

in the catalogue, and the locality can be regarded as unreliable.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario, January 17, 1921.*

California Pigmy Owl from Cucamonga Canyon, Southern California.—I wish to record the capture by Gordon Nicholson of Ontario, California, of a male Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma californicum*) on November 11, 1920, at an altitude of about 2800 feet in Cucamonga Canyon—a rugged steep-walled canyon about six miles north and east of Upland, San Bernardino County. The bird was sitting in a sycamore tree in the base of the canyon. The stomach was sent to Dr. H. C. Bryant at Berkeley, and he sends the following report as to its contents: Condition of stomach, full; contents, one katydid (*Scudderia furcifera*) and three grasshoppers (*Melanoplus devastator*).—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California; December 29, 1920.*

An Addition to the Oregon List of Birds.—On October 3, 1920, while walking along the banks of the Snake River near Ontario, Oregon, my attention was attracted by a single tern flying over the river. One of our party shot the bird, which proved to be a female Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). On October 4, a number were observed and another specimen collected. On my return to Portland I was surprised to learn that there was no printed record of the occurrence of this bird in the State. The first specimen secured is now in my possession and I take pleasure in adding this species to the State list.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Oregon.*

Early Spring Notes on Birds of Coronado Islands, Mexico.—On March 5, 1921, Messrs. A. W. Anthony, Geo. H. Field and the writer landed on North Coronado Island and camped there until the 9th. On the 7th, we rowed over to Middle Island; but the swell broke so heavily on the rocky shore that we did not try to land. As this is several weeks earlier than any collector that I know of has landed on the islands, some notes on the birds we found may be of interest. The winter has been very dry on the islands and the growth of annual plants is very scanty this season.

Rhinoceros Auklet. *Cerorhinca monocerata*. Mr. Anthony saw one.

Cassin Auklet. *Ptychoramphus aleuticus*. Many nesting burrows had been cleaned out, and a little nest material had been taken into some burrows; but no birds were in the burrows we opened. No birds were seen at sea.

Xantus Murrelet. *Brachyramphus hypoleucus*. Several seen swimming and flying at sea. One shot.

Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*. Thousands were present on North Coronado Island, but nesting had not begun. No other species of gull was seen, and scarcely any immature birds of this species, although immature birds were abundant on San Diego Bay at the time.

Pacific Fulmar. *Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*. Mr. Anthony saw one.

Black-vented Shearwater. *Puffinus opisthomelas*. Several large flocks were feeding on schools of sardines between San Diego and the islands. A few stragglers were flying near the islands.

Farallon Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*. Nests were scattered through the pelican colonies, sets mostly incomplete. A partly incubated set of four was taken.

Brandt Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax penicillatus*. Two small colonies were nesting on nearly perpendicular cliffs at the north end of the island. Looking from above I saw one set of five eggs; others were smaller, probably incomplete.

Baird Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax pelagicus resplendens*. Mr. Anthony saw one cormorant with distinct white flank patches.

California Brown Pelican. *Pelecanus californicus*. The pelican colonies have been enlarged until they now cover nearly all of the east side of North Island. Many hundreds of nests were already occupied, but most of the sets were incomplete. I took one set of four eggs.

Black Oystercatcher. *Haematopus bachmani*. Two shot, another seen.

Sparrow Hawk. *Falco sparverius*. One seen.

Bald Eagle. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. An immature Bald Eagle passed over North Coronado Island, pursued by hundreds of Western Gulls making a tremendous racket; but they took care not to come too close to the Eagle.

Duck Hawk. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. One seen.

Say Phoebe. *Sayornis sayus*. One seen.

Intermediate Sparrow. *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*. A number, apparently winter residents, were seen. One shot.

San Clemente Song Sparrow. *Melospiza melodia clementae*. Several seen, two shot. Not very near breeding.

Rock Wren. *Salpinctes obsoletus*. Two seen.—FRANK STEPHENS, *Museum of Natural History, San Diego, California, March 15, 1921.*

Does the Wren-tit Sing a Scale?—I have so often met with differences of opinion regarding the notes of the Wren-tit (*Chamaea fasciata*), and these differences of opinion spring from the minds of such excellent bird students, that I am led to offer a word regarding my own impressions of the bird's vocalization. I had thought Dr. J. Grinnell's paper (CONDOR, xv, 1913, pp. 178-181) a pronouncement, almost, of the last word upon the subject; and as I review his excellent article, there appears but little for me to add. In his analysis of notes, under caption A, no. 1, he describes what is perhaps the most commonly recognized performance of this bird in these words: "Loud series of staccato notes all on the same pitch but with decreasing intervals, the last of the series run together to form a trill: pit-pit-pit-pit-pit-tr-r-r-r. Several counts gave from three to five of the first, distinctly-uttered notes." With this description of note no. 1, my impression agrees almost absolutely. Only very rarely have I heard the slightest degree of flattening from the original pitch as the interval of time diminishes. Yet again and again, during work with many academic generations of students, have I had the question asked, "What is the bird in the hills that sings down the scale?" I have long since ceased to suggest the Canyon Wren, but attempt instead the call of the Wren-tit (keeping at least on the pitch), and they at once recognize the bird. Just what is the psychology of interpreting this note as a descending scale, it is hard to state, except it be suggestion of falling bodies by the accelerated tempo. Certainly the average listener would not consider that flattening by less than a quarter of a tone could properly be considered as a descending scale.

The only marked decline in pitch that I have recognized for the Wren-tit is described in Grinnell's note no. 3 which he syllabifies as *keer-keer-keer-keer*, with slightly falling pitch. Here the decline in pitch does not exceed one and a half or two tones during the repetition of five to ten notes. Certainly such would constitute a pretty finely chromatic scale.

Perhaps I may be pardoned for adding a suggestion or two in regard to Grinnell's syllabification of note no. 1. The simple *pit-pit-pit*, etc., can be fairly well imitated by the human whistle, but the bird sometimes complicates the performance by a grace note that renders the syllabification more properly *plit-plit-plit*, or even *tupit-tupit-tupit*. I have never yet met the mere human who could reproduce this variant to any degree accurately. Then, again, this note is capable of a remarkable degree of ventriloquism and this fact is made use of by the bird, whether with intent to deceive or not, I can not say; but certainly it produces a deceptive effect.

I appreciate the fact that these remarks do not constitute any decided addition to our sum of knowledge; but it is hoped that they may serve as a corroboration of the previous observations referred to, on this unique bird.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, February 17, 1921.*

Southern California Screech Owl in Western Orange County.—Although I had met with this owl in the live oak association of the Puente Hills, ten miles to the northeast, and in the Orange County Park, twenty miles to the east, it was not until 1913 that I observed it in the vicinity of Buena Park. Thirty years ago this vicinity was a treeless plain, but now some of the eucalyptus trees are quite large, especially those on our property. Screech Owls (*Otus asio quercinus*) first appeared in December, 1913, and have since been seen, and more often heard, during every month of the year. I have suspected them of nesting for several years, but as the only large trees are eucalyptus, which afford poor shelter for this purpose, I was rather doubtful until June 13, 1920, when my wife and I found two adults feeding three full-fledged young in some trees near our house. They appeared at dusk on the lower branches of the trees, and the old birds hunted by