

The mud flats along Otis drive are not frequented by these birds during the regular spring and fall migration. During the months of January, February, and March they were never seen on local beaches or flats where migrants of this species usually feed. The southern birds began arriving April 1 when I saw one individual; on April 5 there were four birds. Thereafter the birds became more numerous, thirty being seen on April 21.—JUNEA W. KELLY, *Alameda, California, June 21, 1944.*

A Great Gray Owl Observed in Yosemite National Park.—On the bright sunny morning of June 23, 1944, at 7400 feet altitude on the west branch of Bridalveil Creek in Yosemite National Park, a large gray owl was seen perched in the top of a small fir tree, less than six feet high, that grew near the center of a very wet meadow. I stopped the car to investigate and the binoculars showed that at a distance of 60 yards in good light this owl had no ear tufts or "horns." The tail of this owl was much longer and more curved than that of a horned owl. When the bird flew the rounded wings and the relatively long tail were conspicuous. The owl alighted in a dead red fir tree where it remained motionless, its streaked grayish brown feathers blending with the dead bark of the tree. Yet it did not escape detection and was soon "mobbed" by several chickadees, kinglets and warblers. The owl made no attempt to fight back but closed its large yellow eyes, pulled in its feathers, and appeared as inoffensive and inconspicuous as possible. This was within less than two miles of the locality where Dr. Joseph Grinnell on June 18, 1915, collected a pair of adult Great Gray Owls (*Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa*) which are now nos. 25534 and 25535 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.—JOSEPH S. DIXON, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Berkeley, California, June 29, 1944.*

The Gray Vireo as a Victim of the Cowbird.—A nest of the Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) was located on May 28, 1944, in the Cajon Pass area northwest of San Bernardino, California. The nest was six feet up from the ground near the end of a limb of a piñon tree and was suspended from two twigs on separate branches of the limb. This is only the second record that I have for nests in piñons, although I have observed these birds building nests in several different kinds of shrubs in San Bernardino County. A visit was again made to the site on June 4, in company with Fred Frazer, for the purpose of taking some photographs and I then found that the nest contained two eggs of the vireo and one of the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*). I remained at the site for some time after taking the photographs and making other observations, but the vireos did not come to the nest. Since the nest was somewhat disturbed and the eggs cold, I concluded that the owners had deserted it.

It is believed that this is the first record of the Gray Vireo as a victim of the Cowbird (see Friedmann, *Auk*, 60, 1943:350-356 and cited references).

During the past fifteen years it has seemed to me that most of the nests started by this vireo come to some unhappy end, often before the eggs are placed in them; at other times the eggs are destroyed, and in at least one case one egg was removed from a nest. This damage has been blamed on rats, chipmunks, California Jays, or reptiles, but it now seems probable that the Cowbird should receive at least a part of the blame. Since the Gray Vireo often perches on the top of brush or yuccas it is conspicuous, except for its somber color. With loud, repeated calls it flies to its nesting site. We may thus expect that Cowbirds would have no trouble in finding nests of this species.

The eggs from the nest reported above weighed 1.99 and 1.73 grams, respectively, and were more heavily marked than usual. I have found the average weight of thirty-six eggs of the Gray Vireo to be 1.94 grams, with a range from 1.57 to 2.32 grams. The number of eggs in clutches that I feel certain were not disturbed has ranged from three to four, with an average of 3.55.

The weight of the egg of the Cowbird in this nest was 2.42 grams, a little larger than the average of 2.26 grams which I have determined by weighing 112 eggs, but it is well within the range of 1.65 to 3.03 grams.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, June 4, 1944.*

Records of the Paroquet Auklet and the Pacific Fulmar for Marin County, California.—Although the Paroquet Auklet (*Cyclorrhynchus psittacula*) is probably a regular winter visitant off the California coast, published data are sufficiently scarce to warrant recording a specimen from Marin County, California. On April 9, 1944, I found a bird of this species on the ocean beach near the high-tide mark at the town of Stinson Beach. Although the flesh was practically gone, the skeleton and most of the plumage, including the postocular plumes, were intact. A small patch of oil on one side of the breast was the only clue as to the cause of death. As far as I have been able to determine this is the first time the Paroquet Auklet has been recorded in Marin County.

On the same day along the sand spit between Stinson Beach and the inlet to Bolinas Lagoon, remains of three Pacific Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii*) were found. The auklet and one of the fulmars have been preserved as skeletons in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.—ROBERT W. STORER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, July 18, 1944.*