

It may seem a trivial matter to make a correction of range involving a matter of only fifteen miles, in a species as wide ranging as the Western Gull, but the point is that the bird is evidently strictly a maritime and littoral species, seldom or never wandering far from the sea. As my own published statement seems to be the only definite one ascribing the bird to an inland point in southern California, and as I have for years been satisfied of its inaccuracy, it seems advisable that a correction be made.

Common Tern. Willett (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 7, 1912, p. 16) has recorded the Artic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) from Los Angeles County on the basis of three specimens collected by Mr. F. S. Daggett (see CONDOR, v, 1903, p. 17) and one by myself. Having recent occasion to refer to my specimen I found that it was the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), and labelled as such. Just how the mistake arose, I do not know. Discovery of this mistake induced me to examine Mr. Daggett's three specimens, and these, too, are unmistakably *Sterna hirundo*.

This removes a species from our southern California list, for there is no other record of *S. paradisaea* for this region. With little doubt, however, it does occur, at least occasionally, along our seacoast.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California*.

**Bluebird Nesting in Low Country.**—Dr. L. H. Miller's note in the last CONDOR anent the breeding of the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) reminds me of two similar instances that I noted this spring. On April 25 I found an uncompleted nest in a white oak near Arcadia, containing two fresh eggs. On May 13 a pair had a nest with three eggs in a willow tree at the entrance to Griffith Park near the Los Angeles River. I have often noted the birds in this vicinity during the breeding season. This species seems much more common lately near the city of Los Angeles than in former years.—D. I. SHEPARDSON, *Los Angeles, California*.

**California Pine Grosbeak in Mono County, and Other Notes.**—While descending a small branch valley of Mammoth Pass, southern Mono County, California, July 31, 1914, I flushed a pair of California Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator californica*) that was feeding on the ground beside a stream at an altitude of about 9500 feet. The brightly colored male flew into a pine tree, where I shot him, but the female disappeared far up the mountain side. On August 5, while armed only with a light fly-rod, I spent five minutes watching another male that was feeding on the tender tips of a small spruce near me, at, I should say, an elevation of 9000 feet. As far as I am aware, this subspecies has never before been taken so far south.

While passing the dairy corral of a neighbor near Covina, Los Angeles County, April 29, 1915, a male Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*) flew up on the fence within fifteen feet of me and remained several minutes before returning to the ground farther away. By the time I had fetched my gun, he had disappeared. My chance for observing him was too good for there to have been a mistake in identity.

I placed two bales of hay in the shade of a large orange tree six weeks ago. Upon removing these June 18 I found that a pair of Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica vallicola*) had taken possession of them. The bales were one on top of the other and merely in the shade of the tree without any dense protection of surrounding growth such as these birds usually demand, but there was a deep hollow formed in the straw of the top bale some four feet above the ground, and in this were three fresh eggs.

The White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) is now so rare in our southland that it seems advisable to record one which I saw June 2, 1914, some two miles from El Monte, Los Angeles County. I was hunting in a grassy marsh all day and came quite close to the bird several times, once as near as a hundred yards. I hunted diligently for a nest or young, but I believe it likely that this was merely a lone individual. About a week later A. van Rossem visited this spot and noted what was undoubtedly the same bird.—A. BRAZIER HOWELL, *Covina, California*.

**A New Bird for the Pacific Slope of Southern California.**—Recently there came into my possession a Great Horned Owl that seemed much lighter in coloration than the horned owls I had seen from this locality. The bird was found dead at the mouth of San Antonio Canyon, Los Angeles County, elevation about 2000 feet, on January 10, 1915, by a Mr. Forbes of this place. The bird was sent to Mr. Grinnell for his opinion as to its

identification, and he pronounced it *Bubo virginianus pallescens*. To quote: "The Owl I consider to be *Bubo virginianus pallescens*, as it is very similar to specimens we have here from the Colorado Desert." To make more certain Mr. Grinnell advised that I send the bird to Mr. H. C. Oberholser at Washington. Mr. Oberholser writes: "It seems to be undoubtedly *Bubo virginianus pallescens*, though certainly from an unexpected locality." The bird is now no. 692 coll. W. M. P.; unsexed, though probably a female, because of its large size.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California*.

**Limicoline Laggards at Santa Barbara.**—The old declaration, the exception proves the rule, will not, of course, bear the test of a rigid logic; but unseasonable records have a fascination for most of us quite out of proportion to their real value. The following records, taken chiefly by Commander and Mrs. H. E. Parmenter at Santa Barbara this past June, prove no rules, but they do serve to establish a presumption that laggards of almost any species of shorebirds may be found stumbling along in the wake of the main host. Non-breeding birds do not refuse altogether to obey the migration impulse, but they may yield only a partial obedience to its behests, and they exhibit every degree of failure in the realization of the high goal. Only two of the species given below, the Sanderling and the Black-bellied Plover, rest solely on my own observation. For the rest we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Parmenter, both for painstaking research and for permission to publish.

*Recurvirostra americana*. Avocet. One at La Patera, June 1, 1915.

*Himantopus mexicanus*. Black-necked Stilt. One at the Estero, Santa Barbara, June 12.

*Ereunetes mauri*. Western Sandpiper. One at La Patera, June 1; one at Sandyland, June 9.

*Calidris leucophaea*. Sanderling. Twelve at Sandyland, June 5.

*Limosa fedoa*. Marbled Godwit. Two at Sandyland, June 4; five on June 9.

*Totanus melanoleucus*. Greater Yellowlegs. One at Estero, S. B., June 7.

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. Western Willet. One at La Patera, June 1; one at Sandyland, June 9; one, June 25.

*Numenius americanus*. Long-billed Curlew. Six at Sandyland, June 4.

*Numenius hudsonicus*. Jack Curlew. Thirty at Sandyland, June 4; thirteen on June 9; eleven, June 25; one at Goleta, June 30.

*Squatarola squatarola*. Black-bellied Plover. Two birds in winter plumage at the mouth of Romero Creek, June 5.

*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*. Killdeer. Sparingly resident.

*Aegialitis nivosa*. Snowy Plover. Resident at La Patera and Sandyland.

*Apriza virgata*. Surf-bird. Two at mouth of Romero Creek, June 4.

*Arenaria melanocephala*. Black Turnstone. One at Romero, June 7.—WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California, July 30, 1915*.

**Another Mexican Ground Dove for California, and Other Notes.**—In a small but select and excellently prepared collection of mounted birds belonging to my friend, Mr. Ashley Walker of Salinas, the following seem worthy of record.

A Mexican Ground Dove (*Chaemepelia passerina pallescens*), picked up dead from the lawn in front of a farm house in the Blanco district near here. This was in the middle of June, 1913.

A Fulvous Tree-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), taken in November, 1910, from a salt pond near Graves, a small siding on the railroad just north of Salinas. This makes the third record for Monterey County so far as I am aware.

A Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*), taken from a nesting colony at Merritt Lake near Castroville.

A Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), taken October 20, 1908, from the Tembledero Slough near Castroville. This bird is becoming so rare that this occurrence seems to merit recording.—O. P. SILLIMAN, *Castroville, California*.