

BIRDS OF THE CAMPUS

University of California

Los Angeles

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
BERKELEY AND LOS ANGELES

1947

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYLLABUS SERIES

No. 300

ISSUED MAY, 1947

Price, 60c

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
BERKELEY AND LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON, ENGLAND

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

BIRDS OF THE CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES

A DOMINANT RACE crowds into new territory, declares itself the new occupant, and possesses the land. So it has been throughout history, and while we may glory in achievement, we inevitably regret some of its consequences.

Such is progress, and progress we must have. None of us would turn back, but the occasional backward look is essential to an appreciation of the present position, and at least a partial adjustment for the future. My own major contributions to human knowledge have been in the study of fossils, but the excuse for such effort is in its clarification of the present and its forewarning for the future. The background of the present and the bulwark of the future is the *past*. Since this is a record of the earliest bird occupants of our campus, it necessarily combines some history with census taking. For the sake of this history, the bridge, now only a balustraded roadway lying east of the main quadrangle, and the arroyo it traversed, now only a dirt fill, as well as other natural features of the landscape going or doomed to go, are recorded in the text.

The "dominant race" has moved into new territory at Westwood and is fighting its way to a settled status. We are pioneers and call ourselves the firstcomers. Are we really first? If not, whom do we displace? Who remain as our neighbors? How long will they remain neighborly? How long will they survive?

The biologist is interested in the small folk of our campus, the shy folk, the wild folk. Who are they that are here now and whose lives are disturbed by our coming?

Yesterday a dragonfly visited my lecture room where two hundred and fifty humans were seated. It flitted about quite at home in the airy, well-lighted theater. A large expanse of green cork carpet intervened between my lecture desk and the steep-banked tiers of opera chairs. The creature seemed to find this green expanse suggestive of a quiet, stagnant pool, and while we all looked on, it dipped down time after time, touching the tip of its abdomen to the green surface in an effort to lay eggs therein. My dissertation on fossils was suspended, and we watched the performance until the poor, confused dragonfly, a firstcomer, had decided this strange green pond was not of the ordinary type and zoomed up to the windows fifteen feet above. We newcomers had confused an

oldtimer, and a class in paleontology watched the conflict of the two races. Some day our artificial lily ponds will offer a more suitable place for a dragonfly's eggs, and her tribe will increase.

At the formal dedication of the new site in 1926 we "spied out the land" *en masse*. There was nothing upon it but weeds and dust and chaparral and glowing hopes and glowing hopefuls and dignified officials (and still others of the firstcomers). As the Governor of the State and the President of the University stood together on a rude platform with other dignitaries behind them, we, standing below in the sun and dust, sensed a shadow pass swiftly overhead and looked up just in time to see a Prairie Falcon bowling across the newly consecrated brown mesa that by the magic of words just spoken had become a university campus. That sturdy winged hunter was about to be dispossessed of his hereditary hunting fields. He puts up with no refinements nor with too close neighbors. He is an ace of great open spaces and the invasion is not to his liking. He may play a gallant Robin Hood part about our borders for a period, but he will soon leave for less crowded territory.

Not so his small cousin the Sparrow Hawk. If ever a hawk had charm and neighborliness, it is he. Early trips to the campus always discovered him there, and the great clatter and dust and swirl of the mighty building operations worried him not at all. My first trip across the bridge this fall, two weeks ahead of the student rush, discovered him posted on the electric wire strung across the ravine within speaking distance, and still he is here now that the stream of eddying students is at flood level. He is an adaptable little chap, and as I view certain tempting ventilator holes in the brick cliffs above the biology roof garden, I can readily vision one or more of them serving soon as nesting sites for these spicy little spads.

The whole Alumni Council of greater California met with us last spring and visited the new campus just after a delightful air-washing shower. From the steps of Royce Hall we looked out across the campus to the ocean and could see the little mile-square island of Santa Barbara fifty miles out to sea. All about us over the nearer fields, that crystal air was electric with sparkling songs of meadowlarks. If ever sound could have color, the meadowlark's song would be a whole rainbow.

Horned larks tilted and teetered on the wing high above us as though hung from the sky dome by invisible threads, to sing and sing till their ecstasy burned away the threads and let them drift back to earth. Like the prairie falcon, they will not stay. They are shy folk, and they demand room. As the "dominant race" multiplies, they will slip quietly into history.

Must all the first people go? Will not some of them adjust themselves? Can we not live peaceably with them and they with us?

The first folk are a sensitive folk in the main, and before long they will begin to feel the presence of the new influence. Our brown, rolling slopes will soon be clothed in shrubbery and trees—a mesa will be converted into an artificial wood. Our brushy canyons are already being disturbed by paths, clearings, or dumpings from dirt trucks. The open glade that was once a sagey wash, bordered by weed patches and alive with sparrows, is now a leveled series of gridirons surrounded by hurrying students and closely parked automobiles. What is a poor sparrow to do for a brush tangle when there is such a tangle of duco, pantasote, and cylinder oil? He must move on. What is a stubble-loving lark to do when favorite stubble is cluttered up with ornamental planting? On our old campus, the meadowlarks used to nest in the wild oats that grew back of Millspaugh Hall. Now a well-clipped lawn and gracefully placed trees under the guidance of Professor Older and the Scotch thoroughness of "Alec" have replaced the friendly grasses, and meadowlarks no longer sing from the cupola of Hillspaugh Hall.

But am I looking too much for those that will pass? Will not others come? I remember well the first Hermit Thrush that came to our old campus. He came only when shrubbery to suit his hermit shyness offered the proper concealment and he dropped down into the thick *Pittosporum* in front of "Home Ec." He was a lonely chap, too, for when I stepped out on the Science balcony and whistled an answer, he came bowling across the open lawn, a daring thing for a hermit to do, and plunged into the *Abelia* just below me and called and called. I remember we had no Blue Jays on the campus until the live oaks planted along the driveway from Vermont Avenue got to the acorn-bearing stage. Blue Jays just must have their acorns to crack.

One early dawn, a California Eared Grebe mistook our dew-covered lawn in the quadrangle for a green pond and dropped down from his heavy migration flight to rest. He could not rise without splashing along the surface, but the splashing is poor on the grass, and he was tired. We went out and picked him up and put him into the lily pond in the circle, where he rested, diving and splashing and chasing the goldfish all day. The rest, and no doubt the several goldfish, put him back to normal, and he "took off" some time that night for the next lap. Song Sparrows came to the shrubbery. Phobes built under the eaves, even Pine Siskins spent weeks about our small conifers, and Townsend Warblers came from the Canadian forests.

It is not necessarily a pathetic picture. No! Far from it. Some will go, it is true, and we shall miss them, but others will come. Paleontology teaches us that such is the law of nature. Dinosaurs had to pass. Marsupials gave way. Amblypods, Titanotheres, Creodonts, Sabertooths, passed in orderly array, each to be succeeded by some other and more adaptable form. There is at first a pathos in their passing, but that feeling is succeeded by one of greater cheer.

Was there regret at leaving the Vermont Campus? Some of us had worked there happily, and seen fruits come to our planting. Now we come to brown hills and weedy mesas, to dusty walks and crowded confusion of incompleteness. But who is there to look back like Lot's wife with a backward longing? We must turn under the wild flower to break sod for a home. In the process we sacrifice the meadowlark, but we gain a song sparrow. The naturalist may wince at the ruthless surgery of progress, but after all I am a humanist, and if we cannot grow good human ideals upon this fresh-turned sod, there is something wrong with the seed, and the "first folk" will have passed in vain.

The seed is good, and I, for one, am confidently "facing west."

AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS

It is now fifteen years since the foregoing sketch was written. What is the picture as the homecoming alumnus sees it today? Have those anticipated changes taken place? Yes, the Horned Larks are gone, but the Song Sparrows and the joyful White-crowns have moved right up to the steps of Royce Hall and the Library. Yes, the Prairie Falcon seems to have reacted like Jim Bridger or Davy Crockett and sought a hunting ground that is "less cluttered up with folks."

The tule patches and the mud bars of lower Stone Canyon have disappeared since the subsurface tunnel replaced the natural stream bed. The long bill of Wilson's Snipe can't probe for mud-dwelling worms on top of a concrete storm drain, so "Jack" Snipe passes on by, without stopping for "a spot o' tea and gossip." Fortunately, the little Yellow-throat, whom I could always find when I called at his home in the tule patch, has found a place to his liking in the man-made thicket of bamboo by the lily pond in the Botany Garden.

The formerly dry arroyo has been invaded by artificial plantings under the influence of overhead sprinkler systems, and native willows have become established along its once dry bottom. This has created a small housing project of furnished accommodations that has already attracted some of the warblers and should in time prove homelike for at least two

species of Vireos. Wren-tits and Spotted Towhees have moved down from the hills into the artificial chaparral along the arroyo and California Jays have become almost a domesticated species about the picnic grounds above the bridge. The friendly Sparrow Hawks have proven as sociable as we had hoped. They nest in several places about the buildings. Even the Great Horned Owl has taken to roosting in Royce Hall towers despite the "Big Ben" chimes that sound off each hour of the twenty-four. It is no "ivy-mantled tower," either.

The Road-runners have been something of a surprise to me by displaying a high degree of adaptability. They seem to like us and their tribe has definitely increased since we came. I watched one from my office window one day as he trotted along the concrete driveway, hopped onto the radiator of a parked car—up over the top to pause and swing his long tail—then down off the back end to continue his tour of inspection. One of them jumped up to the north rail of the bridge one morning this spring in answer to my call from the south walk. We paralleled each other—stop and go, stop and go, all the way across—talking back and forth all the time. They nest in the tangled vines of the lath house in the Botany Garden. Their peculiar "double-ended" tracks are registered in the "Dust Bowl" parking area south of Physics-Biology. In fact, the Road-runner has become quite a campus character, and well merits his Spanish name *Paisano* or Countryman.

Quail have definitely increased in numbers, owing perhaps to the more frequent sources of available water which seems favorable to the development of their button-ball chicks. Those peculiar dry-land water birds, the Killdeers, are everywhere about the lawns and parking lots. Day or night, summer or winter, their positive color pattern and their even more striking voices catch the attention at all times. They nest in the graveled parking lot literally under the bumpers of the angle-parked cars, then they scream and flutter in simulated agony when a mere human intrudes upon their domain. But they are delightfully foolish folk.

It seems to take nearly a thousand Brewer's Blackbirds to properly "worm" the lawns of the esplanade and they are almost too busy to move out of the way as 'tween classes young humans eddy back and forth almost as busily. Both students and birds combine into a pleasing animated picture as I look out from my office window.

