

Notes on a Small Collection of California Birds
with Description of an Apparently Unrecognized Race of Hutton's Vireo

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AMONG somewhat over 1000 beautifully made bird-skins collected for me in 1903 and 4 by Mr. H. W. Marsden at Redlands, San Bernardino County, and Witch Creek and Pacific Beach, San Diego County, California, the following seem of enough interest to be placed on record. The Volcan Mountains, Mr. Marsden writes me, are twelve miles from Witch Creek.

Synthliboramphus antiquus. Ancient Murrelet. A male in worn winter plumage, with its feathers matted with petroleum, was found dead at Pacific Beach on April 25, 1904.

Stercorarius longicaudus. Long-tailed Jaeger. A young male, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 19, 1904.

Sterna elegans. Elegant Tern. An adult male, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 21, 1904.

Sterna hirundo. Common Tern. Three adult males, two of them in winter plumage, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 12, 8, 15, 1904.

Charitonetta albeola. Buffle-head. A male in peculiarly worn and faded first winter plumage, taken at Pacific Beach, April 22, 1904. The upper parts and wings are brownish black broadly edged with ashy or creamy white. The chin is wood brown, and most of the loreal region and sides of neck varies between wood brown and drab. Of the tail feathers little but the shafts remain and many of these have been broken off close to the body. The contour feathers as a whole are greatly worn and noticeably shorter than usual. This bird probably was in the second spring, but for some reason had failed to moult for a year and a half. A triangular patch of black but worn feathers on the forehead with others on the lores and extending on both sides toward the chin was probably assumed in the fall of 1903 in an abortive attempt at adult dress.

Rallus levipes. Bangs's Rail. Eleven specimens, taken at Pacific Beach in October, January, and April are remarkably uniform in color and size, and agree closely with Mr. Bangs's description of this species. Unfortunately I have been unable to compare them with specimens of *R. beldingi* and *R. obsoletus*.

Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus. Long-billed Dowitcher. A young male and young female, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 16, 1904.

Tringa canutus. Knot. Two young males, taken at Pacific Beach on Sept. 10 and 16, 1904. Mr. Marsden wrote that he did not consider the knot rare there, as he saw several others.

Actodromas bairdi. Baird's Sandpiper. A young female taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 8, 1904.

Aphriza virgata. Surf Bird. A young male, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 8, 1904.

Arenaria interpres. European Turnstone. A young female turnstone, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 8, 1904. Mr. Oberholser agrees with me in referring it to this species.

Accipiter velox rufilatus. Western Sharp-shinned Hawk. Adult male collected by Mr. Marsden at Witch Creek on Nov. 5, 1904, and Newcastle, Colorado, on Aug. 13, 1902, agree with Mr. Ridgway's description of *A. v. rufilatus*, but an adult female and young female from Witch Creek, taken on Dec. 10, 1904, and

Dec. 31, 1903, are diametrically opposed to his description of this race, being paler below than the Connecticut bird.

Falco richardsoni. Richardson's Merlin. A young female, taken at Witch Creek, on Feb. 9, 1904.

Phalænoptilus nuttalli nitidus. Frosted Poor-will. Eleven poor-wills, taken at Witch Creek in the summer of 1904, Mr. Nelson pronounces much nearer to this form than to the other race.

Empidonax canescens. Gray Flycatcher. A female taken April 20, and a male on April 22, 1903, at Redlands.

Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis. California Crow. A female taken at Redlands on March 20, 1903, and a male at Witch Creek on Jan. 22, 1904, agree with Mr. Ridgway's description of this race in having slightly longer and more slender bills than eastern birds. Another peculiarity is that the wings and tail are much browner than any of a series of twenty-four Connecticut crows.

Agelaius phœniceus sonoriensis. Sonoran Redwing. Two males and a female taken at Redlands on Jan. 22, March 28, and Jan. 10, 1903, and a male taken at Witch Creek on April 13, 1904, Mr. Oberholser considers this subspecies.

Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus. Green-backed Goldfinch. An adult male taken at Witch Creek, Nov. 24, 1903 has the scapulars chiefly black.

Passerculus sandwichensis bryanti. Bryant's Marsh Sparrow. A male taken at Witch Creek on Feb. 12, 1904.

Zonotrichia leucophrys. White-crowned Sparrow. A year old male, taken at Witch Creek on April 8, 1904, and a young female in the Volcan Mountains on Dec. 3, 1904.

Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli. Nuttall's Sparrow. Gambel's sparrow was naturally the common form at Redlands, but Mr. Marsden collected a single adult male Nuttall's sparrow there on Jan. 27, 1903.

