or more during which none was seen. Except for this difference in numbers, the three flights were all alike.—CLARENCE F. SMITH, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Mount Shasta, California, October 10, 1940.*