

Notes from Southern California and Baja California, México.—In rechecking specimens and notes at the San Diego Society of Natural History, the following records were found to add to the knowledge of ranges and habits of the species of birds involved.

Passerella iliaca altivagans. Fox Sparrow. A female taken on December 13, 1925, by J. W. Sefton, Jr., and L. M. Huey on the southern end of San Clemente Island, California, represents the second record of occurrence of this race for the island. On the same day another *Passerella* was collected. This specimen proved to be *P. i. unalaschcensis*; however, this race had been previously recorded from the island.

Melospiza melodia morphna. Song Sparrow. When collecting on the desert slope at Yaqui Wells, San Diego County, California, on October 13, 1936, the writer was much surprised to see a large dark Song Sparrow hop to the top of a clump of flat-jointed cactus (*Opuntia*). It proved to be a female of this race and constituted a new southern locality of capture. Upon dissection the entire digestive tract was found to be thoroughly stained red from a diet of the ripe cactus fruit.

Spizella atrogularis cana. Black-chinned Sparrow. A male was collected two miles west of Bonita, San Diego County, California, on December 26, 1940, by the writer. This capture marks the second local winter occurrence for this race. The specimen measures, wing 62.5 mm., tail 66.5, culmen 8.3, and tarsus 18.0. This adult male has the black chin feathers showing in scattered array, indicating the start of the prenuptial molt.

Setophaga ruticilla. American Redstart. On December 23, 1950, Samuel G. Harter brought to me the remains of an adult male redstart he had picked up near the croquet courts at the southwestern corner of Balboa Park. This section is near the center of the city of San Diego, California. The remains were easily identified. In all probability the vagrant redstart had died within a few days of its discovery.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clark Nutcracker. The occurrence of this bird at Spring Valley, San Diego County, California, on November 4, 1950, was observed by Mr. George W. Polk, Jr., who wrote to me regarding its presence. Without question it had been driven from its mountain home by a three-day severe, hot, dry northeast wind. Mr. Polk stated that "The nutcracker was not wild and spent over two hours beneath an avocado tree where a water sprinkler was playing."

Piranga rubra rubra. Summer Tanager. A female of this species was collected at the Beemer ranch seven miles east of Pala, San Diego County, California, on January 9, 1953. For several weeks the bird had been feeding at the feeding station operated by Mr. and Mrs. Beemer, from whom permission to collect it was generously granted in order to authenticate this unusual record.

Corvus corax sinuatus. Raven. Mr. Laurence Saunders, who operates a turkey farm at Hillsdale near El Cajón, California, reported considerable trouble with a pair of ravens that stole turkey eggs. These sagacious birds would even invade the open-doored nest house to secure eggs. In the later afternoon of May 6, 1951, this pair of ravens was seen taking wing from the turkey pen. One of them was carrying an egg in its beak. The ravens flew to an open, recently mown hay field about a quarter of a mile from the turkey pen, where both birds alighted. The egg was placed on the ground at which moment Mr. Saunders shot the raven with a 30 calibre service rifle from a vantage point some 250 yards distance. Upon retrieving the bird, the egg was found to be uninjured and was placed in the regular collection to be sent to the hatchery.

Geothlypis trichas occidentalis. Yellow-throat. A female, brought to me in the flesh, was taken on Guadalupe Island, Baja California, Mexico, on November 12, 1938, by Lewis W. Walker. This capture represents the first record of a Yellow-throat for this remote off-shore island.

Cygnus columbianus. Whistling Swan. A female of this species, brought to the museum to be identified and later donated, was shot at La Paz, Baja California, México, on November 4, 1950. It was killed by a hunter who desired to remain unidentified. This marks an extreme southern record for this swan which had not hitherto been recorded south of the Sierra Juárez in the northernmost section of the peninsula.

