distinguished forms occur in southern California west of the Sierras. One is a small dark-colored bird which is the breeding race and remains throughout the year. This answers to the character of the tule wren (*Cistothorus palustris paludicola* Baird). The other is a large, pale bird which occurs only in winter. This accords well with the description of the western marsh wren (*Cistothorus palustris plesius* Oberholser). We have specimens of the latter as follows: Coll. F. S. D., No. 412, Feb. 21, 1896, taken at Long Beach; Nos. 409 and 410, Dec. 26, 1895, and No. 414, Jan. 22, 1896, all three taken at Bixby, Los Angeles County. Coll. J. G., No. 596, Dec. 27, 1895, also taken at Bixby; Nos. 1695 and 1696, Nov. 7, 1896, taken at El Monte, Los Angeles County. These specimens are unmistakable and indicate that at least in the winter of 1895-96 there was a general movement of the Great Basin form westward into the San Diegan district. It seems quite improbable that this was an exceptional state of affairs; for nearly all our marsh wrens, *paludicola* as well as *plesius*, were taken during only those two years. And then, too, one recalls the well-known paralled winter movements of the Say phoebe, mountain blue-bird, sage sparrow, and, as recently discovered, the sage thrasher (see Swarth, *Condor* II, July 1900, p. 89). The western marsh wren has previously been recorded along the eastern boundary of the state, well within the Great Basin, whence Oberholser (*Auk* XIV, April 1897, p. 193) reported specimens from Fort Crook, Death Valley and Eagle Lake, the latter a breeding station. The same writer also mentions Marysville in his locality list, and as this is not starred, it may be taken as another instance of winter emigration westward. Observers west of the Sierras should be on the lookout for this race, as interesting facts in regard to its migration and winter distribution may be forthcoming. As an aid in the determination of specimens, I append the following diagnosis: *Cistothorus palustris plesius* ♂, No. 1696, Coll. J. G.; El Monte, Cal.; Nov. 7, 1896.)—Wing 55.5 min. (2.18 inches); tail 55.5 (2.18); culmen 13 (.50); bill from nostril 9.8 (.39); tarsus 20.5 (.80). Ground color of upper parts cinnamon; chest, sides and flanks washed with cinnamon; black markings on wings and tail distinct; black pileum divided by broad cinnamon interval. *Cistothorus palustris paludicola* (♂, No. 4960, Coll. J. G.; Palo Alto, Cal.; Nov. 23, 1901.)—Wing 48 min. (1.90 inches); tail 46 (1.81); culmen 12 (.46); bill from nostril 9 (.36); tarsus 18 (.72). Ground color of upper parts Vandyke brown; chest sides and flanks strongly isabella color; black markings on wings and tail fused together; black pileum only washed with brown toward the forehead.

The specimens above described represent rather extreme manifestations of the two specimens. A number of individuals fall variously between. It may be remarked that some San Diegan district birds are paler than others from the San Francisco Bay region, and both sets are somewhat smaller than the stated measurements of Washington skins. Doubtless these differences are significant of geographical variation locally along the Pacific coast. But our material is as yet too scanty to afford conclusive demonstration.—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

More About the Band-tailed Pigeon (Columba fasciata).—The interesting article in the January CONDOR by C. S. Sharp on the Band-tailed Pigeon set me to looking up my records and I find a few notes bearing on the subject.

Each winter a few of the pigeons are seen in the canyons on either side of the San Gorgonio Pass between San Gorgonio and San Jacinto peaks, and a few pairs remain to nest higher in the mountains. I have seen on both mountains at an altitude of six to eight thousand feet old nests which I took to be those of the pigeon. May 14, 1897, I found on San Jacinto mountain, at about 6500 feet elevation, two nests containing young birds, one in each nest. The first was just hatched and the other half grown. Both nests were in oak trees fifteen to twenty feet from the ground and were discovered only as the old bird fluttered from the nest. The location of each nest was on a horizontal branch in thick part of the tree and rather difficult to find. They were mere platforms of twigs similar to nests of the mourning dove and it is a marvel how the eggs can be kept warm enough to hatch, resting on such an airy structure and at that altitude in springtime.

During the spring of 1901 I saw several pairs on Rabbit Mountain, 7100 feet elevation, east of Hot Springs, Warner Ranch, San Diego County. Several pairs and a flock of seven remained on the mountain till at least June and though I found three old nests, all in oak trees, no new ones were seen.

In Lost Valley about 5000 feet elevation, between Rabbit Mountain and Coyote Creek I saw several pairs and a flock of a dozen or more. They were still there June 12, when I left, but no nests were discovered.

In March, 1901, great flocks of the pigeons poured into San Gorgonio Pass and fed in the barley fields. For about two weeks there were hundreds of them but they all left as suddenly as they had appeared. Their method of feeding was peculiar. Instead of spreading out they kept together, alternately walking and flying. Those behind would fly a few feet ahead of the advance line, alight, and walk along picking up grain until other rear ones would fly ahead and it came their turn again.

