

unfortunate *hyloscopus*, thus dismembered, is finally restricted to a slender thread of territory winding over parts of southern California and along the coast, except in the extreme north-western corner of the state; and the threat implied in the statement that the type of the subspecies, from San Jose, California, is not really typical of any form, leads us to fear that it may even be cast out from this, its last refuge!

The name of the big Northern Hairy Woodpecker is changed to *Dryobates villosus septentrionalis* (Nuttall) on grounds which may or may not be considered adequate. The range of *D. v. piceoides* is given as including Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, a view with which the present reviewer does not agree at all, for reasons already detailed elsewhere. Also the statements that *harrisi* is remarkably uniform in size and color, over its entire range, and that there is very little individual variation in the form, are not borne out by an Alaskan series at hand, evidently more extensive than the material from that region at the disposal of Mr. Oberholser.

However, these are matters of detail, and largely of opinion, but whether or not one feels inclined to give names to all of the rather slightly differentiated varieties here recognized, there is no question at all as to the value and excellence of Mr. Oberholser's work. Careful discrimination is required in the handling of a difficult group like the one under discussion, and we have in the present paper an accurate resumé of the problem. The descriptions and critical comments are such as will always be returned to by future workers, the key to the subspecies, contained in the introduction, is excellently devised (if all the individuals of a subspecies would only be "typical"!); and the map outlining the breeding ranges is a decidedly valuable feature of the paper.—H. S. S.

A REVISION OF THE FORMS OF THE LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Dryobates scalaris* [Wagler]). By HARRY C. OBERHOLSER. [=Proc. U. S. National Museum, Vol. 41, pp. 139-159, pl. 12 (map); published June 30, 1911.] As one of the results of Mr. Oberholser's study of this group "the six currently recognized races are here increased to fifteen." In place of *Dryobates s. bairdi*, heretofore considered to be the form ranging along the southern border of the United States, from Texas to southern California, we have here two races described, *D. s. symplectus*, the Texas Woodpecker, and *D. s. cactophilus* (type locality Tucson, Arizona), the form occurring in northern Mexico, western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California. *Bairdi* is restricted to a comparatively limited area in central Mexico. Neither of the two subspecies regarded as inhabiting Lower California (*D. s. eremicus* in the north-

ern, and *D. s. lucasanus* in the southern half of the peninsula) is considered to occur in southern California, specimens from the Colorado Desert formerly identified as *D. s. lucasanus*, being now regarded as variants of *cactophilus* showing intergradation with *D. s. eremicus*.—H. S. S.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPOTTED TOWHEE FROM THE GREAT BASIN. BY J. GRINNELL. [=Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 7, August 24, 1911, pp. 309-311.] The Towhee of northern Nevada, northeastern California and southern Oregon is here separated as a distinct form, under the name of *Pipilo maculatus curtatus*, type locality Pine Forest Mountains, Nevada. From *P. m. montanus* of Arizona and New Mexico it is distinguished by shorter wing and tail, and darker coloration; from *P. m. megalonyx* by somewhat paler coloration, greater extent of white markings, and much shorter hind-toe-and-claw. It is a migratory form, the summer range about as given above, while winter specimens were secured on the lower Colorado River.—H. S. S.

A NEW BLUE GROSBEAK FROM CALIFORNIA. BY J. GRINNELL. [=Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. xxiv, June 16, 1911, p. 163.] The California Blue Grosbeak, here named *Guiraca caerulea salicarius*, (type locality Colton, San Bernardino County), is separated from *G. c. lazula* mainly on the smaller size and different proportions of the bill. The two forms are indistinguishable in color, both differing from *G. c. caerulea* of the South Atlantic States in the paler blue coloration of the male bird.—H. S. S.

EARLY SUMMER BIRDS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY. BY J. GRINNELL. [=Sierra Club Bulletin, vol. 8, June, 1911, pp. 118-124.] A sketch of the birds observed in the valley during a ten days visit (May 22 to June 1, 1911). The species met with during this time, fifty-five in number, are listed at the end of the article; while of the more interesting or conspicuous ones, portions of life history or particulars of the manner of occurrence, are detailed in the body of the paper. The best find was a nest of the Calaveras Warbler; another, nearly as good, one of the Winter Wren.

The number of species noted seems to justify the conclusion that "in abundance and variety of its bird life Yosemite is at the very least as well provided for as any other part of the West of similar climatic and floral qualifications"; though the magnificent scenic attractions are so engrossing as to assist at first to a different impression.

The paper closes with a list of the five titles previously published relative to the birds of Yosemite Valley.—H. S. S.