Yes, the campus is very much alive. The dominant race has increased enormously, but the "first folk" have not been too greatly disturbed. Bunnies and Jack Rabbits skitter across the beam of your headlights if you drive in the back way at night, and a mother doe even brought

her young fawn down from the hills and across Sunset Boulevard to spend quite a season about the head of the arroyo near the President's house.

The increase in available water, the planting of cover, and the increase of berry-bearing shrubs that extend the food supply over a greater part of the year—all have contributed to an increase of the total population in spite of the loss of certain supersensitive species.

Miss Dorothy Groner of the Audubon Society and the Cooper Ornithological Club was good enough to give me the results of her bird count of January 30, 1944. She was on continuous duty from 8:30 till 5:30 on a drippy, drizzly sort of day, but she checked up forty-three species and a total of 1,571 individual birds.

A word or two now for the serious layman who wants to get better acquainted with the campus birds. We have here a goodly variety of terrain or habitat types within our borders, and some species of birds may be very strictly limited thereby. Others, however, seem to be quite independent of such restriction. California Woodpeckers are closely confined to the oaks and sycamores west of the President's house, while Mockingbirds and Linnets may be found anywhere. Meadowlarks like the open spaces along the south axis, but Wren-tits and Spotted Towhees keep pretty close to the underbrush of the arroyo. Get acquainted with these different areas and you will enjoy learning to know "Who's Who" at any part of the campus. You will find too that a certain individual bird may have "laid claim" to a definite small area, perhaps including a particular tree where you will see him from day to day at a given hour. You can call on him almost by appointment, as it were.

Then of course there's the great factor of the seasons. The almanac of the birds is almost as definite as that of the sun and each species responds to the season in its own way. One species will travel thousands of miles each year in response to that irresistible urge to migrate, while his very close kinsman may lack the impulse entirely.

With respect to our southern California coastal area, then, the species may be recognized as resident (R), summer (S), winter (W), transient (T), or wanderer (V). In the campus list included below, these initial letters will assist you in judging when to look for your bird friend. I always listen with pleasurable anticipation for the first notes of the friendly White-crowns in the last week of September. During forty years they have not failed me if I myself have been on the alert.

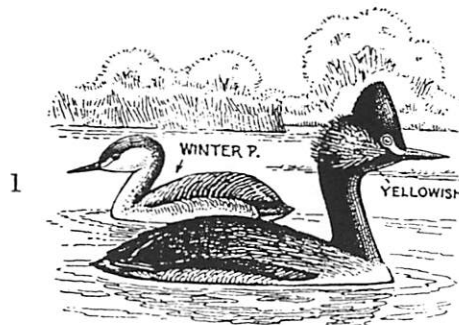
L. M.

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS
SEEN ON THE CAMPUS
DURING THE YEARS 1929 TO 1944

- (R) Resident
 (T) Transient in migration
 (V) Accidental Straggler
- (S) Summer bird
 (W) Winter bird

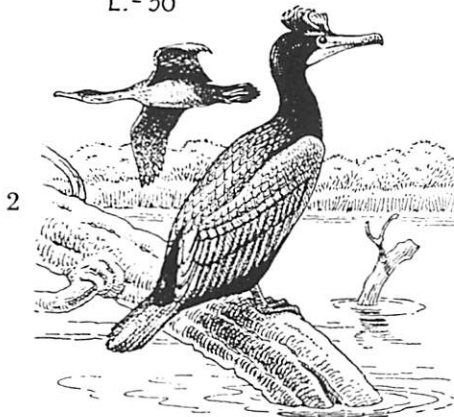
Where two letters are used, the first indicates the status for southern California. The second indicates the status for the campus area.

L-12-14



1. California Eared Grebe, *Colymbus nigricollis californicus* (W) (V)
 Single record, a freshly dead bird picked up, May 13, 1930.

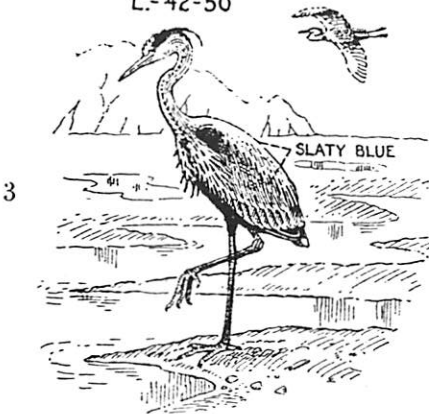
L-30



2. Farallon Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus* (R) (V)

Three species of Cormorant are found along our coast, but only one of them comes inland to fresh-water bodies. Therefore the solitary cormorant reported by Miss Dorothy Groner as flying overhead toward the reservoir north of Sunset Boulevard is confidently recorded as of this species. The date was February 27, 1944.

L-42-50



3. Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias* (R) (V)

Two records of wanderers, 1937 and 1940.

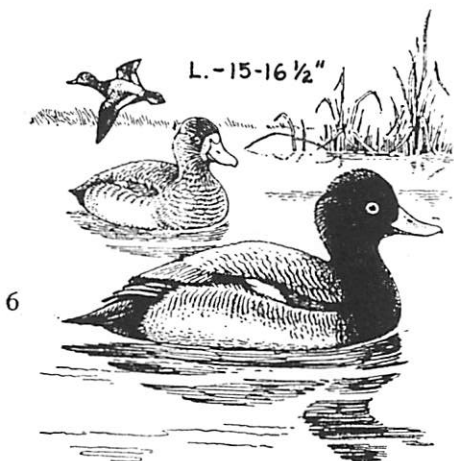


4. Anthony's Green Heron. *Butorides virescens anthony* (S) (T)

Twice seen along Stone Canyon stream, August 6, 1934, and April 21, 1941.

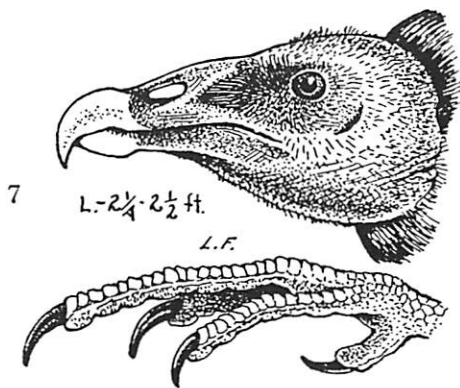
5. White-fronted Goose. *Anser albifrons* (W) (V)

Once seen flying over Esplanade calling loudly, November 4, 1932.



6. Lesser Scaup Duck. *Nyroca affinis* (W) (V)

Two records. On December 1, 1929, Jos. Ewan saw a small flock crossing the lower campus toward the pond north of Sunset Boulevard. He watched them on the pond for a while. On February 6, 1938, a disabled female specimen was picked up in the Botany Garden.

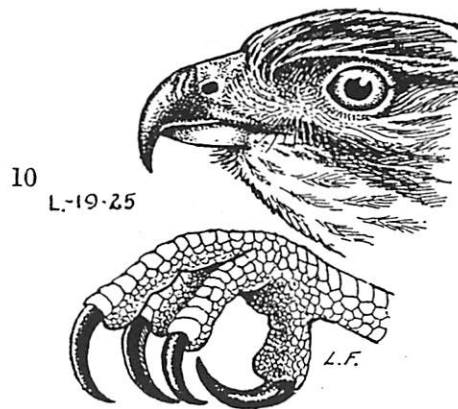


7. Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura* (R) (W)

Numerous records. Sailing lazily over the campus at various times during the building activity. Seen similarly at intervals since then: February 2, 1930; April 1, 1931; April, 1942; September 13, 1943.

8. Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter velox* (W)

A splendid specimen in high plumage flew up the Arroyo at 8:30 A.M., February 26, 1930. A bird of the year was seen from my office window over the Arroyo, February 12, 1940. This species and the next will probably increase with the growth of shrubbery.

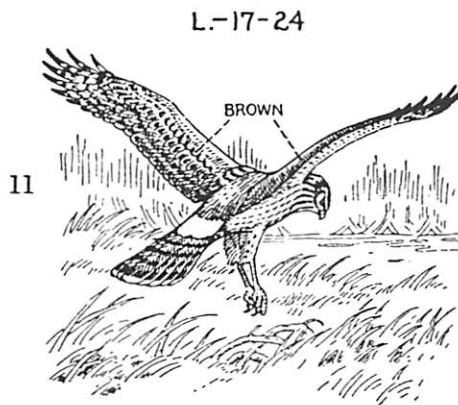


9. Cooper's Hawk. *Accipiter cooperi* (R) (W)

Quite a number of records at various times of the year except April to August. Breeding birds from the Santa Monica Mountains and northward wander down by September.

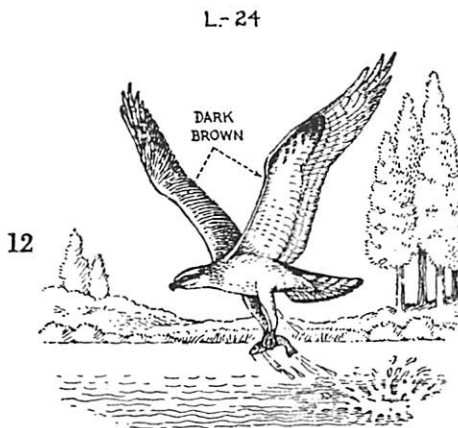
10. Western Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo borealis calurus* (R) (W)

The only large soaring hawk that is likely to occur on the campus. Several records up to 1940. It will doubtless decrease with settlement of the Westwood area.



11. Marsh Hawk, *Circus hudsonius* (R) (W)

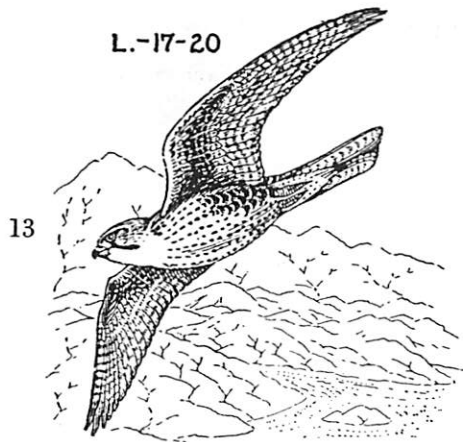
Three records of this open-country species over the south axis and Faculty Ridge, 1934, 1935.



12. Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis* (S) (V)

The Osprey used to nest along our coast and on the islands, but it is now only a wanderer. Twice reported from the campus: June 18, 1935; September 15, 1943.

