

the abundant coyotes, and either kill some prey under the same conditions or endure an amazing fast and still regain its superb condition within one short northern summer.

3. American Rough-legged Hawk (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*). On November 6, 1927, we shot one of these hawks that was in melanistic phase of plumage. It was sitting in an evidently normal position on a high limb of an ancient cottonwood. When the bird had been retrieved we found that the right leg had already been severed, either by a pole trap or a rifle bullet, near the top of the tarsus. The stump was thoroughly healed, but the injury was probably not older than the preceding summer. The bird was in very poor condition, though the stomach was full of the hair and bones of mice. The curious and pathetic point was that the head and neck, that is, all such parts as could not be reached by the bill, were literally swarming with lice, sometimes to the extent of dozens to the square centimeter. These had devoured all the softer, concealed parts of the head and neck feathers, so that while the rest of the body, which was quite free of the vermin, was so densely coated with white under-plumage that it was very difficult to reveal even the principal inter-tract spaces, the bare skin of the infested areas was merely shingled over by the tips of the contour feathers. Furthermore, a few smaller and more transparent lice, which were yet true lice and not mites, at least in so far as the number of legs is a criterion, unquestionably contained blood. The hawk had been able to strike its prey with one foot, but was being literally tormented to death, and deprived of its protection against the bitter cold, by the tragic circumstance of being unable to scratch its head!—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR BOLLES MCCABE, *Indianpoint Lake, Barkerville, B. C., Canada, December 20, 1927.*

The Short-tailed Albatross in Oregon.—Among bones of birds secured by S. G. Jewett and members of his family from Indian shell-mounds near Maxwell Point, two miles north of the entrance to Netarts Bay on the coast of Oregon, during August, 1927, is the lower part of a left tibio-tarsus from the Short-tailed Albatross (*Diomedea albatrus*). This occurrence is of interest because of the relatively few definite records for this species in this general region. The specimen is preserved in the osteological collections in the Division of Birds, U. S. National Museum (cat. no. 291268).—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., January 21, 1928.*

Winter Occurrence of Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch and Black Rosy Finch in California.—In the bird collection of the California Academy of Sciences there is a series of *Leucosticte tephrocotis dawsoni* collected by Theodore J. Hoover at Bodie, Mono County, California, during the winter of 1903-1904. Dates of capture and number of specimens on each date are as follows: December 8, one; January 15, three; March 25, two; March 26, seven; April 5, six; April 7, one. These captures are of interest as including mid-winter occurrences, of which there are few, if any, on record for this subspecies. In the four birds taken during December and January the bill is light-colored; in those collected on March 25 and later it is black.

Included in the series of *dawsoni* there was an example of *Leucosticte atrata*. This bird (coll. Calif. Acad. Sci. no. 15167), collected as were the others by T. J. Hoover at Bodie, is a male taken on January 15, 1904. It appears to be a typical example of the species *atrata*, and constitutes, I believe, the first occurrence of this bird in California. The nearest points at which it has been found are St. George, Utah, where one was collected on January 21, 1889 (Fisher, *North American Fauna* no. 7, 1893, p. 83), and the Grand Canyon, Arizona, where four were seen on December 8, 1924 (Townsend, *CONDOR*, XXVII, July, 1925, p. 178).—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, February 1, 1928.*

Occurrence of the Golden-crowned Sparrow in Massachusetts.—The following note may be of more interest to western ornithologists than to eastern ones.

On January 26, 1928, I collected a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) at Bedford, Massachusetts. It was a male in first winter plumage, and is now in the mounted collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. It was first recognized on January 23, 1928, by Mrs. John C. P. Riese, of Bedford, at whose feeding station it had appeared with a small flock of Tree Sparrows, following one of the first real

storms of this very mild winter. It stayed with Mrs. Riese January 23 and 24, visited Mrs. Wallace Webber January 25, and on the 26th was with a flock of English Sparrows at the station of Mrs. C. W. Willis, these points being within a quarter of a mile of each other.

According to the A. O. U. Check-list, the only previous records of this species east of Colorado and Nevada were from Wisconsin, about seventy-five years ago. This bird on dissection was found to have a severe injury to its side, probably caused during the strong wind of a few days preceding, and it is very doubtful if it would have survived this wound and the zero weather of the week following its discovery.

Bedford has a very active Bird Club, with many feeding stations maintained by the members, who are doing fine work in bird conservation.—JOHN B. MAY, *Cohasset, Massachusetts, February 8, 1928.*

The Sahuaro Screech Owl in California.—The westward limit of the Sahuaro Screech Owl (*Otus asio gilmani* Swarth) has been for some time an unknown quantity. Grinnell's Distributional List (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 11) records it as "Common resident along the valley of the lower Colorado River from the neighborhood of Needles to the Mexican boundary. . . . Probably occurs also in the Imperial Valley (see van Rossem, CONDOR, XIII, 1911, p. 131)."

The van Rossem note is a brief mention of *Otus asio* subsp. which was heard at night but could not be taken. I was with van Rossem on the Colorado River when he took a specimen of the race in December, 1924, and I myself collected a pair from willow thickets at Laguna Dam by flash light in the December following. The birds were repeatedly heard here during a week's stay and were somewhat closely studied in the field. When whistling they invariably occupied a perch less than five feet from the ground, in dense willow tangle grown up from beaver cuttings to a height of twenty feet or more. Out of the midst of this brush, birds were repeatedly called (or stimulated or what you will) by imitating the whistled note. They came out into the moonlight and circled my body so closely that the faint bat-like flutter of the wings was plainly audible and one bird perched within two feet of me, where it was clearly visible in the moonlight. Otherwise they always returned to the depth of the thicket where the two birds collected were searched out with the electric flash light.

The song (?) of all individuals was the same in its composition, though the absolute pitch might differ by a major third. The composition of the performance differed from the customary note of the race of the San Diegan district (*Otus asio quercinus* Grinnell) in being made up of two tetrads of notes of equal tempo but with the first one pitched a half tone above the second. The final note of the second tetrad slides down to a slightly flatted pitch. I heard no other whistle from the Colorado River birds.

On January 28, 1928, I was greatly interested again to meet the Sahuaro Screech Owl, to collect a specimen, at Shaver's Well on the Mecca-Blythe road and to hear the typical note at White Tank south of Twenty-nine Palms. The Shaver's Well bird was flushed from dense mistletoe on a small iron-wood tree, five feet from the ground. The gonads contained swelling ova as large as number six shot. The notes of the species were heard during the night, and once after sunrise on the following morning. The bird at White Tank was trailed for some distance across the desert at 9:30 p. m., but was finally lost. It was probably in some crevice of the granite boulders that characterize that region. The tallest plants in the whole vicinity were sparse creosote bushes.

Swarth, in his original description (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol 7, 1910, pp. 1-8), speaks of the race in Arizona as a Lower Sonoran bird, particularly in the Arid regions. Such would seem to be its habitat toward the west also, and I see no reason why it should not occur still farther westward toward the mountain barrier. The soft gray owl feather found clinging to the "door sill" of an empty flicker hole in a tree yucca in the Morongo Valley was most probably left by a bird of this desert race.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, February 10, 1928.*

American Goshawk in San Diego County, California.—Records of Goshawks (*Astur atricapillus*) as far south as southern California are rare, and for San Diego County