

cific Grove, on June 21, 1918. Each of these had a large squarish white blotch symmetrically located near the angle of each wing, in some cases more definitely and more extensively developed on the one side than on the other. It is probable that these variants are "sporadically recurring" mutants, as suggested by Mr. Taverner.—CARL L. HUBBS, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, January 23, 1919.*

An Albino Black-chinned Hummingbird.—Albino hummingbirds are of comparatively rare occurrence, and it seems, therefore, worth while to put on record an individual *Archilochus alexandri* of this character. It was taken at the ranch of Mr. Howard Lacey, on Turtle Creek, a few miles southwest of Kerrville, Texas, by Mr. Shirley Coppock, on July 20, 1913, and was presented to the Biological Survey collection, in which it is no. 241043, U. S. Nat. Mus. It is an adult female and is entirely pure white without a dark feather anywhere.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C., February 3, 1919.*

Relative Abundance of Ducks in the Rio Grande Valley.—An observer who hunts ducks regularly, in the same general locality, by the same general methods, ought to find in the record of his daily bag a very reliable indication of the relative abundance of the various species. The following is such a record, based on two years hunting in that part of the Rio Grande Valley within 50 miles of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Species	Killed	Relative abundance on basis of 100	Relative abundance (corrected)
Mallard	77	43	40
Green-winged Teal	28	16	18
Pintail	20	11	12
Spoonbill	19	11	10
Baldpate	9	5	5
Mottled Duck (?)	9	5	5
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	5
Blue-winged Teal	7	4	1
Gadwall	4	2	1
Canvasback	2	1	1
Redhead	2	1	1
Golden-eye	1	1	1
	178	100	100

In the third column I have made estimated allowances for certain extraneous factors. For instance: Mallards are reduced because they winter here, and hence are available for hunting during a longer period. Green-winged Teal are raised because they are mostly gone by November 5. Pintails are raised because only a very few winter. Spoonbills are reduced because they always occur in small flocks, and the number killed is for this reason relatively great as compared with the number seen. Their stupidity is about offset by the fact that when Mallards are abundant, they are not often shot at. Mottled Ducks pass southward early in the season and accordingly are not reduced, as was done with Mallards. Red-breasted Mergansers are not killed, but are common in winter,—their relative abundance is estimated. The remaining species are not common. The table does not include the Cinnamon Teal, since this is a spring but not a fall migrant here, and is not seen during the hunting season.

The hunting was done about equally over river, ponds, sloughs, and flooded fields, and about equally as pass shooting, jump shooting, and decoy shooting, so that the figures given should not be particularly affected by specific habits or habitat.

This table is offered as a suggested method, rather than as a final conclusion. Based on five years instead of two, it ought to be quite the most accurate possible method of determining relative abundance of species.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 1, 1919.*

The California Shrike Probably Mates for Life.—The recent article by Mr. F. C. Willard (CONDOR, xx, 1918, p. 167), suggesting the probability that many pairs of birds remain mated for life, has brought to light considerable information on this subject;

but, as most of the evidence submitted has concerned nesting pairs of birds, it may be of interest to record the following winter observations on one species.

Throughout the greater part of the San Joaquin Valley the California Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*) is a very abundant resident and, because of its habit of perching on telephone and telegraph wires while watching for prey, it is a rather conspicuous species at all times. Some idea of the abundance of this bird may be obtained from the statement that, in driving a distance of fifteen miles along the county roads, or even along the state highway, the count usually totaled from twenty to thirty birds.

Eighteen years of observation had convinced me that certain pairs of shrikes remained mated through the fall and winter months; but I had never given the matter any serious thought until the appearance of Mr. Willard's article, which greatly stimulated my interest. And, as I had occasion all through the last three months of the past year to make almost daily trips by automobile between many of the towns in Stanislaus and Merced counties, it soon became my regular practice to take a mental census of the Shrikes seen along the way. After making the count innumerable times I found that, with remarkably little variation, the average was one pair of birds seen for every five single individuals noted. In enumerating pairs I counted as such only birds seen perched close together or flying in company; the few doubtful cases were down as two single birds. To assume that each pair of Shrikes bring to maturity an average of five young each season would probably be getting very close to the actual figures. Is it not probable, then, that the larger figure in the ratio of five to one represents birds of the year which have never been mated, with, possibly, just an occasional adult which, through one agency or another, has been deprived of its mate?

The observations as outlined above have firmly convinced me that, once mated, the California Shrike spends the remainder of its life in company with the individual of its choice.—JOHN G. TYLER, *Turlock, California, February 5, 1919.*

Another California Record of the Bendire Thrasher.—On May 7, 1916, I collected an adult male of the Bendire Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*) near Victorville, Mohave Desert, California. The bird is now no. 1366, collection W. M. P. To quote Mr. Swarth: "The Bendire Thrasher is a most extraordinary take. From the date it would seem likely that it was a breeding bird, and it would be of great interest if you could actually find a nest of this species out there. As far as I can see, this specimen is precisely like others from Tucson, Arizona." I will say further that I have made many excursions to this locality, but after most careful search I have failed to discover any thrasher nesting there except the Leconte, and this species only rather locally.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, February 8, 1919.*

Gray Gyrfalcon Taken in Oregon.—On November 17, 1916, while shooting ducks over a small seepage pond on the Hermiston, Oregon, irrigation project, Albert Humphrey of Pendleton, Oregon, shot a large hawk as it swooped down over the water to snatch up a dead Mallard that had just been shot. Knowing my interest in birds, Humphrey brought the bird to Pendleton; but as I was out of town at the time a friend skinned and salted the specimen for me. It proved to be a Gray Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus rusticolus*). Some time later I made it up as a study skin. So far as I can learn this is the first record of the occurrence of the species in Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Pendleton, Oregon, February 11, 1919.*

Random Notes.—In January, 1919, Mr. Sefton brought me two females of *Mergus serrator*. I mounted one and made the other into a skin. On skinning the first one I could detect no "fishy" odor, so I sliced off the breast meat and had it cooked. It proved so savory that we cooked the other. They were equal in flavor to the average duck. The stomachs contained a mass of what appeared to be shredded grass.

The big flood of January, 1916, covered most of the salt marshes near San Diego and drowned most of the Little Black Rails (*Crectiscus coturniculus*). I have not been able to find one since the flood.

January 30, 1919, a Marbled Godwit was brought to me for the Museum collection. On skinning it I found it was lame, with one hip considerably atrophied, so it may have been unable to go on further south.