

also helps to make things unpleasant, but all these things can be endured when one has the opportunity to meet so many birds so rare or unknown to us in California.

These observations cover three weeks at Las Penas, three weeks at San Blas and five days on the Las Marietas Islands. On account of missing steamer connections at San Blas we were compelled to wait there three weeks; and as we did not figure on this extra time our ammunition gave out, so little or no collecting was done. We left Mexico just before the rainy season started, May 26. The natives and what few Americans we interviewed assured us that the birds were much more numerous in the rainy season. Specimens were taken of all birds mentioned in this sketch, with the exception of the following, the greater number by Mr. Osburn.

Species seen, of which no specimens were secured: Cassin Auklet, Xantus Murrelet, Western Gull, Black-footed Albatross, Sooty Shearwater, Black-vented Shearwater, Least Petrel, Black Petrel, Farallone Cormorant, Brandt Cormorant, Blue-winged Teal, White-faced Glossy Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Long-billed Curlew, Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Duck Hawk, Desert Sparrow Hawk, Pigmy owl, Coppery-tailed Trogon, Texas Nighthawk, Brewer Blackbird, Cuernavaca House Finch, Painted Redstart, Western Gnatcatcher.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Pink-Legged Tern.—On December 6, while walking along the beach, near Santa Barbara, California, with Mr. Bradford Torrey, he called my attention to a peculiar looking tern just ahead of us. It was standing on the sand in company with several Royal Terns (*Sterna maxima*), but was at once distinguishable from them by its intensely pink legs, in marked contrast with the black legs of the Royal. A long examination at close range with our binoculars seemed also to show that it was a trifle smaller than the others, with if anything a rather more pronounced crest.

Our inference pointed to its identification as the Elegant Tern (*Sterna elegans*), but none of our books offered any clue as to the pink legs. Any information will be most sincerely appreciated.—J. H. BOWLES.

The Western Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pacificus*) in the Yosemite.—On the 18th of May, 1909, while in the footpath below Vernal Falls, I caught the sound of a Winter Wren's voice. The bird sang for some minutes ("full of music" my pencilled note says), but the place was difficult, and an attempt to see him was unsuccessful. However, a sight of the bird could have added nothing to my assurance of his identity.

On the 14th of June in the same place, I heard the song again, tho this time the bird seemed to be farther away, while the river was fuller and noisier, so that the notes came to my ear rather faintly, and if this had been my only hearing of them I should hardly feel justified in recording the bird's presence. But thirteen days later (June 27) I was again there, and after long silence the bird struck into song. Now he was close at hand, and presently I discovered him on one of the lower branches of a small maple where he sang repeatedly with my glass focussed upon him. I am told that there is no previous Yosemite record for this species.

I have had an acquaintance of many years with the New England bird, but I had met with the western form only once before this,—under the big redwoods at Santa Cruz. It may have been the effect of prejudice, but in both places I seemed to perceive that the westerner's song was a shade less beautiful than the easterner's, tho the difference between the two, if there really is any, is certainly very slight.—BRADFORD TORREY.

The Ring-neckt Duck (*Marila collaris*) in Colorado: A Correction.—In a paper on the birds of southwestern Montrose County, Colorado (Condor, XI, Jan. 1909, p. 13), I recorded a specimen of the Ring-neckt Duck as taken at Coventry, April, 1906. This bird was a female and turns out to be a female of the Lesser Scaup (*Marila affinis*.) While the original identification of the specimen as a Ring-neck was made by one in whose knowledge I had confidence, yet I am myself much to blame for not checking it up by reference to descriptions; and of course now regret very

much that I did not do so, for an error of this sort is very annoying in the case of a bird which is as rare as is the Ring-necked Duck in Colorado, while the bird which it turned out to be is common. This, however, makes a published record for the Lesser Scaup in that portion of Colorado. As a slight excuse for my error I would say that my personal experience with the various ducks is very limited.—E. R. WARREN.

