and died presumably from some natural cause—hardly old age, it would seem, in view of the peculiar energy manifested at the close of its life.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, April 28, 1924.*

Four Species New to North America.—The four species of birds new to the North American list here recorded were collected by R. W. Hendee and the writer on the expedition of the Colorado Museum of Natural History to northwestern Alaska, and will be dealt with in greater detail in the report of the expedition, now in course of preparation. We are indebted to Dr. H. C. Oberholser and Mr. Outram Bangs for identifying the specimens.

Dafila acuta acuta (Linnaeus), male, Wales, Alaska, May 31, 1922, A. M. Bailey.

Dafila acuta acuta (Linnaeus), female, Wainwright, Alaska, July 19, 1922, R. W. Hendee.

Nettion formosum (Georgi), male, Wainwright, Alaska, September 2, 1921, A. M. Bailey and R. W. Hendee.

Pisobia ruficollis (Pallas), female, Wales, Alaska, June 11, 1921, A. M. Bailey.

Pisobia ruficollis (Pallas), sex?, juv., Wainwright, Alaska, August 15, 1922, R. W. Hendee.

Calidris tenuirostris (Horsfield), male, Wales, Alaska, May 28, 1922, A. M. Bailey. —ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Curator of Birds and Mammals, Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, June 4, 1924.*

Sacramento's Western Martin Colony.—A recent search of THE CONDOR failed to bring out very many facts regarding the nesting of the Western Martin (*Progne subis hesperia*) in California cities. Grinnell, in his "Distributional List," describes this bird as "interruptedly distributed as a breeding species along and west of the Sierras, south into San Diego County," suggesting that it nests in oak and pine regions and in small numbers in towns—as, for instance, Pasadena, Los Angeles, Stockton, and Auburn. Several have written of the colony in Placerville. In my experience, this bird nests in larger colonies in cities than elsewhere and because of the size of the colonies is more conspicuous. A visit to Pasadena any time during the summer discloses large numbers of these birds around the main office buildings of the city. Similarly, Santa Ana has a colony. My mental pictures of scattering nesting in the oak and pine belt bring views of Weed, Siskiyou County, and an old pine stub on Mount Wilson, in the Sierra Madre Mountains, which harbored one pair.

This note has been inspired by discovering six Western Martins nest-hunting around the cornice of the Clunie Hotel Building on K Street, Sacramento, on April 24, 1924. A glance skyward showed several other martins in flight above the city. On a visit to Sacramento during the middle of July of last year, martins were very numerous in the downtown district and their chattering was to be heard everywhere. They seemed to swarm about buildings along the alley between J and K streets near Fourth and Fifth streets. The numerous light-colored birds indicated young out of the nest.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 17, 1924.*

Song of the Gray Flycatcher.—On May 26, 1924, while crossing the Indian Reservation between Klamath Falls and Lakeview, Oregon, my attention was called to the song of an *Empidonax* in some small pines in rather open dry woodland. The notes were decidedly more emphatic and vigorous than the songs of either the Wright or Hammond flycatchers. I wrote them down *chi-weép, chi-weép.* After observing the bird for a time, I shot it. Mr. Grinnell has confirmed my determination and pronounces the bird *Empidonax griseus.* If the notes heard from this bird are typical, the species when in song can readily be distinguished from its congeners.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, July 18, 1924.*

Notes upon Certain Summer Occurrences of the Gray Flycatcher.—In the recently published "Birds of California," Mr. Dawson's description of the nesting habits of the Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax griseus*) attracted my attention at once, it was so

strongly in accord with certain unpublished data in this Museum, which, as it happened, I had just had occasion to bring together. While this information has no longer any claim to originality, as pointing to the nesting ground of this hitherto elusive species, it seems worth while to place it on record. It is all corroborative of Mr. Dawson's contentions.

We have what appear to be breeding birds from the Pine Forest Mountain region, northern Nevada; from the Warner Mountain region, northeastern California; and from the White Mountain region, east central California. There are also series of *Empidonax wrighti* from the same mountain ranges, and it was the presence of obviously mislabeled specimens in one series or the other that happened to attract my attention. I then carefully went over all the specimens of *wrighti* and *griseus* in the Museum collection, with interesting results.

From the Pine Forest Mountains, Nevada, we have a fairly large series of *E. wrighti,* mostly breeding birds from high altitudes. Included in this series I found four specimens of *griseus.* Three of these (Mus. Vert. Zool. nos. 8561, 8562, 8563) were breeding birds (from annotations on labels or in the collectors' notebooks) taken in sagebrush at Quinn River Crossing, on May 22, May 29, and June 2, 1909, respectively. One young bird, full grown but in juvenal plumage (no. 8580), was taken in the Pine Forest Mountains at 9000 feet altitude, July 31, but this capture cannot be regarded as constituting a breeding record.

