

modramus sandwichensis bryanti and *Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*; while from the southern marshes come the larger *Melospiza melodia cooperi*, *Ammodramus sandwichensis beldingi* and *Geothlypis trichas scirpicola*. It is also notable that the races of *Geothlypis trichas* occurring on the Pacific Coast are to a remarkable degree paralleled by those of the Atlantic Coast (See Palmer, Auk XVII, July 1900, pp. 216-242.)

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Some Rare Birds in Los Angeles Co., Cal.

PHOEBE (*Sayornis phæbe*). On Feb. 14, 1901, I secured a male of this species near San Fernando. Not feeling certain as to its identity and having no specimens of my own with which to compare it, I sent it to Washington, where it was identified as *S. phæbe* by Dr. Chas. W. Richmond.

Slate-colored Sparrow. (*Passerella i. schistacea*). A female sparrow taken by myself at Millard's Canyon on Feb. 11, 1901 is identified, also by Dr. Richmond, as belonging to this subspecies. One other, also a female, taken by myself at Los Angeles and recorded by Grinnell in his 'List of Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles Co.,' is I believe, the only one heretofore recorded from this part of the state. Another sparrow, a male, taken at Los Angeles Nov. 24, 1900 is described by the same authority as the last, as intermediate between *Passerella iliaca* and *P. i. schistacea*. This bird is rather sparsely spotted underneath, the throat and abdomen being immaculate, and the spots are of a brighter fox red than in the case of *P. i. schistacea* or *P. i. unalaschcensis*.

Flicker. (*Colaptes auratus*). I secured an adult female of this species at Los Angeles on Feb. 20, 1901. It was feeding in a pepper tree in company with several Red-shafted Flickers and was rather wild, in fact I had considerable difficulty in getting close enough to it to get a shot.

Besides these stragglers from the north and east, I have seen all through the past winter birds more or less com-

mon in the higher mountains, but rare or unknown at an altitude as low as the city of Los Angeles. On Nov. 14, 1900 I shot a female Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*); on Feb. 2, 1901 a female Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) and on Feb. 18 a male Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*). All these birds were feeding in pepper trees and within 50 yards of the same place. For the last two months Cassin's Purple Finch (*Carpodacus cassini*) has been quite abundant, feeding in pepper and willow trees. Nearly all that I have seen have had the plumage of the lower parts badly stained and gummed together, being often nearly black on the throat and breast.

Last week, April 15, I saw a flock of about two dozen Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) feeding in some tall mustard, clinging to the top of the stems. I shot three and when I passed the spot several hours later the flock was still busily feeding. The three that I shot had their crops filled with plant lice, with which the wild mustard seed is covered. It struck me as rather an unusual diet for these birds. H. S. SWARTH.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 22, '01.



Harry R. Taylor made an interesting take on April 14 of White-tailed Kite $\frac{1}{2}$. We say "interesting," inasmuch as Mr. Taylor mentions that his pulse registered 140 beats per minute when he reached *terra firma!* Verily the spirit of olden days has not forsaken H. R. T!