

**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

discover any further trace of them. I have never seen this species alive, but the size, general shape, coloration and the conspicuous white patch on the wing would not apply to any other than immature *Calamospiza melanocorys*—lark bunting—while the strange note which first attracted my attention agrees with Mrs. Bailey's description; viz: a soft *hoo-ee*, peculiarly sweet and given with a rising inflection.

This is apparently the first record of this bird in Santa Barbara Co., and it is a great pity that a specimen was not obtained.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

**Washington Notes.**—The following notes made by my brother and myself are, as far as we can learn, the first records for these birds breeding in the state of Washington.

Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*). On May 4, 1904, at Kiona, Yakima County, Wash. Nest contained six fresh eggs, and was placed on the ground at a short distance from some small ponds. Two pairs of birds seen. Collected by J. H. Bowles.

Northwest Coast Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*). On April 20, 1905, at Sumner, Pierce County, Wash. Nest contained four heavily incubated eggs. In a colony of about twenty-five pairs. Very large nest made of very small dead limbs, lined with very small twigs. Placed eighty feet up in a young fir in a large grove of same situated quarter of a mile from a lake. So far as we can learn this is the first recorded set of this subspecies. Collected by J. H. Bowles.

Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). During the summer of 1904 two nests containing young were found in the vicinity of Tacoma, Pierce County, Wash., by Mr. Ed. L. Currier of Tacoma. These are the first records that have come to our knowledge, but on May 20, 1905, another nest, containing five fresh eggs was found, placed seventy feet up in a fir tree in densely wooded low ground. Collected by C. W. and J. H. Bowles.

California Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*). On June 1, 1905, in the vicinity of Tacoma, Pierce County, Wash. Nest contained two slightly incubated eggs. Nest large and well made, being constructed of coarse crab-apple twigs, and lined with moss and fir needles. Placed eight feet up in small fir in dense mixed fir and deciduous growth. Collected by C. W. Bowles.—J. H. and C. W. BOWLES, Tacoma, Wash.

**A Correction.**—In referring to *Setophaga picta* on page 81 of May CONDOR, I ascribed the first known set of eggs to Mr. Stephens's credit. I inadvertantly overlooked W. E. Bryant's record of a set collected by Mr. Herbert Brown in the Santa Rita Mts., June 6, 1880 (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VI, 1881, 176). Mr. Brown's set was therefore the first.—HARRY S. SWARTH.

**Nesting of a Hummingbird in a Barn.**—Of all the changes in nesting habits that have come under my observation none equals that of a hummingbird recently reported by Mr. George Luce, one of my ornithological friends residing at Haywards. In the summer of 1903 he found a hummer's nest attached to a knot of a bale-rope ten feet from the roof of a barn and about thirty feet from the ground. When he observed it the nest contained two young about two days old. He was unable to see the parent bird in order to identify it.—W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal.

**Curious Nesting Sites of Western House Wren.**—The little brown house wren or Parkman wren (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*) seems to be showing some preference for steel in this locality. In June, 1904, a pair built their nest in a section of stove pipe eight feet long placed on rafters of a chicken house, the end of which was latticed. The nest was eight feet from the ground. One end of the pipe was filled up with small twigs, and at the other end was the nest proper. It looked as if instinct has taught them to fill up one end of the pipe to keep out weazels and rodents. When examined the nest contained six fully fledged young, as George Luce informed me. Another nest was placed on a foundation of ten-penny nails in a grain sack, which had been hung up on the side of a ranch house within five feet of the ground in plain view of anyone passing. I saw the mite of brown feathers flit out of a wee hole in the sack, and on looking into it found a nest of the usual wren character. A few twigs had been placed on the nails and well lined with birds' feathers, but no snake skin. Another queer situation for a wren's nest was found in a pocket of an old velvet smoking coat hanging over the rafters of a deserted preemter's cabin. From the appearance of the coat it had been used for several nests.—W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal.

## THE EDITOR'S BOOK SHELF

MANUALE DI ORNITOLOGIA ITALIANA. Elenco descrittivo degli Uccelli Stazionari o di Passaggio finora osservati in Italia. DEL CONTE DOTT. E. ARRIGONI DEGLI ODDI. Con 36 tavole e 401 incisioni nel testo da disegni originali. Milano, 1904, 16 mo. pp. 163 + VIII + 908.

Students of Italian birds, particularly those who have not access to the more elaborate works,