From the Warner Mountains, Modoc County, California, we have nine specimens of *wrighti,* all breeding birds and all collected from 5500 feet altitude upward. Four specimens of *griseus* were taken (June 9 and 10, 1910, and May 20 and 25, 1920, respectively) in the valley below, in the general vicinity of Alturas. There is also a breeding *griseus* from a nearby locality (mouth of Little High Rock Cañon, Washoe County, June 1, 1920) in the lowlands of Nevada. From the White Mountains, California, we have thirteen specimens (breeding birds and young from the nest) of *wrighti* taken at altitudes ranging from 8300 to 10,300 feet. These were originally catalogued as *griseus,* but, although the color differences between this species and *wrighti* are somewhat obscured in badly worn specimens, there is no doubt that all of these birds are *wrighti.* From this same mountain range there are at hand five specimens of *griseus.* Two of these, from the dates of capture, were certainly breeding birds. These were taken July 5 and 7, 1917, respectively, "2½ mi. s. e. of Head of Black Canyon," at an altitude of 8000 feet. Despite the high elevation, this locality, I am informed, is in the Transition Zone, with an abundant growth of sagebrush, so the species is not necessarily out of place there. Two other adult *griseus* were taken, respectively, at the head of Silver Canyon (altitude 10,000 feet), July 29, 1917, and again at the head of Silver Canyon (altitude 8000 feet), August 21, 1917. It is not certain that they were breeding at the exact places where they were collected.

In an article in THE CONDOR (vol. 24, July, 1922, p. 137) Dickey and van Rossem record the capture of certain specimens of *griseus* in the White Mountains at high elevations (8000 to 10,000 feet) and draw the inference that these birds (wholly or partly in juvenal plumage), taken August 27, September 3 and 4, were probably hatched somewhere in the near vicinity. This may or may not have been the case. As before indicated, the Transition Zone ascends to 8000 feet in the White Mountains, and *griseus* doubtless follows the sagebrush upwards. Any of these young birds, however, might have traveled many miles. I myself have collected juvenal plumaged birds of various species (including *Empidonax griseus*) that must have gone a surprisingly long distance from where they were hatched. It may suffice to cite here, as an example near at hand, a young Desert Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata deserticola*) in juvenal plumage throughout, that I collected above timber line in the Sierra Nevada, at Charlotte Lake (10,406 feet), near Kearsarge Pass, September 3, 1916.

Some of the confusion that exists regarding the relationship of *griseus* and *wrighti* is probably due to faulty observations in the field. This does not imply criticism of those who have made observations in the past; for the two species, of course, require the most painstaking discrimination; but future studies and records should be prefaced by careful consideration of existing facts. It seems safe to prophesy that certain apparently anomalous occurrences now on record will find their explanation in conditions that were overlooked at the time those observations were made. It is evident

from Mr. Dawson's evidence, from the record by Alexander Walker in THE CONDOR (vol. 16, 1914, p. 94) which first gave Dawson his clue, from the statements in Grinnell and Storer's "Animal Life in the Yosemite" (pp. 373-374), and from additional corroborative facts that I have found in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, that *Empidonax griseus* is an upper Sonoran and Transition Zone species, confined in the breeding season mainly to sagebrush surroundings in the Great Basin. *Empidonax wrighti* nests mainly in the Canadian Zone, occasionally in the Hudsonian Zone, from southern California north at least to extreme northern British Columbia. Any apparent overlapping of breeding ranges (as is claimed to occur in the White Mountains) is doubtless to be explained either by the upward extension locally of lower zones, thus carrying *griseus* to an altitude where *wrighti* usually breeds, or else as an unwarranted assumption of nesting from the mere occurrence of birds (juvenal or adult) outside their normal nesting ground.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, April 21, 1924.*

Early Nesting of the Junco on the Berkeley Campus.—On March 16, 1923, the writer watched a female Junco (*Junco oreganus*, subsp.?) carrying nesting material. It was thus possible to find the nest, which proved to be located just west of the University Library. In this case the site was on the ground and the nest was well concealed by a dense mat of ivy. Building operations were completed and the first egg laid on March 23. At 6 o'clock on the evening of March 26 the nest contained four eggs which the female had begun to incubate.

At 9 A. M. on April 9 the nest contained two eggs and two young which had hatched since the previous evening. Only two out of the four eggs hatched. The fledglings left the nest on April 16 when only seven days old. They were not at that time able to fly, but scrambled about readily beneath the tangled ivy and eluded my grasp easily. Here, as is often the case with the Nuttall Sparrow on the Campus, the early departure of the young from the nest was seemingly hastened by the presence, in the nest, of numerous Argentine ants.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 15, 1924.*

WITH THE BIRD BANDERS

Under the Direction of J. Eugene Law, Altadena, California

White-throated Sparrow Banded on the Stanford Campus.—During the Christmas vacation two funnel traps were set in the plots of low thorny shrubs in front of the University Library. The catch consisted principally of Golden-crowned Sparrows, with a few "White-crowns," a Song Sparrow, and on December 26 a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) which received band no. 124066. This was the first living specimen of White-throat that many of us here had seen. The golden splash on the superciliary stripes from the bill to above the eyes, and the white throat sharply contrasted with the gray breast, quickly identified the bird by key; but for better proof it was compared with four skins in the collection from the Eastern States. My first comment upon the bird was "a great little fighter" in contrast to the golden and white crowned species. During the remaining days of the vacation, and later in February when the traps were reset at that locality for two weeks, it failed to repeat.—ERNEST H. QUAYLE, *Stanford University, California, April 27, 1924.*

A Third White-throated Sparrow Banded.—In the work of bird banding, at 8 A. M., April 10, 1924, I captured in Lincoln Heights, Los Angeles, California, a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). It was released bearing band no. 93452.—ELBERT BENJAMINE, *Los Angeles, California, April 10, 1924.*

The return of these birds this autumn will be looked for with unusual interest in view of the rarity of the species in California, and of Mrs. Allen's experience with the first one banded in the state (see CONDOR, vol. 25, p. 141). No effort should be spared to recapture these three birds.