

Pipilo maculatus subsp.? A Towhee was seen several times on South Island.
Helminthophila celata. Lutescent Warbler. Rare; two seen on North Island April 8.

Salpinctes obsoletus. Rock Wren. Common; noted on all the islands. By watching a pair of these birds I located their nest near camp on South Island April 5. It was ten feet from the tent and about sixteen feet above the water. The nesting cavity was lined with sticks and pebbles, but contained no eggs.

Poliophtila caerulea obscura. Western Gnatcatcher. A few were seen on South Island flitting about in low bushes near the top of the ridge. About ten individuals were seen.

Pasadena, California.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Northern Spotted Owl in California.—There is in the Univ. Calif. Mus. Vert. Zool. collection a specimen (no. 5941) of the Spotted Owl, ♀ adult, taken by F. W. Bancroft on Mt. Tamalpais, Marin Co., California, May 23, 1896. This appears to make the first record of the species in California north or west of Big Trees, Calaveras County, where found by Belding (Land Bds. Pac. Dist., 1899, 49). Furthermore, a comparison of the Tamalpais owl with examples from the San Gabriel Mountains of Los Angeles county, shows the former to belong to a separate race, very probably meriting the name *Strix occidentalis caurina*. The name *Syrinium occidentale caurinum* was applied by Dr. C. Hart Merriam to a race discovered in the Puget Sound Region. The characters pointed out by him (*Auk* XV, January, 1898, p. 39) seem to hold in every respect for the Tamalpais bird, tho evidently in a less degree. I have never seen an example of the Northern Spotted Owl from the Puget Sound region; but Merriam's description leaves me in little doubt but that I am safe in using his name for the race in the extreme southern end of the same continuous humid coast region. Briefly, the Tamalpais Owl, as compared with southern specimens, has the white-spotting everywhere, especially on top of the head, reduced; the dark areas, therefore, extended, and darker; the tipplings of the wing and tail feathers not pure white, but dusky marbled; and the plumage of the feet more heavily dark marked.—J. GRINNELL, *University of California, Berkeley, California.*

Sumichrast Blackbird in Tamaulipas, Mexico.—Mr. E. W. Nelson has identified as belonging to this species (*Dives dives*) a skin in my collection (no. 11219; ♀ ad.; near Tampico, Tamaulipas; Dec. 18, 1908; A. P. S.) taken by one of my assistants on the open plain about halfway between Tampico and Altamira, Tamaulipas. It was the only individual of the species secured at the time. This somewhat extends the range of *Dives dives* as given by Ridgway in his *Birds of North and Middle America*, Part II, page 254.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas.*

Note on the Nesting of the Cliff Swallow.—On April 29, 1909, I found a set of seven eggs of the Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*). The nest was of the usual type, one of a colony under the eaves of a barn. Is not a set of this number unusual?—D. I. SHEPARDSON, *Los Angeles, California.*

Some Unusual Records from Portland, Oregon.—Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax n. naevius*): A young male secured on July 29, 1908, on Government Island in the Columbia, twelve miles east of the city.

Mountain Chickadee (*Penthestes gambeli*): An adult female taken December 10, 1908, along the Columbia; it was in company with a flock of *P. atricapillus accidentalis*. I believe this is the first record from this vicinity.

Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*): A juvenile male taken December 11, 1908, east of the city, was in company with a large flock of Oregon Chickadees, Winter Wrens and Gairdner Woodpeckers, feeding among the willows along the river. A very unusual time of year for this summer warbler considering the cold stormy weather we had had for the past two months.

Arctic Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus subarcticus*): A male taken during the blizzard in January, 1909.

Vaux Swift (*Chaetura vauuxii*): Two pairs of this swift have used a chimney in an old farm house near here for their nesting site for several years. It is to be hoped they will be undisturbed and thus become civilized like their eastern cousin, the Chimney Swift.

The unusual cold of this past winter was hard on our resident birds. During January I found dead birds in the snow of the following species: Mallard, Varied Thrush, Oregon Towhee, Rusty Song Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Northwestern Flicker and Mountain Quail. The China Pheasants stood the cold remarkably well altho they became much emaciated, and I know of several being caught alive and cared for until the snow disappeared. Resident birds are much scarcer this spring than they have been for the past five years.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon.*

Two Waders of Note from Santa Catalina Island.—Records of the following two species from California are yet not so numerous but that additional ones are of interest. The Grinnell collection contains a male in juvenal plumage of the Baird Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdii*) taken at White's Landing, Santa Catalina Island, California, September 1, 1907. The same collection contains a juvenal male of the Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*) taken at Howland's Landing, Santa Catalina Island, California, September 3, 1907. Both birds were secured by Mr. Howard W. Wright.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California.*

A Correction.—In THE CONDOR, March-April, 1909, p. 60, paragraph 2, read Baird Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis bairdi*) in place of Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*); careful examination of specimens secured show their affinity to the first-named subspecies.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas.*

Further Notes on the American Crossbill in California.—In the last issue of this magazine, page 102, I neglected to state that the second example of *Loxia curvirostra minor* referred to had also been obtained at Nicasio. The exact date is not known, but it was many years ago and doubtless in winter.

Under the name *minor*, Mr. F. S. Daggett has recorded six Crossbills as taken December 26, 1898, in Pasadena (Bull. Cooper Orn. Club 1, May 1899, p. 51). At my request Mr. Daggett has sent me the measurements of these specimens, now in his collection at Oak Park, Illinois. With very little doubt, the form they represent is also *L. c. minor* just as originally recorded. Perhaps others of our winter records for the state pertain to the small race. Collectors having specimens should re-examine them.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California.*

A Correction.—My attention has been called to the fact that in my recent catalogue of Boulder County birds I omitted to credit the Red-eyed Vireo record to Mr. Horace G. Smith, who recorded it in the *Auk* in 1908. I certainly had no intention of claiming any credit for the record and do not know how the omission occurred.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *Boulder, Colorado.*

Queries.—The published literature relating to California ornithology, altho relatively voluminous, still fails to inform us definitely of many apparently easily-obtainable facts we are continually wanting to know. The following are some instances in point; and it is highly probable that every one of these queries can be answered by various observers from personal experience. As the replies will be of general interest and value I suggest that each be written up as an article, either brief or extended, for the "Field and Study" department of THE CONDOR.

(1) What is the status of the "Olive-backed Thrush" in California? It should occur as a migrant. Has anyone specimens? (2) Is there a definite instance of the nesting of the Lead-colored Bush-tit in California? It should be found along the east side of the Sierras. (3) Does the Wren-tit occur at any point east of the Sierran divide? (4) Does the Audubon Warbler breed anywhere in the "Humid Coast Belt"? (5) Does the Brewer Sparrow nest anywhere west of the Sierra Nevada? (6) Has the Western Martin begun to nest about buildings extensively, as with the Eastern Martin? (7) There are very few nesting records of the Bank Swallow in California. What is its breeding range in the state? (8) Has anyone found any subspecies of the Fox Sparrow in summer in the Humid Coast Belt of California? (9) What is the status of the Junco reported from the coast region north of San Francisco Bay? (10) Does the Bi-colored Blackbird intergrade with the San Diego Red-wing? (11) What is the subspecific identity of the Cowbird reported as breeding in the southern San Joaquin Valley?—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California.*