L.-17-20



13

13. Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus* (R)
(V)

At the ceremony dedicating this campus one flew over the grandstand, October 25, 1926. Seen again January 1, 1931, flying low over the Esplanade, probably his last visit.

14. Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius* (R)

A common campus bird which doubtless nested in sycamore stubs before our coming and now nests about the buildings—especially the northwest face of the Chemistry Building.

L.-10"



15

15. California Quail, *Lophortyx californica* (R)

Coveys of quail were located at several places when we arrived, particularly on Faculty Ridge and in Stone Canyon and the Arroyo. They seem to be increasing in numbers. Spring calling by the cocks begins late in March (11th, 20th, 22d, 24th) and may continue into June.

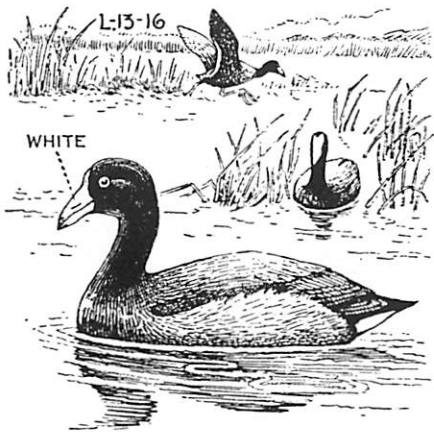
16. Sora Rail, *Porzana carolina* (R) (V)

Two records of dead birds picked up in early fall (September 24, October 4). They are resident in California but not on the campus. These birds had doubtless come from farther north and were crossing the campus as transients, like the Eared Grebe (No. 1) and the Coot (No. 17).

17. American Coot, *Fulica americana* (R)
(V)

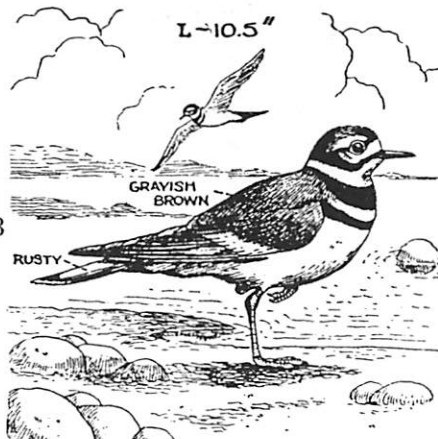
One record. An injured bird picked up on the lower campus by Dr. Cowles. (See No. 16.)

L.-15-16



17

L.-10.5"



18

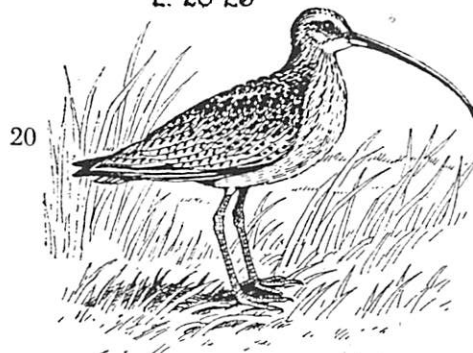
18. Killdeer, *Oryzochus vociferus* (R)

A very common species that has made itself very much at home on the Esplanade. One of the few species you may meet either day or night at any season.

19. Wilson's Snipe, *Capella delicata* (T)

Three records: March 8, 1933; November 21, 1936; March 11, 1937. They were all found on mud bars along Stone Canyon stream. Not seen since the stream was "controlled."

L.-20-26

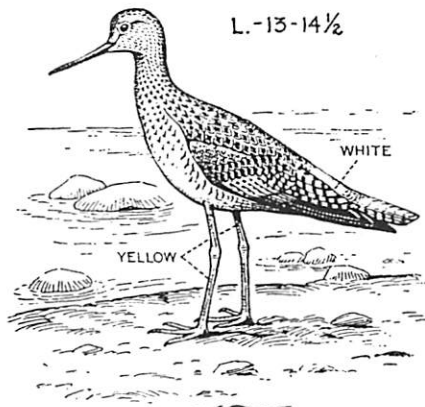


20

20. Long-billed Curlew, *Numenius americanus* (T) (V)

One record, May 9, 1939. A single bird flying low over the Botany Garden, reported by W. E. Pequegnat.

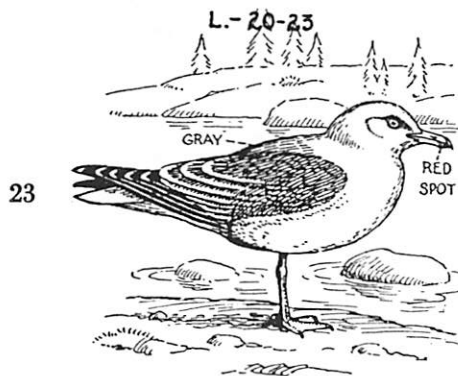
L.-13-14½



21

21. Greater Yellow-legs, *Totanus melanoleucus* (T)

Two records. Roland Ross observed a single bird flying over the campus from Bel-Air Reservoir, September 27, 1929. Two birds were seen on October 14, 1931. Both times, the birds were in southward migration.

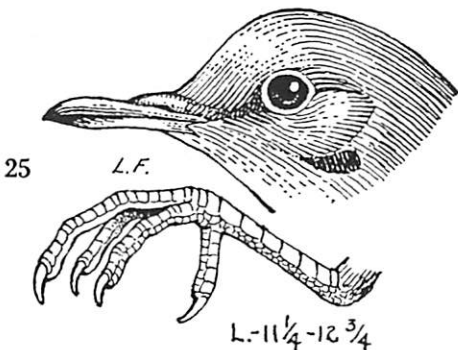
22. Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens* (W)23. California Gull, *Larus californicus* (W)

L.-18-20

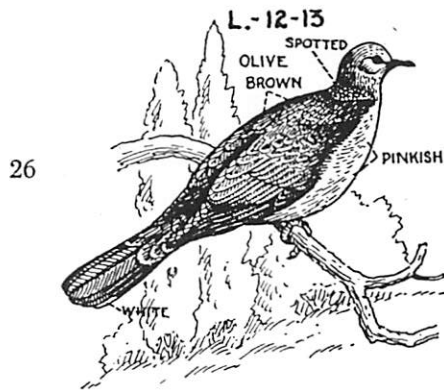
24. Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis* (W)

All three species have been positively identified on the campus, but it is extremely hard to distinguish the young in mixed flocks since it takes three years to attain the full adult plumage of pure white body and tail with light gray back and wings.

The Gulls come inland in fall and winter quite *independently* of weather conditions in southern California. They may sit about sunning themselves in large groups on the ball fields or they may appear in flight anywhere else. On a windy day they play in towering spirals high over the Esplanade like bits of white paper against the blue or the gray.

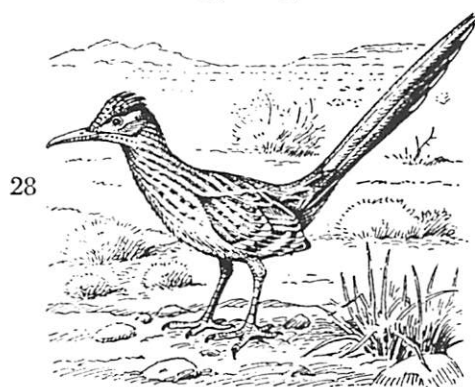
25. Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura marginella* (R)

The doves were here before us and seem not greatly disturbed by our coming. On the lower ball field (January 30, 1944) Miss Dorothy Groner counted 370 birds feeding in two flocks. Their spring song may be heard as early as February 21, but usually a bit later. A nest was built beside the south door of PB one year.

26. Chinese Spotted Dove, *Spilopelia chinensis* (R)

This Asiatic species was liberated in the western part of the city more than twenty years ago and has become well established over much of southern California. It was first heard on the campus in 1938, but it has not yet become common.

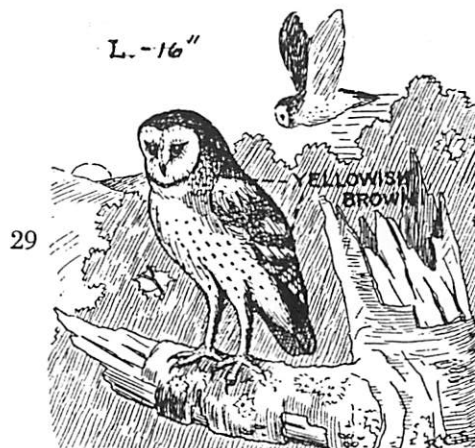
L.-20-24

27. Domestic Pigeon, *Columba livia* (R)

These "cliff-dweller" birds very soon adopted the campus buildings as a good substitute for the rocky cliffs of their Old World habitat.

28. Road-runner, *Geococcyx californianus* (R)

This species appears to have profited by our coming and increased in numbers along the Arroyo. To it, as to the quail, an added water supply seems to appeal.

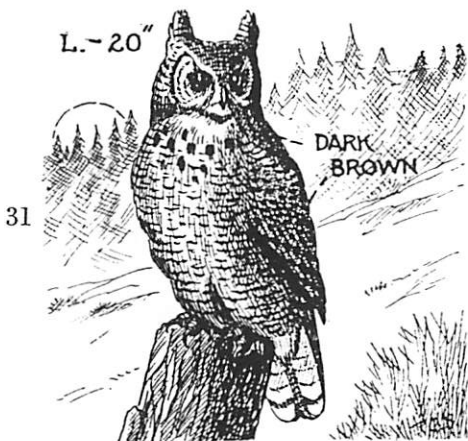
29. Barn Owl, *Tyto alba pratincola* (R)

These owls raised young behind the grillwork over the north door of the Library until the opening was blocked by the janitors. The Chemistry Building also offered sanctuary. They will probably remain with us for many years.



30. Pasadena Screech Owl, *Otus asio quercinus* (R)

There are several records from the oak groves near the President's house. One bird came down the ventilator into a fume hood in the Home Economics Lab.

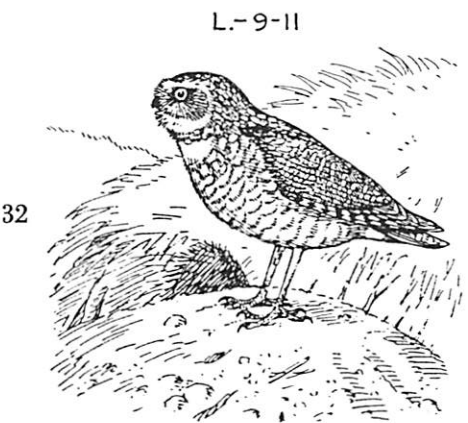


31. Pacific Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus pacificus* (R) (W)

Ever since our arrival, the night shift of janitors (and students) have, on occasion, reported this owl "hooting" from the towers of Royce Hall. Miss Dorothy Groner saw it by day in the tower. Dr. Cowles repeatedly found it about the head of the Arroyo (August, 1942), and an adult female was picked up October 28, 1942.