In this way the flock advanced, some in the air all the time and ground was covered quite rapidly. A specimen secured measured 26 inches across the expanded wings and his crop contained 615 grains of barley by actual count. Others had eaten the large-sized acorns, growing in the mountains, the swallowing of which would seem an utter impossibilty. The oldest inhabitant of the Pass stated that only twice before in the last fifty years had the pigeons appeared in large numbers.—M. FRENCH GILMAN, *Banning, Cal.*

Correction of Doubful Records.—Believing the suggestion made by Mr. Joseph Grinnell in THE CONDOR (Vol. IV, No. 1) that all errors in identification are best promptly corrected I have gone carefully over all my published writings and append the following list of doubtful records.

1. *Dendroica occidentalis—Osprey*, Vol. III, No. 4. Possibly *D. nigrescens*; no skin taken as the Guardian of Yosemite Valley prohibits the use of firearms. 2. *Oroscoptes montanus*. 3. *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus—Osprey*, Vol. V, No. 1. Out of the 43 species recorded from Sur River the two above species are the only ones I find to have been admitted on insufficient evidence. 4. *Tachycineta thalassina—Osprey*, Vol. V, No. 8. Skins taken the following year (1902) proved this to be *Tachycineta bicolor*.—MILTON S. RAY.

Wasted Talent.—Upon laying open a cavity in an oak, in which some time previously I had discovered a pair of olivaceous fly-catchers (*Myiarchus l. olivascens*) to be building a nest, I found that the occupants had displayed a taste quite unusual in birds that nest in the dark and out of sight.

The cavity was an ancient one, made originally by woodpeckers. It was much enlarged by the shrinking of the walls, which were seamed and furrowed by cut worms or other agents. The most conspicuous of these depressions were filled in with nest material, mostly feathers, and so well inserted, particularly some coarse feathers, that they were not very easily removed. It was as tho they had been tamped in. All the more conspicuous depressions up to the height of the opening, some five inches above rim of nest were treated thus.

Was the work instigated by that instinct for beautifying their nests displayed by birds that build them where they can be seen by man? It scarcely added to the comfort of the nest, being quite above it, and it stopped the entrance of no light or air.

After removing the material I regretted not having photographed the work.

Afterward, in two other instances, I found the same thing done tho to a less marked degree, so, it seems, it is a characteristic of this interesting bird.

The nest referred to contained four eggs of dimensions as follows: .70 by .55, .70 by .53, .69 by 56, .68 by .54 inches.

The material of which the nest was composed was less than half hair, which forms almost the sole nest material used by its congener *M. cinerascens* and included ravelings of gunnysack, used by the naturalist as bait to discover the nest, cow hair, and rabbit fur, dried grass, bark-fibers and many feathers.—R. D. LUSK, *Tucson, Ariz.*

Minutes of Club Meetings

NORTHERN DIVISION: JULY.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division was held at the residence of the President, Mr. H. R. Taylor, in Alameda, Cal., July 11, 1903, ten members and three visitors being present. Twelve candidates were elected to membership as follows: P. M. Silloway, Lewiston, Mont., Joseph Clemens, Monterey, Cal., Fred M. Dille, Longmont, Colo., Henry Stewart Gane, Santa Barbara, Cal., Mrs. Juliette C. Harding, Antioch, Cal., James S. Cooper, Hayward, Cal., Wm. Frederick Bade, Berkeley, Cal., Miss Ida M. Eshenberg, Santa Barbara, Cal., Herman T. Bohlman, Portland, Ore., H. H. Sheldon, San Francisco, H. H. Bailey, San Francisco, J. S. Hunter, Watsonville, Cal.

Three new names were proposed for membership: Miss Gertrude B. Forrester, Round Mountain, Cal., Foster C. Wright, Los Angeles, Cal., Prof. F. E. L. Beal, Washington, D. C.

The resignation of Mr. Chas. R. Keyes from the office of Secretary of the Cooper Club was read and accepted by unanimous vote of the members present; a vote of thanks and expression of regrets was extended to Mr. Keyes by the Club and the Secretary pro tem instructed to correspond with Mr. Keyes to that effect. Mr. Kaeding was elected secretary of the Club for the unexpired term of Mr. Keyes, resigned.

Mr. Kaeding spoke on the subject of vernacular names of birds vs. the Latin names, and made a motion that in all matter published in THE CONDOR, the vernacular name, when given, be followed by the Latin name of the bird. The motion was carried and the Secretary pro tem was instructed to notify the editor of THE CONDOR to that effect.

Mr. Emerson then spoke at some length on, "The Bird-life on the Farallone Islands," comparing the aspect of the islands as they were in 1887 with the present conditions, and discussing the probable causes of the decrease in certain of the species and the increase in others. Mr. Kaeding made a few remarks on the impressions made by a first visit to these islands. Mr. Cohen spoke on the "Blackbirds of Alameda County," illustrating his remarks with a series of specimens. Prof. F. E. L. Beal spoke briefly on the work being done by the Dep't of Agriculture on the foods of birds and their relation to agriculture and horticulture.

After a recess for refreshment and informal discussion, the meeting adjourned to meet in Palo Alto, September 12.—H. B. KAEDING, Secretary.