

*Clivicola riparia*. Bank Swallow. All three of the above swallows found breeding near lake.

*Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. Western Yellowthroat. They are quite common in the tules.

*Oroscoptes montanus*. Sage Thrasher. Found quite commonly in sage brush on east side.

*Cistothorus palustris plesius*. Western Marsh Wren. A very busy little wren in the tules.

### Status of the Bicolored Blackbird in Southern California.

BY FRANK S. DAGGETT.

IT is safe to say that during the past ten years hundreds of eggs of the bi-colored blackbird (*Agelaius gubernator*) have been sent from Southern California, and all our collections contained skins of what was supposed to represent that bird.

When the interest in ornithology was first started in California and which culminated in the formation of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1893, the principal authorities warranted the assumption that *gubernator* occurred in Southern California. Coues' Key gave the distribution as "Pacific Coast U. S. and British Columbia" while the A. O. U. Check-List states, "Pacific Coast district from Western Washington, south to Lower California," etc. With this for a basis we all looked for *gubernator*, and it was found, as we supposed, associated with *Agelaius phœniceus* of those days. The bird so selected was an immature-looking male, with buff lesser wing coverts, and black middle coverts, answering to the written descriptions of *gubernator*. There is more or less uncertainty as to the status of all our blackbirds, and in 1896 Mr. Grinnell made up a lot of adults and immatures, for transmission to Washington for identification, among them some belonging to the writer. Upon their return we found, among the immatures, several marked *gubernator*. This was long before Mr. Ridgway's revision of the blackbirds, but it confirmed our earlier decision and *gubernator* received a place in the List of Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles County with the following observation by Mr. Grinnell: "Several specimens of this form have been taken at Bixby and El Monte, and it may breed in this County, as it does commonly to the northward; but I have no reliable data, altho many eggs purporting to be of this bird have been sent from the County."

About a year ago Mr. Grinnell, in order to settle the question, sent me a pair of *gubernator*, in breeding plumage, collected by him in a locality of well known occurrence. The comparison at once threw out the birds which we had known as *gubernator*, and further investigation convinces me that they are what is now known as *A. p. neutralis* Ridgway.

I have examined all the available collections in Southern California, with the same results, and I can find no one here who can produce actual specimens of *gubernator* taken in the southern counties of California.

Unless some one produces specimens, it is safe to say that the bird does not occur here. Certainly the eggs sent out so freely from this part of the state, in years gone by, as *gubernator*, can safely be put down as of Mr. Ridgway's recently described *A. p. neutralis*, for most of them were taken in well known colonies, where none but *neutralis* are found today.