The Little Brown Crane in California.—In the August number of THE CONDOR (XI, 1909, p. 129), Mr. J. Grinnell records a specimen of the Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis*) killed some ten or twelve years ago near Santa Ana, and adds, that "the present seems to be the *first* definite record of the species for the State" (italics are mine).

In fact it is *not*, as the late Mr. Vosnessensky procured several specimens of *Grus canadensis* in California in the forties (a ♂ ad., February 23 in Northern California, ♀ ad. January 10, St. Raphael Mission, Northern California, and juv. November, Herba Buena, San Francisco Bay) and this fact was recorded, with full measurements of these specimens, in my paper in *The Ibis*, April, 1907, pp. 364-365.—S. A. BUTURLIN.

The Bobolink in Idaho.—Last July, near Meridian, Idaho, (ten miles from Boise), while driving in the country I saw several male Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) in a field formerly given over to alfalfa. It had been plowed up and sown to wheat, making a mixt meadow-growth in which the birds seemed to be making themselves very much at home. Residents of Meridian were not aware that the bird occurred there, and I did not see it in any other locality.—H. C. TRACY.

A Booby (*Sula sula*) on the West Coast of Mexico.—While taking our evening dip in the sea the evening of May 21, 1909, at San Blas, Tepic, Mexico, a "moso" brought us a Booby which he said he had captured alive a mile down the beach. The bird from all appearance was the *Sula sula* and if so a very rare record for the western coast of Mexico. This was the only one of this species noted during two months of continual observation.—PINGREE I. OSBURN.

The Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) in Park County, Montana.—On October 24, 1908, I saw an adult male of this species in Cinnabar Basin, a few miles north of the Yellowstone National Park, Park County, Montana. The bird was in company with a male Mountain Bluebird and both birds were observed closely. I believe that this is the furthest west that this species has been recorded in Montana.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.

The Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) Wintering at Santa Barbara.—In Mr. Grinnell's Check-List of California Birds the Cinnamon Teal is put down as a common resident only. It may be worth recording, therefore, that for two years, at least, a few birds have wintered at Santa Barbara, where I have seen them in all three of the winter months. To be more exact, I have the species listed on the following dates: February 20, December 5, 6, 29, 1908; January 20, February 9, December 13, 17, 19, 24, 27, 1909; January 7, 1910. Mr. John H. Bowles kindly allows me to add that he saw the species here January 4, 1910,—a single bird, in salt water! All identifications, both mine and Mr. Bowles', were of adult males.—BRADFORD TORREY,

Accidental Trapping of Raptores.—On the morning of November 22, 1906, while going the rounds of my mammal traps I was surprised to find a Saw-whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*) caught in a trap set for *Neotoma* in a swampy river bottom. The locality, Piute Mts. California, was rich in small mammals, and Mr. Charles Richardson and myself had the vicinity of our camp well covered with traps. It was to this fact that I attribute the accident. The bird was caught on the side of the body, one wing being pinioned beneath the wire of the trap. The elevation of this valley is about 7,000 feet.

The only other record of this kind that has come to my notice was near Los Penas, Jalisco, Mexico. Referring to my note book for April 23, 1909, I find the following,—"In one trap by a fence on the bank of the estero premier I found a large hawk of peculiar plumage. The steel trap was sprung, the bait taken, and the hawk was lying at the base of a tree over a yard to one side." This bird is now in the collection of Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., and at this writing is yet undetermined.—PINGREE I. OSBURN.

Singing of the Female Slate-colored Fox Sparrow.—On April 17, 1909, I was watching a pair of Slate-colored Fox Sparrows in a willow thicket near Bozeman, Montana. At first I believed, from their actions, that the birds were mating, but later, when I noticed that both birds sang alternately, I decided that they must be rival males. The songs were very similar in every way except that one was somewhat weaker than the other. I finally secured the bird with the weaker song and was much surprised when, on later examination, it proved to be a female.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.