

National Park and Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada. However, not all such meadows were seen and it seems likely that the birds occur in some isolated areas.

The Leconte Sparrow has been recorded from only three counties (Roosevelt, Phillips, and Sheridan) in the eastern part of the state (Hotchkiss, Condor, 50, 1948:274-275). It is reported in the A.O.U. Check-list (1931) as accidental in Idaho, Utah, and Colorado. The original references indicate that these occurrences were probably accidental and do not indicate the possibility of breeding. In Alberta a specimen was observed by Clarke in May, 1930, in the foothills between Calgary and Banff (letter from W. Earl Godfrey, National Museum of Canada). The species occurs regularly in the northern part of Alberta.

It is noteworthy that this species arrived so late in the season at Glacier National Park. One wonders if the species has spread south from northern Alberta and if it retraces in migration its possible ancestral route of dispersion.—DAVID E. DAVIS, *Montana State University Biological Station, Missoula, Montana, October 26, 1951.*

**Inland Record of the White-winged Scoter from California.**—The White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), a winter visitor along the sea coast of California, has been recorded only three times in that state from inland fresh-water localities. These are Lake Tahoe, southwestern Ventura County, and Redlands (Grinnell and Miller, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:89). Only one specimen was taken, that at Lake Tahoe. Thus it is considered well to record that on October 28, 1951, Mr. Louis Cass shot an adult female from an irrigation pond on the Pauba Ranch at Temecula, Riverside County, California. The writer was present and identified the bird, which will probably be mounted and form a part of the collection of ducks which have been found on the ranch.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Los Angeles, California, October 29, 1951.*

**A Second November Nest of the California Thrasher.**—Sargent (Condor, 42, 1940:54) noted adult California Thrashers (*Toxostoma redivivum*) carrying food to a nest at Pasadena, California, between November 8 and 16, 1935. The first of the two young left the nest on November 26. This is the earliest recorded nesting of this species. On November 12, 1951, Miss Helen S. Pratt notified me that she had recovered on that day two deserted nestling California Thrashers from a nest at 2451 Ridgeview Avenue, Los Angeles, California. The smaller of the two had subsequently died. Miss Pratt kindly gave me the dead nestling which I preserved as a formalin specimen. She is raising the other bird, which appeared in excellent condition at the time of my last visit on November 19, 1951.—JOHN DAVIS, *Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, November 20, 1951.*

**Winter Record of the Warbling Vireo in California.**—On December 29, 1951, we were surprised to find a Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley. The bird was foraging a little above our heads in a toyon shrub (*Photinia arbutifolia*) at the edge of a strip of broad-leaf vegetation growing alongside a small stream. It came to within 15 feet of both observers, and its vireonine form and movements together with markings characteristic of this species were so obvious that we felt no doubt whatever of its identity. A Hutton Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*) conveniently appeared close by the Warbling Vireo, affording an easy comparison of the two. Both vireos moved away and became lost in the vegetation, apparently following a flock of juncos (with which the vireos were originally associated).

On December 12, 1951, Keith L. Dixon observed what he believed to be a Warbling Vireo in precisely the same location. This observation was made under similar conditions.

Mr. Chandler S. Robbins has examined the bird-distribution files of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has kindly informed us of previous winter observations of the Warbling Vireo in the United States. All these are sight records, summarized as follows: (Florida: January 7, 1917, Royal Palm Hammock (noted by H. R. Mills, O. E. Baynard and Mrs. Hiram Byrd; reported by Howell, Auk, 38, 1921:261); December 23, 1933, Sarasota (Anne Perkins). (2) Texas: December 25, 1934, Hot Springs, at junction of Tornillo Creek and the Rio Grande River (Mrs. Lovie Whitaker, MS notes); December 23, 1950, Harlingen (L. I. Davis, *et al.*, on Christmas bird count).

