

mingbird, the only common species of this locality, leads me to be confident of my identification of the bird.

Sutton (The Breeding Birds of Tarrant County, Texas, Ann. Carnegie Mus., 27, 1938:171-206) questions the occurrence of the Black-chinned Hummingbird reported by Ramon Graham (Nesting Dates of Texas Birds, Oologist, 33, 1916:81-82) as a breeding bird of the county. It has been reported elsewhere as far east as Tarrant County, so there seems to be no reason to doubt the likelihood of the bird's presence here.—PHILIP F. ALLAN, *Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth, Texas, April 13, 1949.*

Catching Petrels by Flashlight.—On September 6, 1929, I drove with Mr. C. Irvin Clay eight miles north of Crescent City, California, to catch a glimpse of some rocky islets where a few years before he had collected sea birds. We stopped on a grassy plot near the seashore; but the fog had come in and we could see nothing, not even the ocean a few feet below us. The night was quite calm, and presently we became conscious of some light specks passing back and forth above us irregularly, like swallows feeding in the day time. Although we had little hope of being able to discover what they were, we suspected they were petrels. Clay turned his powerful flashlight toward the sky in an attempt to focus on one of these light spots. Suddenly it left its orbit and plunged to the ground at our feet. We found it was one of the small white-rumped petrels, probably *Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali*, the form recorded as frequenting this part of the California coast.

Soon we caught another which had followed down the beam of light and struck the ground near us. After a short trip back to Crescent City to refill the exhausted flashlight, we returned to our petrels and found they were still coursing. We collected two more and stayed on until 10:30 p.m. when most of the birds disappeared. Later I noticed that birds always escaped when the light struck them from behind but when the light hit them full in the face they fell as if shot, hitting my body with considerable force and staying on the ground until picked up. These birds were evidently feeding on night-flying insects, and in striking the ground they vomited the amber colored fluid so characteristic of petrels. Their flight was slow and fluttering.

One of the birds taken (now in Chicago Mus. Nat. Hist.) had white spots on the back of the head, ear-coverts, and chin and a broad white bar across the lower abdomen. As I could find no petrel of this description, I decided it was merely albinistic.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, *Pasadena, California, May 2, 1949.*

A Guerrero Whip-poor-will Impaled by an Insect.—On January 15, 1949, while collecting on some great rocks at the foot of a cliff near the Chiapa River, Chiapas, México, I found a Guerrero Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus ridgwayi*) which seemed very awkward. When touched with a long twig, it made no effort to fly. The bird was captured alive by hand and taken to the museum where it was examined. I then discovered in its mouth the head of a dobson fly (*Corydalis cornuta*) with one of the long mandibles and one antenna.

Later, when the bird was being prepared as a study skin, I was much surprised to find the other mandible of the insect thrust through the oesophagus, trachea and skin of the neck; it had further penetrated through the skin of the chest where it was fixed firmly in the breast muscles. All around this place the muscles were full of coagulated blood; the long mandible was as hard as when fresh. The stomach of the bird was empty.

Undoubtedly the bird was to die, but whether the insect bit upon being swallowed or the mandible was pushed through by the bird's movements, it was impossible to determine.—MIGUEL ALVAREZ DEL TORO, *Museo de Historia Natural, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, México, March 20, 1949.*

Ground Dove and Black-chinned Sparrow in Southern Nevada.—A single Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) was observed with Mourning Doves at Corn Creek Ranch, Desert Game Range, Clark County, Nevada, on June 27 and again on June 29, 1945, by Fred Wagner of Texas, A. V. S. Pulling, and the writer. The small size, rufous-red flash of the wings and short black tail served to identify the bird to all three observers who were familiar with the species and who saw it at close range. This seems to be the first record of this species for Nevada.

The Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*) was observed in company with House Finches drinking at Cabin Springs in the northern Sheep Mountains of southern Lincoln County during the

first week of July and again on August 3, 1945. Evidently they were nesting in the sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and juniper (*Juniperus utahensis*) areas nearby since one individual was observed carrying insects in its bill. Well known in the general area, this colony seems to provide basis for extension of the breeding range northward into Lincoln County.—ROSS HARDY, *Weber College, Ogden, Utah, February 18, 1949.*

Wood Pewee Pursues Bat.—While camping in mid-August, 1948, in the yellow pine forest (altitude 8500 feet) of the Sheep Mountains of southern Nevada, I was several times surprised to see a small pallid bat flying about in the daytime among the trees at heights of twenty-five to seventy-five feet from the ground. On two occasions, once at mid-morning and once in the early afternoon, a Western Wood Pewee (*Contopus richardsonii*) suddenly dropped from its high look-out perch on the top of a partly dead fir tree and closely pursued the bat for a distance of at least a hundred feet. It is possible that the Wood Pewee was one of a pair which had a nest near and that it chased the bat as a potential intruder, but I could find in its other behavior no direct evidence of nesting. The bat fully sensing the need of escape maneuvered cleverly in zig-zag course and kept the bird from catching up with it. At times the two were no more than six inches apart.—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside College, Riverside, California, May 15, 1949.*

Starlings on Point Reyes Peninsula, Marin County, California.—On February 8, 1949, I observed three flocks of European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) totaling more than 47 birds about the ranch property at the head of Barries Bay, the westernmost arm of Drakes Estero, Marin County, California. On February 13, a trip was made to the same area with Seth Bailey, Howard L. Cogswell and Robert W. Storer. On this later trip we saw more than 50 birds in at least five separate flocks. Three flocks consisted of Starlings, the fourth of Starlings and Western Meadowlarks and the fifth of a dozen or so Starlings among several hundred Brewer Blackbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds. The flocks were scattered from the ranch at the head of Barries Bay south to the Mendoza Ranch on Point Reyes, a distance of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. A hurried survey was made of the rest of the grassland north of Drakes Estero as far as the Pierce Ranch near White Gulch on Tomales Point, but no Starlings were seen north of the Barries Bay area. The east side of Drakes Bay was not visited.

Numerous birds were observed under very favorable conditions at distances of not more than 100 feet, but the local landowners prevented our collecting any birds. Starlings in both first winter and adult plumage were noted.

Starlings were seen in the same area on February 23, by Mrs. Junea W. Kelly of Alameda and on March 1, by Seth Bailey. When Bailey revisited the area on March 6 and March 20, no Starlings were seen.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Richmond, California, April 26, 1949.*

Vagrant Black-billed Magpie in Ventura County, California.—On April 10, 1946, I saw a Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*) eight miles north and three miles west of Piru, Ventura County, California, at an elevation of 4500 feet. The magpie and several ravens were feeding on the month-old carcass of a horse. Two days later the magpie was photographed by Ed N. Harrison of Encinitas, California, as it pecked at the maggot-infested axilla of the carcass. Although vagrancy is common in the Black-billed Magpie, this bird was more than 100 miles south-southwest of the closest published locality of record (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:292). One would not expect an escaped bird to be found in a dry mountainous area of chaparral and rock several miles from the nearest ranch.—CARL B. KOPFORD, *University of California, Berkeley, California, June 6, 1949.*

Fur Seals and Murre Chicks.—Occurrences have been reported of bird remains in fur seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*) stomachs by Huey (*Jour. Mamm.*, 23, 1942:95-96) and by W. A. Clemens, J. L. Hart, and G. V. Wilby (*Analysis of Stomach Contents of Fur Seals Taken off the West Coast of Vancouver Island in April and May, 1935*, publ. by Dept. of Fisheries, Ottawa, Canada, 1936). The following observation, as well as the meager records in the literature, indicate that ordinarily fur seals have little or no inclination to eat birds.

On the afternoon of September 1, 1948, I spent about an hour on the cliffs which are adjacent to Ardiguen fur seal rookery on St. Paul Island, Alaska. A mass of several hundred fur seals loafed in the quiet water about a kelp bed just beyond the light surf that broke at the foot of the cliffs. The