

condition that the plumage has lost its color values. A few fresh new feathers, however, show among the primary wing coverts and on the alula; and so far as these go they indicate a coloration of adult annual plumage just like that of the first annual.

In an examination of hundreds of specimens of Hermit Thrushes from throughout the United States elsewhere than from the White Mountains, the writer has been unable to find one referable to the race *polionota*. It would seem that this subspecies, like some other migratory birds of the high mountains of the southwest, goes south in the fall to, and back again in the spring from, some far southern winter home without touching the lowlands within hundreds of miles of its restricted summer habitat.

The entire series of fourteen White Mountains Hermit Thrushes was secured through the energetic efforts of Mr. Halsted G. White, field assistant during the summer of 1917.

LIST AND MEASUREMENTS (IN MILLIMETERS) OF SPECIMENS OF *HYLOCICHLA GUTTATA POLIONOTA* COLLECTED IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS, MONO AND INYO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA, IN 1917.

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Exposed culmen	Tarsus
28838	♂ jv.	July 31	96.6	71.2	12.9	28.8
28840	♂ jv.	July 31	99.5	73.0	12.2	29.1
28842	♂ jv.	Aug. 1	95.3	72.0	11.7	29.8
28843	♂ jv.	Aug. 1	101.6	76.8	.....	30.1
28844	♂ ad. <sup>1</sup>	Aug. 3	97.5	73.0	14.3	31.2
28845	♂ ad. <sup>1</sup>	Aug. 3	99.2	77.3	13.3	28.8
28846	♂ jv.	Aug. 3	98.6	74.6	13.1	30.5
28847	♂ jv.	Aug. 3	101.3	77.3	12.9	30.7
28848	♂ im. <sup>2</sup>	Aug. 18	96.9	73.0	12.4	29.7
28849	♂ im.	Aug. 18	97.5	69.7	12.1	28.8
28850	♂ im.	Aug. 18	98.2	72.8	12.4	30.4
28851	♂ im.	Aug. 18	101.1	74.7	12.1	30.3
28839	♀ jv.	July 31	92.6	67.0	.....	28.9
28841	♀ jv.	Aug. 1	96.5	71.5	11.7	29.7

<sup>1</sup>Badly worn.

<sup>2</sup>Type.

Berkeley, California, December 27, 1917.

### FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Observations in a Swallow Colony.**—The sea-wall a few miles from Oceanside in San Diego County rises abruptly from a very narrow beach and varies in height from twenty-five to one hundred feet. The materials forming this bluff are in horizontal layers, of clay, cobble-stone, sandstone, and shells, interspersed in a few places with solid masses of very hard rock.

In one of the sandstone strata a colony of Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) have established their "cliff dwellings". Rising sharply from the beach, this layer of compact sand is nowhere over fifteen feet in thickness, while topping it is a stratum of cobble-stone and clay. That this cliff has been the home of many generations of swallows is very certain, as there are hundreds of abandoned tunnels and nests. Each year as the face of the wall is eroded and crumbles away the tiny tunnels are excavated a few inches deeper, and the new nest built at the very end.

No tunnels were found to exceed three feet in depth while the most of those examined were just the length of one's arm. In nearly every case it was an old tunnel that was being used, and as many as four or five old nests could be found buried along the passage. Building material used was a fine dark brown, grassy sea-weed, gathered from

the beach and twisted around by the birds into a very compact nest. This was lined with a few white feathers, mostly those of the Western Gull. In many places these balls of sea-weed, remains of old nests, could be seen at the very entrances to the burrows.

These "cliff dwellings" were not entirely occupied by Bank Swallows, for a number of pairs of the Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*) were also at home. In several cases typical bottle necked mud nests were built over entrances to old rooms of the Bank Swallow and contained eggs of *lunifrons*. Apparently an old Bank Swallow nest of sea-weed which was just at the entrance to a tunnel was used, and the entrance "bottled up". In one instance eggs of the Cliff Swallow were found at the end of a two-foot tunnel, lying in a typical sea-weed nest of the Bank Swallow but without any feathers for lining. Not more than four eggs were found in any nest of *lunifrons* while sets of *riparia* ranged from four to seven. At the time of our visit, May 13, 1917, most of these swallow homes held young or eggs far advanced in incubation. One nest of the Bank Swallow with a set of five eggs contained a decided runt, measuring .36x.30 inches and with no yolk.—NELSON K. CARPENTER, *Escondido, California, January 7, 1918.*

**The Rough-legged Hawk in Western Washington.**—One of the most interesting features of the fall migration of hawks, through this part of the state, was the taking on October 20, 1917, of two Rough-legged Hawks (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*). The first, a male bird, was collected by Mr. J. Hooper Bowles on the Tacoma tide flats. Seeing something on a cross-bar of a distant telegraph pole that looked very hawk-like, Mr. Bowles carefully approached for a closer view, keeping the pole between himself and the bird. In this way he obtained an excellent "close up", and was, indeed, surprised to find it a Rough-leg.

The bird sat lengthwise of the cross-bar, on the sunny side of the pole, with wings half drooping. This odd attitude was observed by Mr. Bowles for a minute or more before collecting; when the hawk was brought to hand, he found the wings and tail soaking wet, which probably accounted for the strange position on the bar. A freshly eaten field mouse, found in its stomach may have been caught swimming across one of the many channels of the flats, and the hawk had probably been obliged to take a partial dip to secure its prey.

The other bird, also a male, was, curiously enough, taken by the present writer on the same day and only about a mile distant from where Mr. Bowles got his. The latter was taken in the morning, however, and mine in the afternoon. In coloration, the two are almost alike, and in very good plumage, though the one I collected was afflicted by a bad case of what we might call "scaly leg", so common among chickens. Several big growths were found on each leg, one or two of which had been picked by the bird and were sore-looking and bloody.

My specimen was presented to Mr. D. E. Brown, of Seattle, who reported finding the body covered with sores when he skinned it. The stomach of this one also contained a field mouse.

Though the Rough-leg is somewhat of a wanderer, local bird men have few, if any, records of it for this vicinity, although east of the Cascades it is frequently met with.—E. A. KITCHIN, *Tacoma, Washington, February 1, 1918.*

**Wood Duck at San Diego.**—On November 16, 1917, a female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) in fine condition and evidently just shot by some hunter, was picked up near a water hole by Mr. Jas. McAuliffe and brought to me while still warm. The bird is now in the collection of the San Diego Natural History Society. This is the first time I have seen this species here, and it is worth recording the occurrence of this rare visitor to this place.—HENRY GREY, *San Diego, California, January 8, 1918.*

**Whip-poor-will in New Mexico in March.**—The characteristic call-notes of the Whip-poor-will, uttered repeatedly by two birds, presumably the Stephens Whip-poor-will (*Setochalcis vocifera arizonae*), were heard for some minutes preceding daylight on March 2, 1917, at Rodeo, New Mexico. This place is near the Arizona line, in the extreme southwestern part of Grant County. The altitude being above 4000 feet, the winter months are chilly, and on the date mentioned the freezing point was registered.

Notwithstanding this early appearance within our border, the usual arrival of the