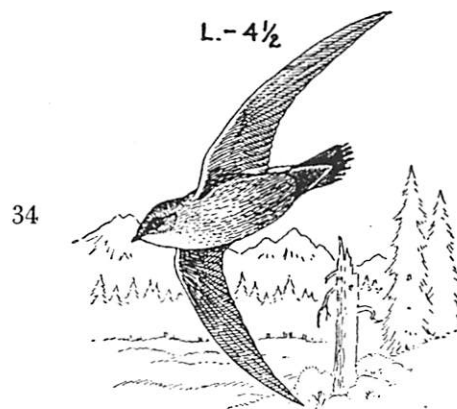
32. Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea* (R)

These little owls occupied burrows along the ridge south of the Esplanade when we moved out here, but the species has become very rare in more recent years.



33. Texas Nighthawk, *Cordeules acutipennis texensis* (S)

A single bird was "hawking" about the bridge and parking lot at 7:40 A.M. on August 1, 1930. The birds used to nest in Tujung Wash. This one was perhaps drifting south from the San Fernando Valley.



34. Veaux's Swift, *Chaetura vauxi* (T)

Twice recorded on the campus: May 8, 1930, and May 5, 1932. Both visits occurred in cloudy weather. During fifty years' acquaintance with this species, I have come to recognize what I call "swift weather" during early May. The birds then fly low to the ground, perhaps brought down from higher air strata by storm conditions.

35. White-throated Swift, *Aëronautes saxatilis* (R) (W)

A pair seemed to be prospecting a possible nest site on the south face of PB, June 1, 1931. They nest in Topanga Canyon and have nested in Capistrano Mission. Some day they may nest in our walls.

36. Black-chinned Hummingbird, *Archilochus alexandri* (S)

A not uncommon summer nester about the willows and sycamores of the campus. It arrives about mid-April, as a rule.

37. Costa's Hummingbird, *Calypte costae* (S)

This hummer arrives a month earlier than the Black-chin and prefers the dryer sage-covered areas along the Arroyo. The July blossoms of agaves in the Botany Garden attract any hummer that is on the campus.

38. Anna's Hummingbird, *Calypte anna* (R)

Our only resident hummer and our most abundant. They will begin mating in mid-winter, the nuptial flight performance being recorded December 6, 1929; December 11, 1941; December 27, 1942. Fully fledged young were found March 30, 1933.

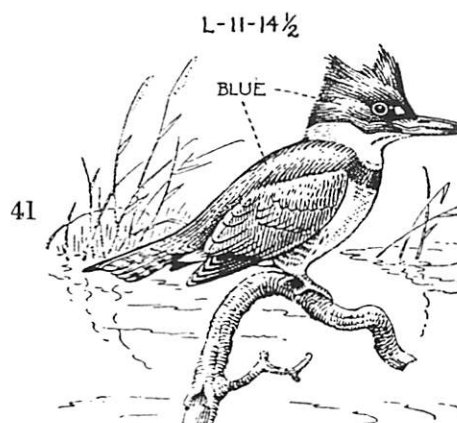
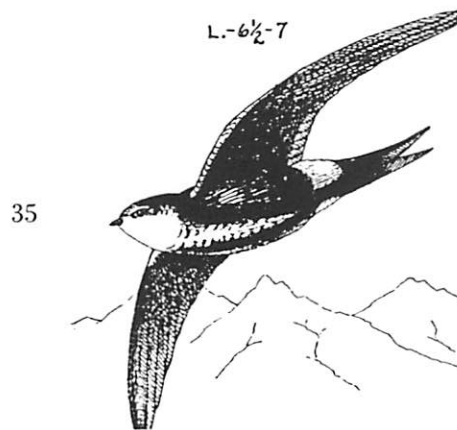
39. Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus* (T)

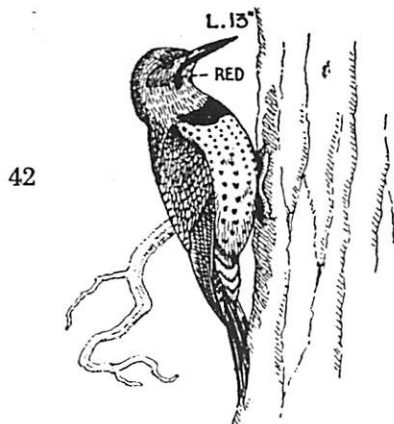
40. Allen's Hummingbird, *Selasphorus aleni* (T)

These two hummers are too closely alike to be distinguished except in the hand, but Allen's hummer passes through a month or more the earlier (February or March). *Rufus* doesn't arrive until April. They are to be looked for in spring about the Wild Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) or the blossoming agaves in the Botany Garden, on their way south in July.

41. Belted Kingfisher, *Megaceryle alcyon caurina* (R) (W)

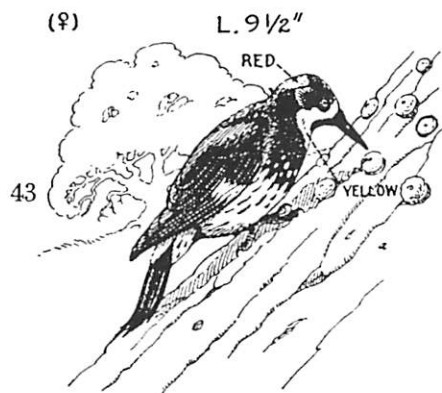
One record only (August 31, 1942). Dr. Cowles and his class saw it in the sycamores along Stone Canyon Creek.





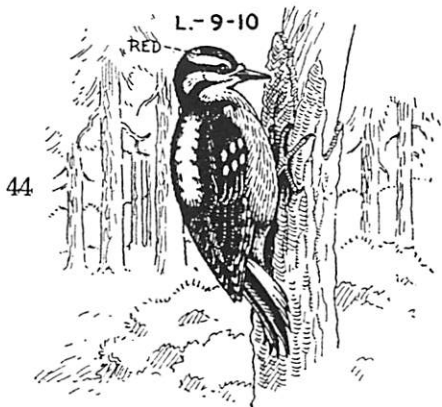
42. Red-shafted Flicker, *Colaptes cafer collaris* (R)

The Flicker has been a common bird of the campus at all times, though its numbers increase during the winter. Nesting sites on the campus are few at present, but the increased population immediately after nesting time surges quickly into the campus area.



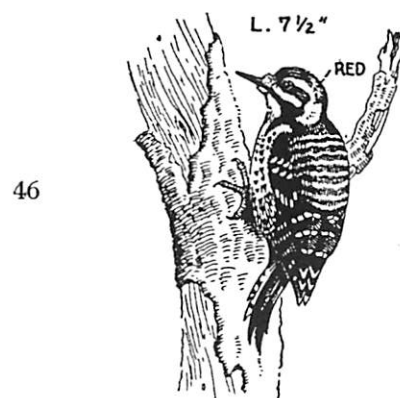
43. California Woodpecker, *Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi* (R)

This colonial woodpecker is one of the most strictly localized of our birds. The oaks and sycamores of Stone Canyon have sheltered a colony for uncounted years. They have been seen coming for water at a hydrant in the upper end of the Arroyo.



44. Cabanis's Woodpecker, *Dryobates villosus hyloscopus* (R)

One record (February 28, 1930), in the willows above the Women's Gym.

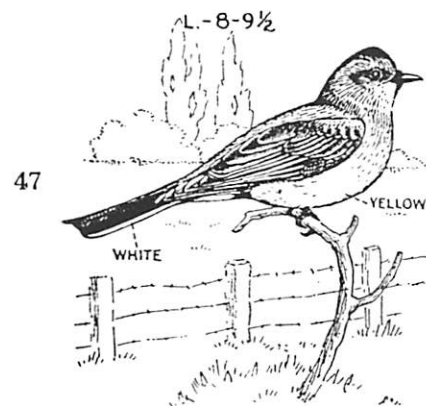


45. Willow Woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens turatii* (R)

This, our tiniest woodpecker, nests in willows along the Stone Canyon bed and should move into the willows that are developing in the Arroyo. It is fairly abundant.

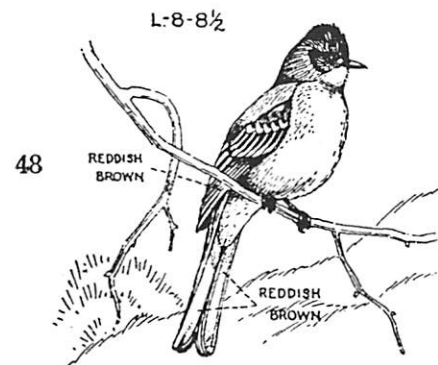
46. Nuttall's Woodpecker, *Dryobates nuttalli* (R)

Much less common than the Willow Woodpecker but of much the same habit. Noted along the Arroyo (April 23, 1940).



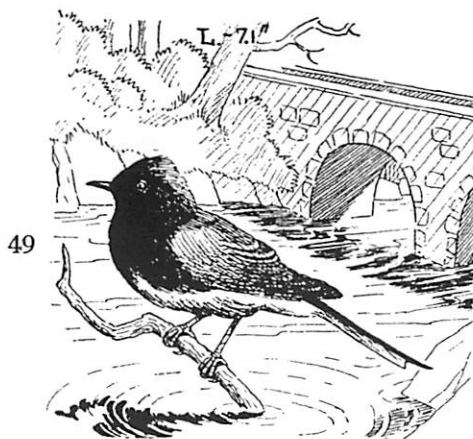
47. Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis* (S)

Two of these birds flew past my office window May 2, 1930. They had just arrived from the south. It seems strange that they are not more often seen here. Perhaps it is too cool so near the beach. I met it in early March far up a tropical river in Panama in 1936, my longtime California friend in his winter home.

