

compared the three island skins above mentioned with the mainland series, and find several counterparts from Palo Alto and Pasadena, which I am absolutely and unqualifiedly unable to distinguish from them. A conscientious study of Mr. Oberholser's description leads me to conclude that he was not fortunate in having a sufficient series of mainland *breeding* birds for comparison.

As to bionimic reasoning, this flycatcher is migratory everywhere, north of Mexico at least; it is not known to occur on any of the Santa Barbara islands, except as a summer visitant; hence it is not a resident species there. Therefore we should not expect it to fall under the dominance of local environment, at least to such an extent as resident species like the jays, shrikes, song sparrows and wrens. As far as we now know, there is no reason for recognizing "*Empidonax insulicola*" as distinct from *E. difficilis*; therefore I propose that the former name be deposed from our lists.—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Bohemian Waxwings in Utah.—Range of Cliff Swallows.—The long awaited Part III, of Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America came recently to delight my heart, and though a formidable pile of examination papers entered a silent protest, I took time to cut the leaves and "run through" the volume. In the course of my hasty examination, I failed to find any Utah record of one of our winter birds, and in another case, I discovered that the range given, can be considerably extended in two directions. The species apparently not reported for Utah is the Bohemian waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*). To my personal knowledge these birds have wintered in this part of Utah (central) for the past seven winters (counting the present) with one exception, that of 1900-1901. They may have been in the state during the winter named, but I did not happen to see them. These birds come about the middle of December and remain till the last week of March and first week in April. I have in preparation an article for THE CONDOR on the habits of these birds, so will not say more now.

The range of the cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*), as given by Ridgway is, "mid. and s. Utah." On July 10, 1903, I found these birds nesting well over toward the eastern side of Wasatch County. They were making use of a mass of yellow sandstone that had been weathered into an arch. In my notes, under the date named, is a rough drawing of this arch and the dimensions given are, "twenty feet across the top, while the inside of the span, where the nests are suspended, is a little more than ten feet in length and about the same number of feet in width, while it is just high enough to admit of my standing erect." Appearances seemed to indicate that a goodly number of nests had been destroyed not long before our visit to the place, and not more than two dozen of the birds were seen by us. Two nests were in use; others were in course of construction. In three instances new nests were being built on the foundations of old nests, and in a single instance the builder was *repairing* a nest that had the appearance of having been in use the year before. We also found these swallows (during the same trip, July 10-30, 1903) between Lake Fork and Ft. Duchesne, and between the Fort and Vernal, the county seat of Uinta County, thus extending the bounds of their eastern range to within about thirty miles of the Colorado line. On May 10, 1903, and May 12, 1904, I found these swallows nesting in the cliffs at Echo, in Summit County—about twenty miles west of the southwest corner of Wyoming. I am inclined to think that these birds nest throughout Utah, in suitable localities.—S. H. GOODWIN, *Provo City, Utah*.

Status of the Townsend Warbler in California.—*Dendroica townsendi* occurs in California in two roles, as a regular winter visitant and as a rather late spring migrant.^a I have personally met with it in both capacities and have secured considerable series of skins. From the Santa Cruz District ^b (Black Mt., King Mt., Woodside, Pescadero Creek, and vicinity of Monterey) my specimens indicate dates from October 13 through January. In the vicinity of Pasadena specimens were taken from April 22 to May 13, of various years. These two sets of skins, namely, mid-winter visitants from the Santa Cruz District, and late spring migrants from Pasadena, present slight but significant average differences from one another. The characters consist in the larger bill, shorter wing and tail, and more rounded wing of the former, as contrasted with the smaller bill, longer wing and tail, and more pointed wing of the latter. Such differences, we have learned from a study of bird races in general, are apparently correlated with lengths of the respective migratory journeys. For while both sets of birds certainly summer north of California, one goes no farther south in winter than central California, and the other set of individuals traverses the entire length of the state and farther, possibly providing the records from southern Mexico and Guatemala. Unfortunately I have no opportunity to examine breeding birds from the north. But I believe these two sets of individuals represent in reality two geographical races, breeding in separate faunal areas, the short-winged birds nesting in the humid Sitkan District, of the coast of south-eastern Alaska and British Columbia, the long-winged birds

^a Less in evidence during the southward movement in the fall. ^b See Map 2 in Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 3.