Elanus leucurus majusculus. White-tailed Kite. About mid-morning, on August 27, 1953, while collecting at Laguna Santa Maria near San Quintín, Baja California, México, an adult White-tailed Kite was watched for almost half an hour while it coursed the brackish marsh, hunting. Several times the beautiful bird came within close gun range, so close in fact, that the yellow feet were plainly visible. It was not molested. The kite was working the marsh in search of meadow mice (*Microtus*), which were abundant. Rising to perhaps a hundred feet in the air, it would hover with fairly rapid wing beats, searching the ground below; then setting its wings in an upward "V" it would drop its feet,

hang its head downward with its eyes evidently on prospective prey, and descend rather slowly almost to the ground. Here it would hover searching further for its prey. While descending, the extended feet and head would swing to and fro. The tail, which was held almost straight in line with the body, was spread and contracted, balancing the rather slowly falling kite. This performance reminded me of the descent of a helicopter. During several such pursuit drops the kite did not make a food capture.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, July 27, 1953.*

Food of the Long-eared Owl in Southern Washoe County, Nevada.—On March 5, 1953, a pair of adult Long-eared Owls (*Asio wilsonianus*) was found roosting in a single-needle piñon at 4800 feet in the foothills of the Virginia Range, 11 miles southeast of Reno, Washoe County, Nevada. Subsequent visits to the locality were made on March 26, April 30, and May 21, 1953. Two birds, an adult and one volant young judged to be about five weeks old, were present on the latter date near an old magpie nest. On the last three trips to the area I gathered 131 pellets from the ground beneath several piñon trees in the vicinity. Because most of the pellets had been protected from the weather by thick piñon cover, the majority of the skulls they contained were well preserved. An analysis of the contents of these pellets follows. Each item listed was represented by a complete skull or by a recognizable skull fragment.

	Number of items	Per cent of total
Pocket Mouse, <i>Perognathus parvus</i>	18	15.80
Kangaroo Rat, <i>Dipodomys panamintinus</i>	18	15.80
Pocket Gopher, <i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	2	1.75
<i>Thomomys</i> sp.	3	2.64
Harvest Mouse, <i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	15	13.16
Deer Mouse, <i>Peromyscus (maniculatus?)</i>	21	18.40
Meadow Mouse, <i>Microtus montanus</i>	34	29.82
Jackrabbit, <i>Lepus californicus</i>	2	1.75
Western Meadowlark, <i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	1	.88
Total	114	100.00

All of the *Dipodomys* skulls and all but one of the *Perognathus* skulls were identified to species on the basis of geographic range. Rabbit remains were frequent beneath scattered piñons in the area, but I could find only two skulls, neither of which was contained in a pellet.

The locality is situated at the ecotone of the piñon-juniper-sagebrush-grass zones, and is approximately one-half mile from the nearest meadowland. Thus it is interesting to compare the percentage of prey animals of moist, grassy environments (harvest and meadow mice, pocket gophers, and meadowlarks), which totals 48.25, to that of the remaining species of normally dry habitat which totals 51.75. Although the owls roosted in the piñon, about half of the feeding was apparently done in the meadowland area one-half mile distant. Groves of large cottonwoods and willow thickets near the moist area would seem to be suitable for both roosting and nesting of these owls, although no signs of such activity have been noted there.—NED K. JOHNSON, *University of Nevada Museum of Biology, Reno, Nevada, July 19, 1953.*

Falcated Teal at San Francisco, California.—On May 5, 1953, I found a strange duck on Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California. Robert T. Orr, Sandy Sprunt, and I later identified it as a Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*). It had previously been seen on Metson Lake in the park on April 5, by A. Laurence Curl. The bird remained on Stow Lake until May 20 or 21.

There have been at least three records of *Anas falcata* in North America (Hanna, Auk, 37, 1920: 250; Brooks, Condor, 44, 1942:33; Wilson, Condor, 50, 1948:127). It is native to eastern Asia. The possibility that the bird at Stow Lake was an escaped bird or a descendant of an escaped bird is good, as the species has been introduced frequently.—JOEL T. HEDGPETH, *San Francisco, California, July 21, 1953.*

The Prothonotary Warbler in California.—On May 25, 1953, the senior author picked up a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) on the grounds of Dial House, 505B E. Los Olivos, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California. The bird was an adult male with the testes enlarged to breeding size. Mr. Egmont Rett of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History confirmed our