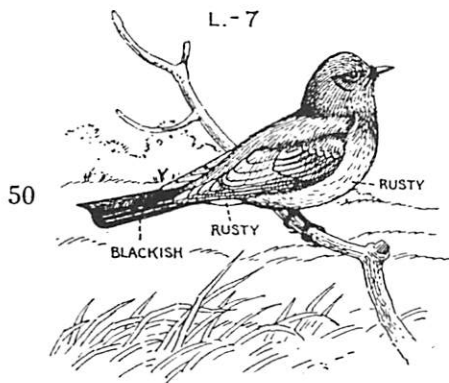


48. Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* (S)

This flycatcher passes across the campus in spring and fall (August 18, 1933; April 28, 1941) on its way to or from the hills. Like the Kingbird, it prefers it a bit warmer and perhaps drier.



49. Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans* (R)
A few of these "dooryard" birds were here when we arrived and have gradually increased in numbers. You may expect to see them about any of the buildings at any season.



50. Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya* (W)
The Say's Phoebe arrives about September 20, and each year I look for him about the Vivarium or along the south axis or about the margins of the athletic field. He will leave again in April or early May.

51. Western Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis* (S)

A very inconspicuous little bird that has to be searched for. It arrives in April and generally passes on into the hills, but it should sooner or later nest along the Arroyo by the Bridge.

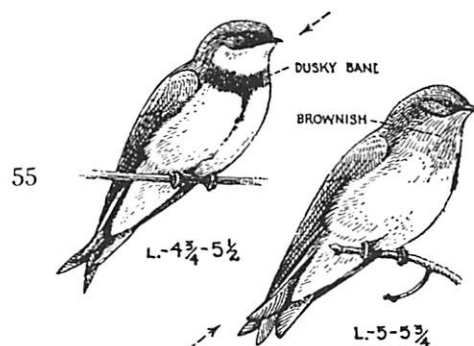
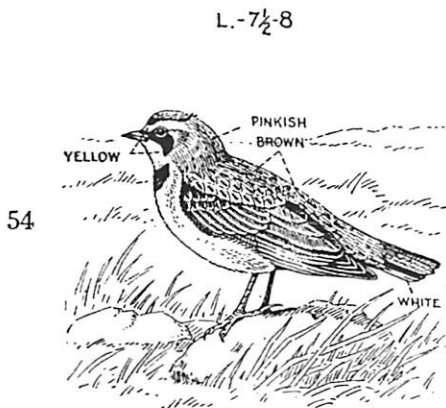
52. Western Wood Pewee, *Myiarchus cinerascens* (S)

Only one record (May 19, 1930). It arrives about a month later than the species just named and is common in Stone Canyon above Sunset Boulevard. Some day it, too, should remain with us all summer.

53. (Omitted.)

54. California Horned Lark, *Otocorys alpestris actia* (R)

At the time of our "invasion" there were several colonies of Horned Larks in the fields of stubble along the main axis, but I have seen none since 1937. They must have open country.

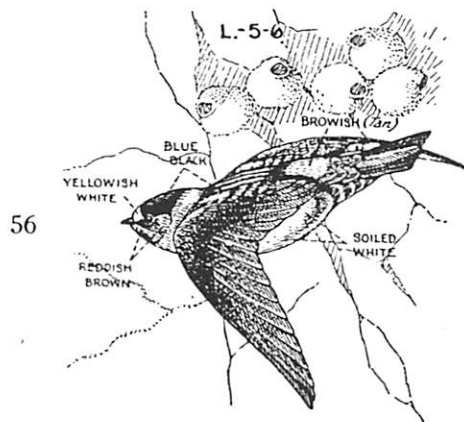


55. Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* (S) (V)

Several times, these birds have prospected the ventilator holes about Physics-Biology Building, but they seem to like a little more snugness in their nesting cavity.

56. Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon albifrons* (S)

Some birds arrive in late March, and there seems to be a second incursion in early May. There are nesting colonies in the general vicinity, but their flask-shaped "adobe" nests (mud and straw) have not yet appeared on our buildings.

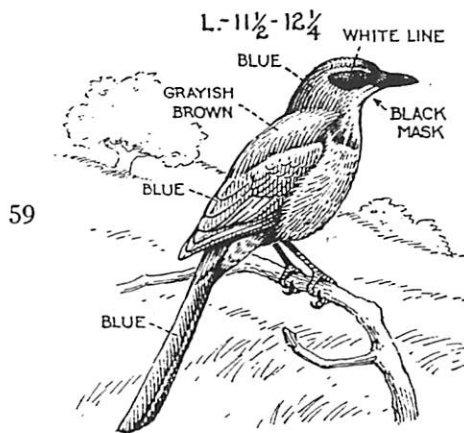


57. Barn Swallow, *Hirundo erythrogaster* (S) (V)

Two records only for our campus: May 13, 1939; May 6, 1941.

58. Western Martin, *Progne subis hesperia* (S) (V)

On March 19, 1937, two males circling over the Arroyo established a record for this most erratic species. I have seen it in the high cornices at Sixth and Spring streets, downtown. It has nested in the walls of the Hotel Maryland in Pasadena and in school-houses in Orange and Ventura counties. Some day it may be inspired to nest among our buildings.

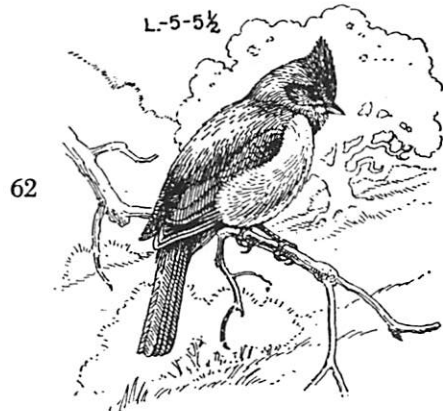


59. California Jay, *Aphelocoma californica* (R)

The small number present on our arrival has been greatly increased by extension of the shrubbery, especially along the Arroyo where it is to be found at all times now.

60. American Raven, *Corvus corax sinuatus* (R) (V)

The Raven is more at home in wilder areas of hills and desert, but it occasionally visits us. In September, 1933, a single bird (probably a youngster) spent ten days with us, calling occasionally from perches on the Library or the Education Building.

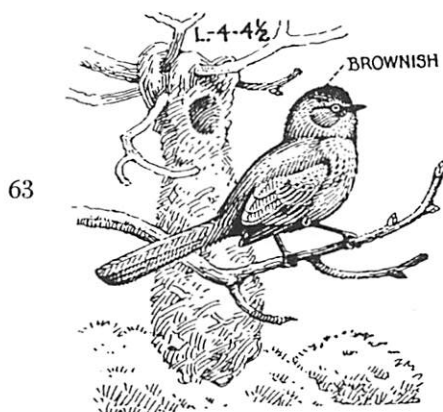


61. Western Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis* (R)

We have many records of Crows flying high across the campus at various times of the year. In July they not infrequently come in small flocks, following the breeding season, and spend a short period about the sycamores.

62. Plain Titmouse, *Baeolophus inornatus transpositus* (R)

This bird is partial to the live oaks and has not yet been reported elsewhere on the campus. They are fairly abundant just above the campus, in Stone Canyon.

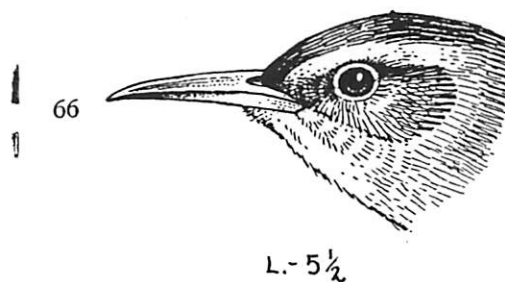
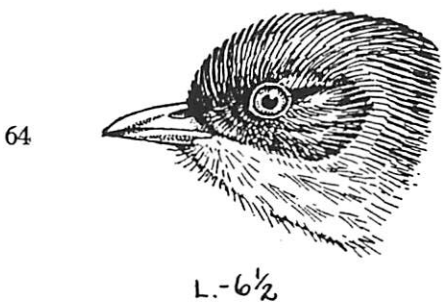


63. Coast Bush-tit, *Psaltriparus minimus* (R)

Present when we arrived, these busy mid-gets have moved into the new trees about the buildings almost as fast as we have planted them. Their stocking-shaped nests have been built within a few feet of our doorsteps. Always in motion and always vocal in a "microscopic" way, they are easily located if you come anywhere near them.

64. Pallid Wren-tit, *Chamaea fasciata hen-shawi* (R)

That "disembodied voice," the Wren-tit, is the only member of a distinct family that is found only along the Pacific side of America from Oregon to Baja California. Every eastern bird watcher who comes to California asks to be shown a wren-tit. Well, don't ask to see him, but you may hear his cheerful piping almost anywhere along the Arroyo. His performance is a succession of round notes all on the same pitch but increasing in tempo like a marble dropped from a three-foot height on a granite slab. You must make his acquaintance. He is the "spirit" of the coastal chaparral.

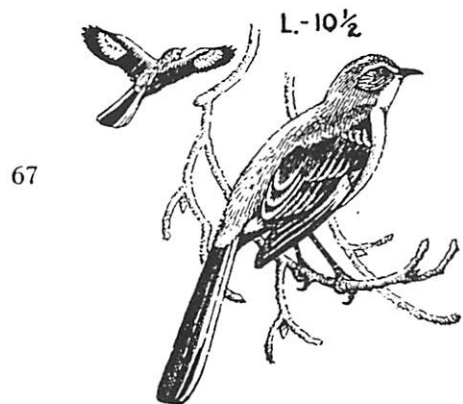


65. Western House-wren, *Troglodytes aëdon parkmani* (S)

This little wren is to be heard on rare occasions in the brush tangles of the Arroyo, but is more common in the hills north of us, where it nests.

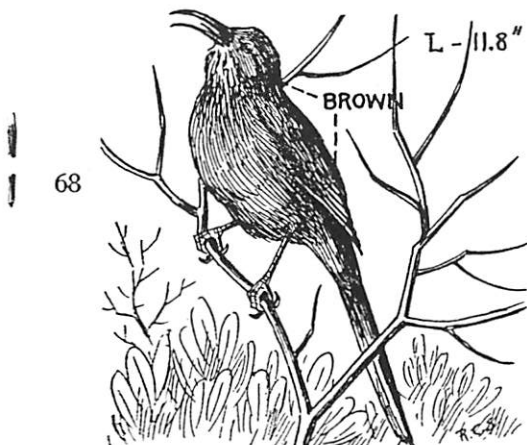
66. San Diego Wren, *Thryomanes bewicki correctus* (R)

As early as January its characteristic song may be heard in the sage along the Arroyo. These birds are more numerous, however, in the hills north of Sunset Blvd.



