

on Indian Creek at 7400 feet, Esmeralda County, on May 31 and June 1, and on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, at 6750 to 8200 feet on June 12 and 15. Similar occurrences were previously known for the Grapevine Mountains to the southeast.

Junco caniceps caniceps. Gray-headed Junco. This form of junco was unexpectedly well represented and several were taken that lacked any hybrid features involving *Junco oregonus thurberi*. The latter was of course common. A considerable introgression of the two types is taking place here which may more appropriately be analyzed later when additional data are obtained.

The results of the further exploration of the White Mountains here reported add seven boreal species as probable or certain summer residents of the Great Basin mountain province of California that also occur in the Sierra Nevada. This has the effect of reducing the faunal difference score (see Miller, 1951, *op. cit.*:587-588) between the two boreal areas from 51 to 44. This alteration in value still leaves the Great Basin mountain province of California highly distinct from related provinces to the west and the comments offered earlier (*op. cit.*) concerning this situation are still appropriate.—ALDEN H. MILLER, and WARD C. RUSSELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 9, 1955.*

Observations on Red Crossbills in Marin County, California.—In the spring and early summer of 1954, Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) were observed approximately two miles northwest of Inverness, Marin County, California. The area, known as Inverness Ridge, is covered predominantly with Bishop Pine (*Pinus muricata*) and is about 600 feet above sea level. The birds were first seen on March 15 when a flock of at least five individuals was flushed from several points on the ridge. Other dates of occurrence and numbers seen were as follows: April 11, 5; April 20-24, 6; April 29, flock; May 2, flock; May 13-14, 18; May 16, 25; May 22, flock; May 31, 40; June 11, 30. From these records it would appear that the number of individuals on the ridge increased as the season progressed.

While feeding, the crossbills were quiet as usual and difficult to locate and observe, but on three occasions we were able to watch their foraging activities. At no time were they seen foraging on ovulate cones but always on or near staminate cones toward the tops of the trees. Indeed, several of the birds that were collected had their bills covered with pollen. The stomach contents of nine birds consisted of minute insect remains, insect eggs, and grit. From the mouth and esophagus of four birds were taken numerous larvae of a sawfly, *Xyela* sp. (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae). This identification was made by Dr. B. D. Burks, Entomology Research Branch, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Nine specimens were collected, four on May 31 and five on June 11. The testes of six males ranged from 2.0 to 4.0 mm. in length and follicles in the ovaries of the three females included were in no instance greater than 1 mm., indicating that the crossbills were not breeding in this locality. Males averaged 41.2 gm. in weight; females, 37.5. All were adults on the basis of skull ossification and showed varying amounts of fat. There was no noticeable molt among any of the specimens except for two males that were molting a few crown feathers. The specimens have been identified as *L. c. grinnelli* by Alden H. Miller and have been deposited as skins in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

There are three previous records of this species at Nicasio, Marin County: specimens of the race *sitkensis* taken on October 28, 1878, and on February 21, 1909, and specimens of *grinnelli* taken on March 5, 1895.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Department of Biology, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia*, and ROBERT A. NORRIS, *Aiken, South Carolina, September 16, 1955.*

Eggs of the California Quail in the Nest of a Spotted Towhee.—On April 22, 1950, near Eagle Rock, California, Elvirita Bleitz, Loren Whitelock, Henry Isham and I found the nest of a Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) on the ground in a tangle of wild raspberry bushes. The nest contained four young about three days old and two unhatched eggs of the California Quail (*Lophortyx californicus*). The eggs were fertile and well incubated. On April 28 I returned and found that a riding horse had died nearby and that in the disturbance of hauling it away the nest had been de-