Despite the fact that no one has a specimen to back up any of the foregoing records, it seems certain that the species does occasionally winter in the United States. Collection of specimens in winter

is of course desirable and would support this view.—ROBERT A. NORRIS and DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 25, 1952.*

**Wren-tit Attempts Copulation with Begging Fledgling.**—The resemblance between the posture of a begging passerine fledgling and that of an adult female during courtship, has often been noted. Both the begging fledgling and the adult female assume a crouching position accompanied by a fluttering of the wings. The function of the posture in the fledgling is to release the feeding response of the adults. In the female the posture is usually indicative of a readiness to copulate. In many species the male of a pair feeds the crouched, fluttering female. This act of "courtship feeding" has been discussed by Lack (*Auk*, 57, 1940:169-178) and by Armstrong (*Bird Display and Behaviour*, 1947: 43-50). Courtship feeding may precede or accompany copulation.

On June 5, 1951, an adult Wren-tit (*Chamaea fasciata*) accompanied by two begging fledglings came to a feeding tray less than 10 feet from my point of observation. The adult fed each fledgling twice, then mounted one of the crouching, fluttering fledglings in copulatory position. It remained on the fledgling's back for approximately 2 seconds before hopping off to resume feeding the youngsters.

This observation lends support to the belief that the pre-copulatory display of the female in many passerines is truly similar to the begging display of the fledgling. Both postures seem capable of releasing copulatory behavior in the Wren-tit.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *San Jose State College, San Jose, California, January 15, 1952.*

**Tyrannus melancholicus in Marin County, California.**—On October 21, 1951, near Drake's Bay in Marin County, California, my attention was attracted by a large flycatcher flying from a fence post. As it turned and showed a yellow belly, I recognized it as a kingbird; and since it did not have white lateral tail edges, I assumed that it was a Cassin Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), which in itself would be noteworthy at this location. Therefore, without detailed study, the bird was collected; but it proved to be the second specimen taken in California of the Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*. It was a female; and although the skull was completely double-roofed, the lack of any brightly colored crown feathers and of emarginations of the primaries, the extensive buff edges on the wing coverts and smaller ones on the rectrices, and the small ovary all indicate that it was a bird of the year. On the basis of its short length of wing (right, 106.5 mm.; left, 108.3), it seems referable to *T. m. occidentalis*, and it agrees well in coloration with a series of this race in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology except for a few clear yellow feathers mid-ventrally in the yellowish olive-green pectoral band which is also somewhat darkened laterally. Other measurements of this specimen, now M. V. Z. no. 124640, are as follows: tail, 91.4 mm.; exposed culmen, 20.7; bill from nostril, 17.5; and tarsus, 19.9.

This kingbird had apparently been foraging from fence posts at the edge of a long, disked stubble field some 100-150 yards wide which lies between grass- and low, shrub-covered hills. A strip of 20-30 foot red alders and somewhat shorter willow thickets separates the field from the hills on the east, whereas only the road and a few feet of weeds lie between the fence line and the hills on the west. The stomach of this bird was crammed with the hard parts of insects among which the orders Orthoptera (Acrididae), Coleoptera and Hymenoptera were identified. It was moderately fat and weighed 43.6 grams.

Previous casual occurrences of this species northward from its normal range in southern Arizona, southern Texas and tropical America are summarized, and one subspecific identification corrected, by Slipp (*Auk*, 59, 1942:310-312). Noting that the then known far northward vagrant occurrences were all coastwise (3 Pacific, 1 Atlantic), Slipp suggested that "in the juvenile males (and, perhaps in both sexes) of at least two of the named races of this species there is a tendency to wander northward along the ocean coasts in fall and winter." The specimen taken by Russell (*Condor*, 50, 1948:90) in Berkeley, California, on October 1, 1947, also an immature judging from the plumage, and the one here reported are females. On the same date as this Berkeley occurrence, an individual of this species was seen by Gale Monson (*Condor*, 51, 1949:264) on the Arizona-California line above Topock, Arizona. It would seem that northward wandering vagrants of this species might be fairly commonplace in October and November, at least toward the Pacific coast.—HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, November 15, 1951.*