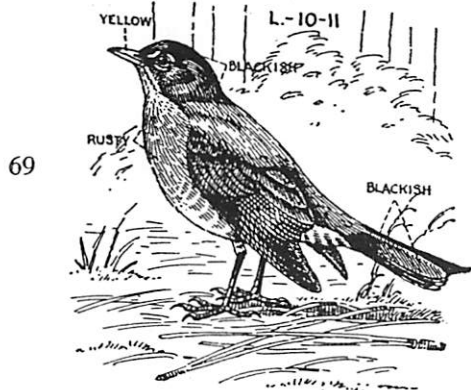
67. Western Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus* (R)

You may meet the mockingbird at almost any part of the campus except the exact center of the ball field. Even from there you will perhaps hear him. A cheerful, perky, versatile bird, everyone should know him.



68. California Thrasher, *Tuzostoma redivivum* (R)

This big cousin of the Mockingbird is more closely restricted. He likes the chaparral of Faculty Ridge and the Arroyo. The song is less varied than that of the mocker, is entirely original, lower in pitch, and has a richness like the burr-r of a good Scotchman—or is it the tang of Concord grapes? He begins his autumnal song in late August or in September from his tree at the east end of the Bridge.



69. Western Robin, *Turdus migratorius propinquus* (W)

Thus far, the Robins visit the campus only in winter (October to March) and have never been recorded in great numbers. Should we develop large areas of lawn in the coming years, I see no reason why we should not attract a few of them as nesting birds. Just exactly that has occurred on the Berkeley campus during the past fifty years. Also, they are beginning to nest about certain golf links in Pasadena.

70. Alaska Hermit Thrush, *Hylocichla guttata* (W)

"Hermit" is a good name for him, he slips in and out of the thicket so quietly, and even his delicious "whisper song," which he gives in March from the thick shrubbery under my office window, can be heard only from a few feet away. By October 10 I begin to listen for him.

71. Russet-backed Thrush, *Hylocichla ustulata* (S)

This thrush comes in from the south about a month after the Hermit Thrush has left for the north. He sings in the willows of Stone Canyon just north of the campus limits, but not until May 13, 1944, was he actually seen on the campus.

72. Western Bluebird, *Sialia mexicana occidentalis* (W)

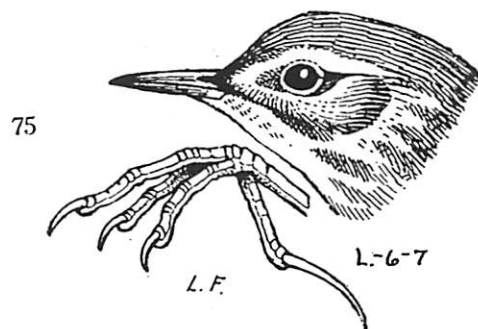
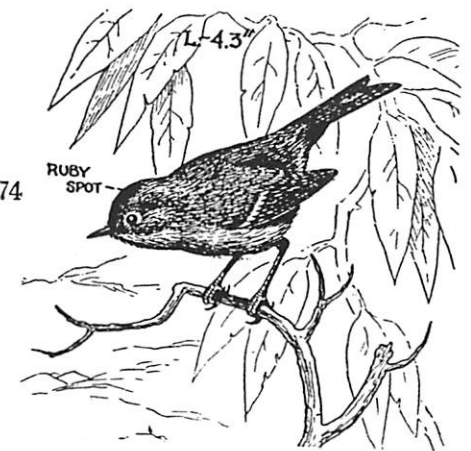
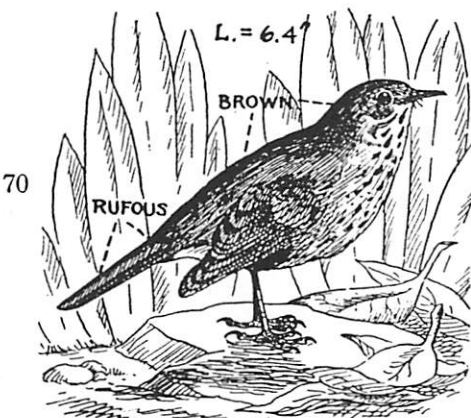
Like his cousin, the Robin, the Bluebird is a winter visitor—a situation that the eastern visitor finds surprising. But then, he must expect California to be different—else why did he come? Bluebirds are rare with us. They may fly high overhead in passing to the more open areas near the beach.

73. Western Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila caerulea amoenissima* (R)

Along the sagey slopes of the Arroyo or of Faculty Ridge these quiet midgets are to be found at any season. They look like thumbnail sketches of the mockingbird but are as shy as the mocker isn't.

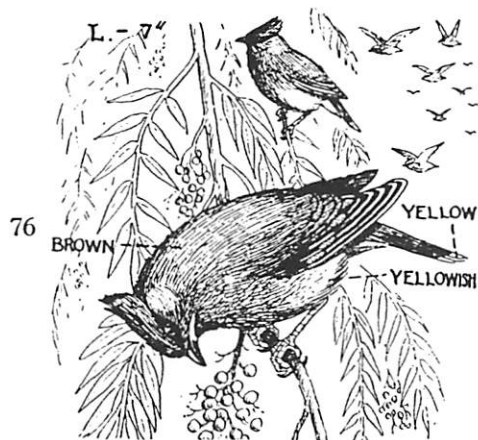
74. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Corthylio calendula ceneraceus* (W)

Early October may bring the first Ruby-crown, and a few weeks later they are everywhere about the campus that a small insect might be found. In mid-March they begin their piping little song which means that the urge to migrate will soon take them away to the northward.



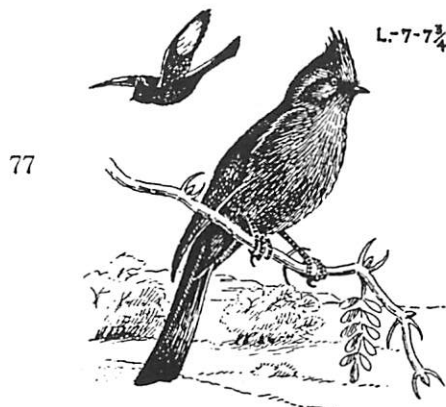
75. American Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta rubescens* (W)

This species arrives pretty regularly during the last half of October, but none could be more erratic in abundance. Some years they may walk about the parking lot (they don't hop) as familiarly as the black-birds. Again, only their inconspicuous call note may come from high overhead as they pass on to the open areas behind the strand.



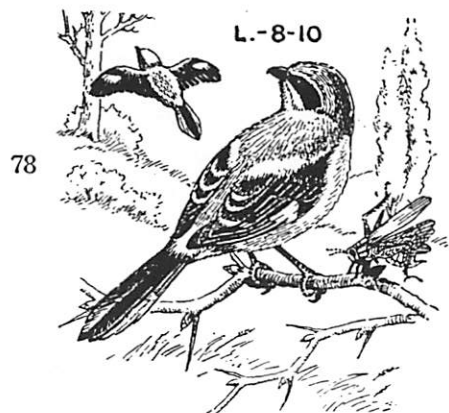
76. Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum* (W)

A flock or two comes in each year, generally in February or March. Fifty or more may settle in the berry bushes near the Library and clean up the crop in a day or two. Rarely they may come as late as May 15.



77. Phainopepla, *Phainopepla nitens lepida* (S)

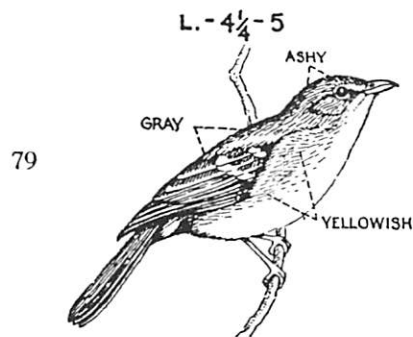
There are but one or two records for the campus. They prefer a warmer climate such as Pasadena or the San Fernando Valley.



L.-8-10

78. California Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* (R)

Shrikes are partial to the open spaces. The area north of Administration has been a favorite haunt, but it will probably be grown up too much in another decade. Similarly, the axis south of Life Science will cease to be comfortable. At present, however, they are posted like sentinels in both areas. Their spring songs will begin in January. In late summer their much more pleasing meditative song may be heard in the same localities (August to October).



L.-4½-5

ASHY

GRAY

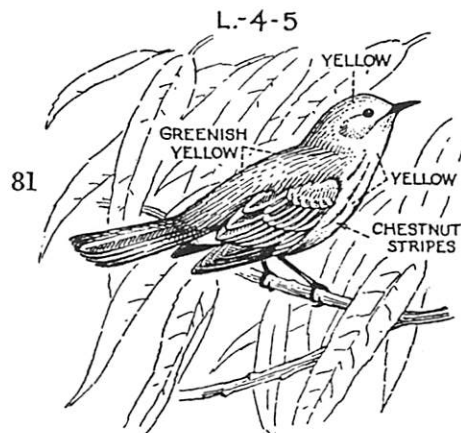
YELLOWISH

79. Least Vireo, *Vireo belli pusillus* (S)

The first spring we spent on the campus, and the two following nesting seasons, these vigorous little singers occupied the willows north of the Women's Gym, but they have not been reported since except from Stone Canyon north of our boundaries. They should come to the new grove of willows developing along the Arroyo bottom.

80. Lutescent Warbler, *Vermivora celata lutescens* (S)

This little green bird first appeared (appropriately) on St. Patrick's Day (1942), singing in the new willow grove below the bridge. May his tribe increase; and it should, for he is abundant farther up Stone Canyon.

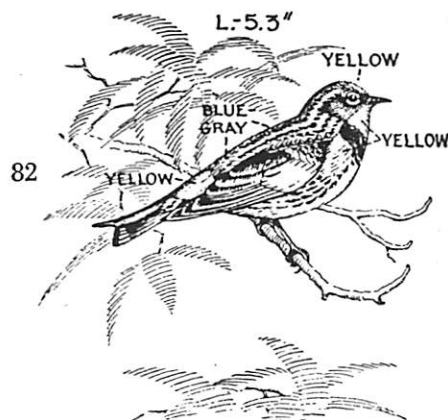


L.-4-5

YELLOW

GREENISH
YELLOWYELLOW
CHESTNUT
STRIPES81. California Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica aestiva brewsteri* (S)

A typically willow-dwelling bird, he arrives about April 6 to 10 in Stone Canyon and should flash his buttercup plumage through the new willows in the Arroyo as soon as they become a bit larger. There's a southward drift in late July and August. They sang all about my camp in Central America on August 1, 1925.