Junco hyemalis thurberi. Thurber's Junco. Three breeding males taken in the Volcan Mts., June 22-9, 1904, are intermediate between this form and *pinosus*, having the throat grayer than the former and the head slightly blacker than the latter, but are somewhat nearer *thurberi*. A beautiful, albinistic, male junco was collected at Witch Creek on Nov. 10, 1904, in company with a typical female Thurber's junco, which is also in my collection. The bill, tarsi, toes, and nails are pinkish white; forehead, lores, infra-orbital region, chin, lower breast, abdomen, wings and tail, white; the wings and tail slightly mottled with ashy; a slight pinkish suffusion on the sides and the greater wing-coverts; and the rest of the plumage, including the throat, and entire upper parts, blackish slate or slate-color, edged with grayish white. In coloring, therefore, this bird is nearer *hyemalis* than to *thurberi*.

A female also taken at Witch Creek on Dec. 14, 1903, has the chin and part of the throat grayish white.

Passerella iliaca schistacea. Slate-colored Fox Sparrow. Of thirteen fox sparrows taken near Witch Creek in December, 1904, eight are of this subspecies, one, *megarhyncha*, and one, intermediate.

Passerella iliaca annectens. Yakutat Fox Sparrow. Mr. Oberholser identifies as of this race two males and a female taken at Witch Creek, Dec. 21, 1904.

Pipilo maculatus atratus. San Diego Towhee. The towhee of Witch Creek and the Volcan Mts. is this subspecies.

Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides. White-rumped Shrike. Two males taken at Witch Creek on Nov. 26, 1903, and Jan. 25, 1904.

Vireo huttoni oberholseri, new subspecies. Oberholser's Vireo.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS—Similar to *Vireo huttoni* but darker, grayer, and less buffy olive above; below, paler and grayer with less buffy suffusion on chest and sides.

HABITAT—San Diego County, California.

TYPE—Adult male, No. 10,891, collection of Louis B. Bishop, Witch Creek, San Diego Co., California, April 9, 1904. No. 1061 of H. W. Marsden, collector.

Seven vireos collected by Mr. Marsden at Witch Creek on March 16. April 9, (2), Nov. 10 and 23, and Dec. 10 and 14, 1904, differ from specimens of *V. huttoni* in corresponding stages of plumage, collected at various points between Redlands and San Geronimo, California, as described above. These differences are more marked in the March and April birds, and three I at first referred to *V. h. stephensi*, until Mr. Oberholser called my attention to their distinctness. They are considerably darker and smaller than *V. h. stephensi*, darker than *V. h. cognatus*, and lack the decided olive above and buff below of *V. h. obscurus*. Apparently they exemplify the tendency shown by *Pipilo maculatus* to assume a dark form in San Diego County, the lack of the buffy olive on the upper parts giving a dusky effect to the plumage although the tips of the feathers are grayer than in *V. huttoni*. Thus they seem not to be intermediate between any recognized races, and I am forced to agree with Mr. Oberholser in thinking they require a name. This race I take pleasure in naming in his honor, and wish to express my thanks to him and to the authorities of the National Museum for lending me a series of the different races of *V. huttoni*.

Dendroica æstiva rubiginosa. Alaskan Yellow Warbler. At Witch Creek a female was collected on May 3, two males on May 6 and 11, and a male on Oct. 12, 1904.

Regulus calendula grinnelli. Sitkan Kinglet. A female taken at Redlands on March 24, 1903.

Regulus calendula cineraceus. Ashy Kinglet. This appears to be a much more strongly differentiated race than the last, and therefore more worthy of recognition. Mr. Marsden has collected me five from California, four from Arizona, and three from Colorado, and the California, and Arizona birds are larger and much paler than Connecticut specimens of *calendula* in approximately the same condition of plumage. The Arizona birds are the largest and palest and those from Colorado intermediate with *calendula* but nearer *cineraceus*.

Hylocichla guttata slevini. Monterey Hermit Thrush. A male taken at Redlands, April 16, 1903.

Sialia mexicana occidentalis. Western Bluebird. A female, taken at Redlands on April 8, 1903 has most of the crown, nape, sides of head, neck and throat white.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Calamospiza melanocorys Seen in Santa Barbara.—On July 20th of this year, while returning along the county road to the house at which I was staying in the outskirts of Santa Barbara, I was surprised to hear a strange bird-note close behind me. Upon turning around I was still more surprised to see three strange birds flying across the road but a few yards away from me. One of the three lit in the top of a small acacia tree close to the road while the others flew on beyond. The one in the tree endeavored to hide when it noticed me and as I tried to identify it by getting closer it flew out of the tree onto the top rail of a board fence about twenty-five yards away. After waiting until I walked to within fifteen yards it flew down in the grass beyond. I immediately went to the house for a weapon and returned to the spot. On my approach this bird flushed with a number of lark finches (*Chondestes g. strigatus*) and western chipping sparrows (*Spizella s. arizonæ*) and flew out of reach, soon separating from the other birds and following the direction taken by its original companions. Diligent search failed to