in the more arid interior of British Columbia and Northwest Territory, where the species has been found on the headwaters of the Yukon in July. Parallels seem to be afforded in the cases of *Ixoreus n. navius* and *I. n. meruloides*, *Melospiza l. striata* and *M. l. lincolni*, and *Regulus c. grinnelli* and *R. c. calendula*. The differences in wing and tail lengths are not due to wear, for the spring birds show the most wear and yet exhibit the greatest measurements. Nineteen males of the Townsend warbler from the Santa Cruz District average: wing 2.57 in. (65 mm.); tail 2.19 in. (55.6 mm.); the 7th primary longest (7-8-9-6-5-4-3-2-1), counting the innermost as the first as recently recommended by Ridgway^c. Forty males from Pasadena average: wing 2.64 in. (67 mm.), tail 2.23 in. (56.6 mm.); the 8th primary largest (8-7-9-6, etc.).^d

Mr. Wells W. Cooke in his recent account of the "Distribution and Migration of North American Warblers"^e has the following to say of *Dendroica townsendi*: "The Townsend warbler is one of the widest ranging of the western warblers, breeding from the mountains of southern California north to Sitka, Alaska, [etc] * * * A few sometimes winter as far north as southern California." [Italics mine.] I hope that I may not be judged over-critical if I venture the assertion that both of these statements are decidedly misleading. One would infer that the species is well known as a regular breeder in the "mountains of southern California"; whereas we know of not one authentic instance of the species nesting anywhere within the State! Of course it is possible there remains unrecorded some instance known to Mr. Cooke; but this, if true, could reasonably be considered exceptional, judging from the comparative thoroughness with which the "mountains of southern California" have been explored ornithologically within the past few years. Again, that a few individuals sometimes winter in southern California, is quite true, but it gives no hint of the fact that the Townsend warbler winters regularly in the Santa Cruz District of central California in such numbers as to be considered *common*! Recourse to readily-available literature would have disclosed a series of records beginning in 1879.^f—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow near Stanford University.—During the week from August 29 to September 4, 1904, I was camped in a ravine among the hills opposite Hidden Villa, which is on an old ranch near the base of Black Mountain, Santa Clara County, and about six miles from Stanford University. Here I heard the peculiar notes of the rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) almost daily, and saw several of the birds. On August 30 I procured a specimen, which is No. 5965 of my collection. The species was noted only on a southern hillside covered with a low growth of greasewood brush (*Adenostoma*). In this same place the Bell sparrow and dusky poor-will were also common.—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Aerial Battle of Red-tailed Hawks, *Buteo borealis calurus*.—On December 8th, 1904, Rev. Thomas J. Wood of this place whilst feeding his chickens heard a loud, shrill sound overhead. On looking up he saw two large hawks fighting fiercely. Continuing to watch them he saw they were in some way fastened together and, going about in circles, were gradually nearing the ground. In a few minutes they dropped within a few feet of where he stood. As they struck the ground they become separated, but being somewhat exhausted from their struggle did not take immediate flight or attempt to until Mr. Wood started towards them when one started but was easily overtaken and fearlessly grasped by the neck by Mr. Wood who turning quickly, caught the other in a like manner. He brought and kindly presented them to me. They were the western red-tail (*Buteo borealis calurus*) in the intermediate plumage and both males. Their skins are now in my collection.—HENRY W. MARSDEN, *Witch Creek, Cal.*

***Colaptes auratus luteus* in Los Angeles County, Cal.**—A female specimen of *Colaptes auratus luteus* has lately come into my possession. It was taken near Alhambra, Nov. 4, 1904, by A. Williamson of this city, and so far as I have been able to obtain information is the second record for Los Angeles County. Our other record is of an adult male specimen taken in the same locality, Feb. 7, 1890, by E. C. Thurber.—C. H. RICHARDSON, JR., *Pasadena, Cal.*

Double Nest of Arkansas Kingbird.—During the past summer I made the acquaintance of what was to me an unknown trait in any flycatcher, that of building a double nest. A pair of Arkansas kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) built their nest near the top of a dilapidated windmill tower on an abandoned ranch near Turlock. On May 5, there were three eggs in the nest. I did not handle the eggs, nor even touch the nest, but left them as I wanted to study the feeding of the young. About two weeks later I climbed to the nest and found that the birds had built another nest on top of the first and had already laid three eggs. Two of these were afterwards hatched, the third being infertile.—J. S. HUNTER, *Berkeley, Cal.*

(Continued on page 55.)

^c Bds. N. and Mid. Am. I. 1901, p. XVI.

^d Anti-splitlers please take note that I have here pointed out a subspecies without "burdening it with a name!"

^e U. S. Dept. Agr., Bull. No. 18, Div. Biol. Survey, 1904, p. 90.

^f Coues, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club IV, April 1879, p. 117.