L.-5.3"

YELLOW

BLUE
GRAY

YELLOW

YELLOW

82. Audubon's Warbler, *Dendroica auduboni* (W)

This "bird with the five yellow spots" is our most abundant warbler and the most adaptable. He inhabits woods, weed patches, or window ledges, searching for flies or spiders. His arrival between September 28 and October 10 is almost a certainty. In late March the colors brighten up and he begins to sing the spring song that means that he will leave soon for the nesting grounds to the north or in the higher mountains. I wonder how many millions of them spend the winter in southern California; they are found in almost every city yard or country roadside.

83. Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Dendroica nigrescens* (T)84. Townsend's Warbler, *Dendroica townsendi* (T)85. Hermit Warbler, *Dendroica occidentalis* (T)

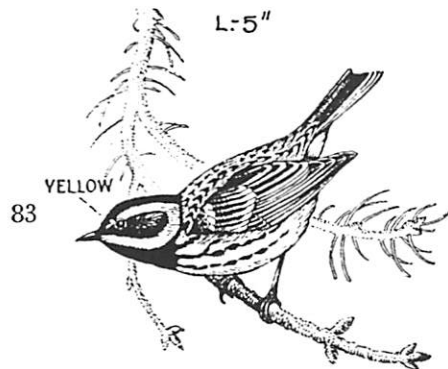
A slowly moving wave of these migrating warblers comes from the south in the first ten days of May (Black-throat may be a little earlier). I look for them along the Arroyo, where they frequently appear in the pines. In the hills they are partial to oaks and walnuts. I look for them each year very much as you might go down to the train to spend a few minutes with a friend who is just passing through.

86. Tule Yellow-throat, *Geothlypis trichas scirpola* (R)

After we had broken up its ancestral home in the tule patches of lower Stone Canyon, this cheerful bundle of energy was at a loss until the development of an artificial marshy spot in the Botany Garden. In the nonbreeding season the birds sometimes come into the thicket and shrubbery about the buildings (October 11, November 17).

87. Long-tailed Chat, *Icteria virens longicauda* (S)

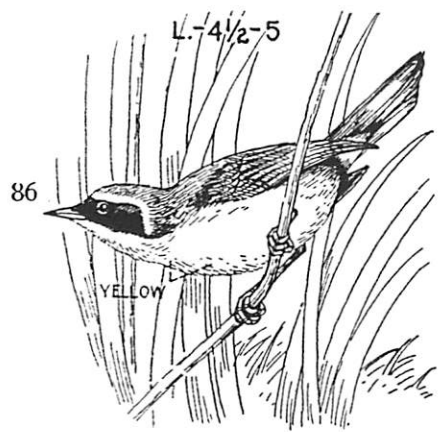
For just one season (May, 1934) the Chat came to the willows above the Women's Gym, but it did not appear again until September, 1940, when two birds were trapped by bird-bander Palmer Stoddard in the chaparral east of the Chemistry Building. They were in fall plumage and were moving south for the winter.



L.-5"

YELLOW

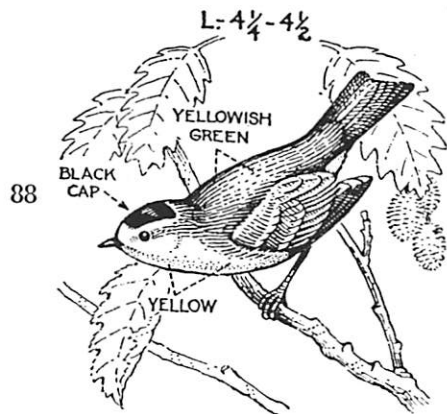
83



L.-4½-5

YELLOW

86



88. Pileolated Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla chryseola* (S)

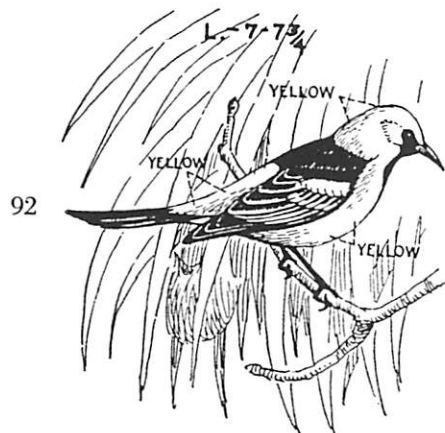
During the spring migration this warbler moves across the campus in considerable numbers to local or to northern breeding grounds (April and May). It returns about the last of September. These dates are, however, much more variable than those of most other migrants.

89. Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta* (R)

Look for them (and listen) along the axis south of Life Science and about the margins of the ball fields. They seem especially tuneful after a clearing-up shower. One of my students, a music major, wrote down eight different musical motifs sung by the larks on campus. And such a voice!

90. Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (R) (V)

(Reported by Elizabeth Sprague.) October 27, 1932, four birds flew across the campus. One never knows where or when they will appear.

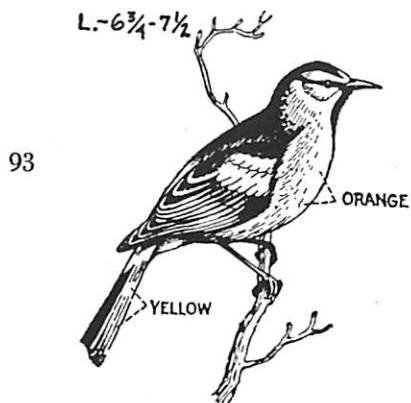


91. Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis* (R)

The Red-wings were colonized along the lower part of Stone Canyon for the first two years of our "occupation," but, like the Yellow-throats, they have been dispossessed. They occasionally come about the buildings in flocks after the breeding season.

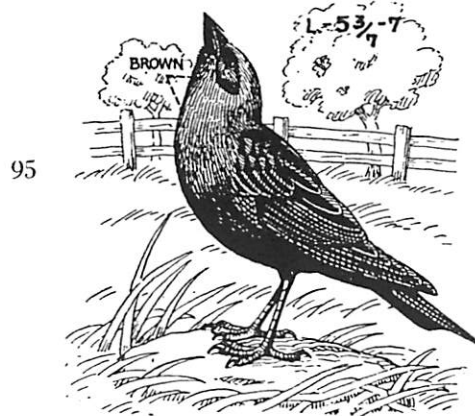
92. Arizona Hooded Oriole, *Icterus cucullatus nelsoni* (S)

The Hooded Oriole sometimes resorts to sycamores or even eucalyptus, but it much prefers the fan palms. It punches holes through the broad fans with its sharp beak and sews its fiber-knitted nest to the underside. Our increasing fan-palm offering and those down the main axis of the village have attracted several pairs, though they were in the sycamores when we came. Late March is the time to watch for their arrival.



93. Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullocki* (S)

Not until August 23, 1944, did I see this species actually on the campus. A young male of the year dropped down to a tree near the bridge, chattered a few times, tried out the first notes of a song—and then away to the southward for Mexico.

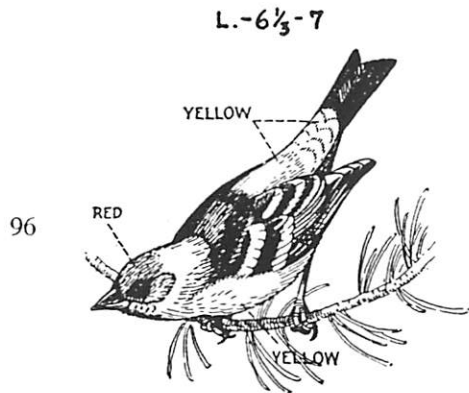


94. Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus* (R)

The Blackbirds are such businesslike workmen. They go about their lawn workers' patrol so cheerfully and move aside for hurrying humans with only a mild-mannered "chuck" or two—then come right back, or else take it up again a few feet away. I'm sure the Blackbirds will always be with us—and right welcome, too.

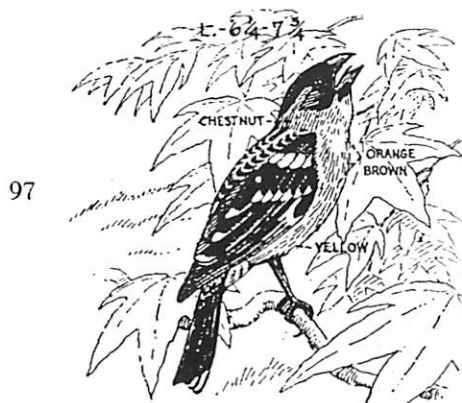
95. Dwarf Cowbird, *Molothrus ater obscurus* (S)

In late April or early May these erratic birds generally appear about the Esplanade. Mixed groups of males and females wander here and there. Occasionally they drop down onto the lawn with their larger cousins, the Blackbirds, but the brown heads of the males and the smaller size will distinguish them at once.



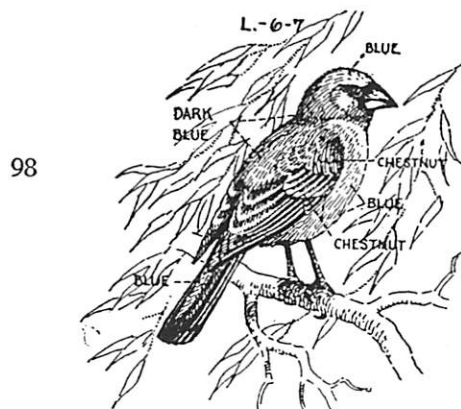
96. Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* (T)

These brilliant birds cross the campus in early May, as a rule (May 8, May 3, May 17), and may be reported from the sycamores, oaks, or the Botany Garden pines.



97. Black-headed Grosbeak, *Hedymeles melanocephala* (S)

The Grosbeaks cross the campus on their way into the hills. About the first week of July they begin drifting back. Miss Dorothy Groner reports a nest on Faculty Ridge, May 17, 1944. I see no reason why they should not some day be a common nesting bird within our limits.



98. Western Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea salicaria* (S)

In the spring of 1930, also 1931, a number of these birds were "stationed" along the Arroyo and above the Women's Gym. To my complete mystification (and regret) they have not been reported since.

99. Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena* (S)

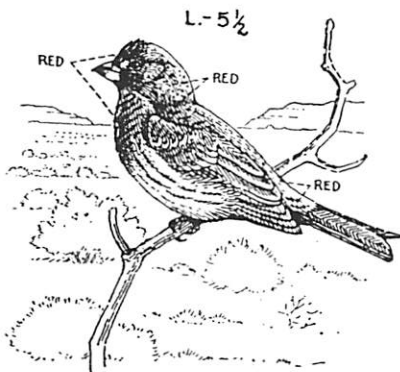
The history of this species is almost a duplicate of the preceding, except that the visits were eleven years later, 1941 and 1942.

100. California Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus californicus* (W)

The Purple Finches are extremely quiet birds when they visit us and must be sought out unless one is familiar with their subdued notes. November, January, or rarely as late as March about limits their sojourn and you never know where they may be found—sycamores, eucalyptus, cotoneasters—anywhere.

101. California Linnet, *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* (R)

101



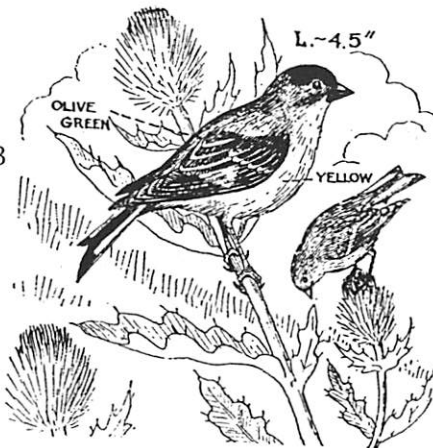
"Everywhere and always" would be the best brief characterization. Cheerful, resourceful, and fruitful would be almost as good. The increased number and variety of berry-bearing plants has been greatly to his advantage (and to ours), for he has steadily increased.

102. Willow Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis salicamans* (R)

This goldfinch is an indefinite straggler within campus bounds, though it may nest in the acacias only two blocks away. In late summer or fall it congregates in sunflower patches off the campus and is seen by us as it flies overhead.

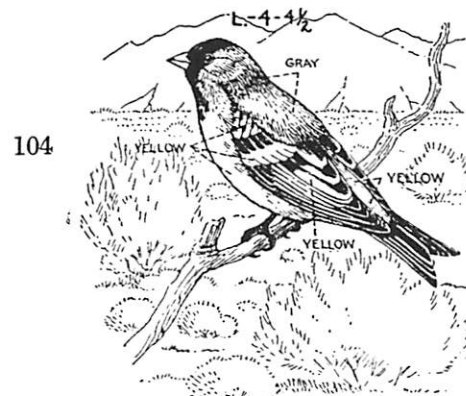
103. Green-backed Goldfinch, *Spinus psaltria hesperophilus* (R)

103



This is one of our most charming and friendly little birds. Time and again, as it passed high in air over the bridge, it has responded on the instant to its easily imitated call and dropped steeply down almost to hand.

For two seasons it nested in the olive tree beside the east door of the Chemistry Building. The brooding female sat there four feet from the ground and a similar distance from the stream of students going in and out, but quite undisturbed.

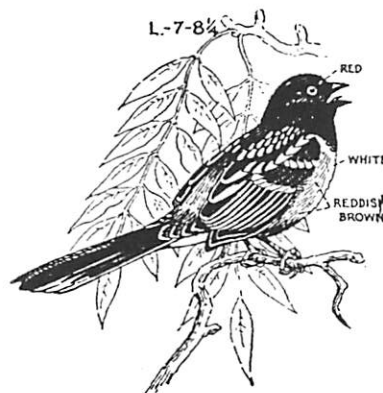


104. Lawrence's Goldfinch, *Spinus lawrencei* (R)

We have only one record of this species, February 18, 1941, near the Vivarium. It nests at Laguna Beach within sound of the surf and along the edge of the desert in Riverside County. Some day its whimsical behavior may bring it to the campus as a common resident bird.

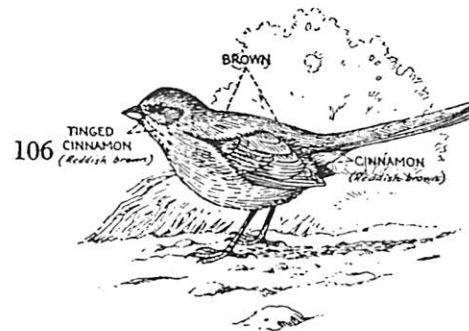
105. Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx* (R)

105



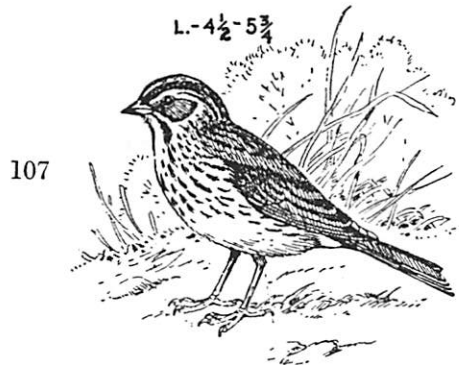
Sometimes he is called San Diego Towhee and for a while even Spurred Towhee. He certainly is spotted sharply black and white with rich mahogany red sides and flanks—and such a wonderful red eye. With it all, he is a shy, brush-dwelling bird along the Arroyo. He becomes more conspicuous when he begins giving his spring trill in early February from the top of a low tree, but he drops back into the thicket as soon as he is disturbed. His song is a very simple performance, but he takes it quite seriously. It will come to mean much to you by association, an authoritative announcer of California springtime.

L-8 1/2-10



106. Anthony's Brown Towhee, *Pipilo fuscus senicula* (R)

The Brown Towhee is much less secretive than his spotted brother and comes about the buildings quite freely, hopping across the walks or in and out of the shrubbery with little attempt at concealment. You may find him almost anywhere if cover is not too far away.



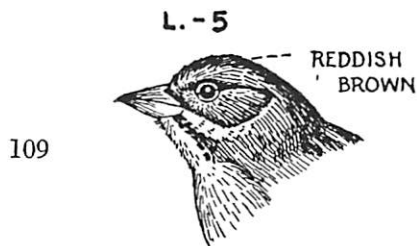
107. Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis* (W)

Some variety of these quiet winter visitors can be found through November to March in such weed patches along the south axis as may have escaped the energies of the gardener's staff. You will have to search for them, however.



108. Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus strigatus* (R)

One never knows what year will bring us a visit from these erratic birds. On April 20, 1934, a number of them appeared in the south parking lot among the parked cars; they were singing, mating, and hopping about quite at home, seemingly. They also spent the winter that year in a cypress grove in the Botany Garden. They have not been reported since.

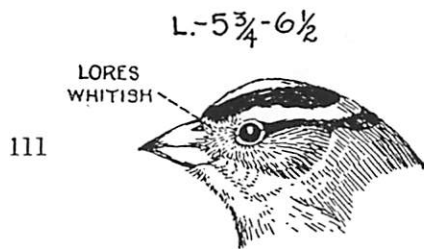


109. Rufous-crowned Sparrow, *Aimophila ruficeps* (R)

We have but a single record of this species, from the sagey slope of the Arroyo, March 9, 1943. The nature of the area is being changed by planting, so I scarcely expect this bird to return to the campus.

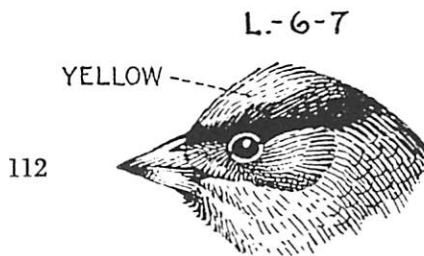
110. Sierra Junco, *Junco hyemalis thurberi* (W)

On March 25, 1940, a flock of about ten birds appeared about the south parking lot. On December 8, 1942, they were reported from the sycamores. They should appear more often in winter unless we are too near the sea. They are often found in the Santa Monica hills.



111. Gambel's White-crown, *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli* (W)

Almost as regularly as September brings us the autumnal equinox, it brings us also the White-crowned Sparrows. Sometimes it's only a day later, sometimes a week later, that I hear the first one. Then by October they are everywhere about the campus—wherever a little massed shrubbery offers them retreat if danger threatens. They become accustomed to us humans moving about the walks and will feed contentedly on the grassy slope north of Physics-Biology—if you keep moving. But let one person in that moving stream of humanity stop to watch them and they retire discreetly into the shrubbery. They have the great charm of singing during the winter—something that many birds lack. The White-crown is neatly tailored in clear gray with a few touches of tan and bright brown, the sharply marked white of his jet-bordered crown immediately telling you his name. I fell in love with him nearly sixty years ago and am getting worse every year.



112. Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia coronata* (W)

Quite in contrast with the white-crowns, this species is an uncertain visitor. It is less abundant and is less confiding on the rare occasions when it does come to the campus.

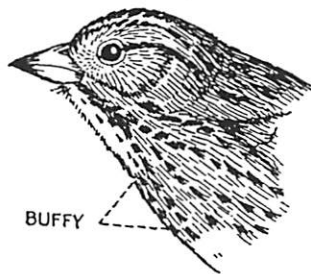


113. Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca* (W)

We have a single record for the Fox Sparrow. One was trapped by a bird bander, Palmer Stoddard, in the Arroyo east of the Chemistry Building. It seems to prefer the hills north of us.

L.-4 $\frac{3}{4}$ -5 $\frac{3}{4}$

114



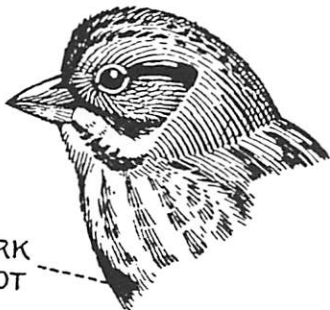
BUFFY

114. Lincoln's Sparrow, *Melospiza lincolni* (T)

This sparrow may pass through the campus every spring and not be discovered, for it is almost as shy as a field mouse. Its very quiet little call note was heard one March morning (March 16, 1931) in the sage just above the Arroyo bridge, and by close watching the bird was sighted for a moment. We have no other record. On reaching its summer home in the Sierran meadows, e.g., Sequoia Park, it blossoms out as a delightful singer that is easily approached.

L.-5-6 $\frac{1}{2}$

115

DARK
SPOT115. Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia cooperi* (R)

Twenty-six varieties of song sparrows are recognized by the expert within the United States and ten of them are resident within this state. But wherever you meet him, he's the same cheerful little streaky brown bird that sings at the first light of dawn in summer or winter in a city garden or the weed patch by a desert water hole. *And* he's just as happy at noon. I wish Mrs. Browning had known about the American song sparrow. She could have done him justice. I can't. Get acquainted with him yourself.

NOTE: Many of these campus dates have been contributed by my colleagues, Drs. Sarah R. Atsatt, R. B. Cowles, and R. C. Stebbins.