

invalid. This statement is based on a considerable series of dimensions taken; for I had fully expected size differences to become apparent.

Range.—So far as known, an area in northwestern Lower California, chiefly on the Pacific slope, extending north at least from the vicinity of San Quintin to Cape Colnett and from sea-level to as high as 8500 feet altitude on the Sierra San Pedro Martir, and also down to the east base of that range. Life-zone essentially Upper Sonoran, but locally Transition and Lower Sonoran, too. Specimens examined, 27, from the following localities: Colnett; San Ramon; Santo Domingo; Arroyo Nuevo York; San Telmo; San José; Valladares; La Grulla, 7200 ft.; Vallecitos, 8500 ft.; Cajon Cañon, east base Sierra San Pedro Martir.

Remarks.—It should go without saying that in quail fresh fall plumages should be relied upon chiefly, if not altogether, in seeking color values. When this is done, the quail of the "San Quintin district" show themselves to differ in mass effect appreciably from Valley Quail from anywhere north of the Mexican line. San Diego County birds, even, and those from Riverside and Inyo counties, well east of the desert divides, all are markedly browner dorsally, the remiges browner, the chest less clearly ashy gray, and the "ground" tone of the hinder flanks and crissum more brightly tan. This holds for both sexes. The creamy area on the lower chest of male *plumbea*, while not so pale as in *achruster*a, is not so deep-toned as in average *vallicola*. In females the grayness about the head and on the chest in *plumbea* is almost constantly diagnostic; and in both sexes, the plumbeous tone of the remiges is as a rule strikingly different from the brown tone in *vallicola*. In the dried specimens, the feet and legs of *plumbea* average blacker than in *vallicola*.

To sum up, the new race, *plumbea*, is based on features of pigmentation; it is characterized by a reduction in brown in some tracts and a development of black in the same tracts or in others; individual variation bridges the gap between it and its nearest relatives, *vallicola* and *achruster*a. Geographically, the belt of intergradation with *vallicola* lies somewhere between the United States-Mexico line and latitude 31°.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, February 8, 1926.*

The Present Status of the Trumpeter Swan.—Mr. Edson's note in the January number of the CONDOR on the Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) calls for some comment. This swan, the largest of all North American birds, has been especially unfortunate in the manner it has been dealt with by most of its historians. The accounts of its former abundance (as by Audubon) are almost certainly greatly exaggerated, and the many recent statements as to its extermination are in absolute error. It is not to be "counted with the extinct birds" even in Mr. Edson's own state.

No recognition has been given by some of its recent historians, such as Mr. H. K. Coale, to records in recent Canadian literature. Macoun, Fleming, Taverner, Munro, Mitchell, and the present writer have all apparently written of it to no purpose, and while it is undesirable to detail the many localities where it exists, enough has been written to show that it still occurs in some numbers from Saskatchewan to the Pacific.

In British Columbia we have at least five wintering colonies, and I can vouch for the fact that a certain number (in 1924 it was eighteen) cross the boundary at Okanagan into Washington each year, to winter at some point in eastern Washington, Oregon or southern Idaho. A newspaper clipping indicates that one or more was killed in the latter state last fall. It behooves the bird lovers of these states, instead of bewailing the extinction of this swan, to do some work in winter, locate the wintering ground of this flock (or flocks), and provide suitable protection, as has been done by the Dominion Parks Branch in British Columbia. It is a rather remarkable paradox that accurate information nowadays is in inverse ratio to the size of the bird, especially in the West.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Nanaimo, British Columbia, February 2, 1926.*

Injured Juncos Quickly Recover.—Probably no bird that enters the traps gives a stronger impression of porcelain delicacy and gentle helplessness than does the junco. One easily imagines that it would succumb quickly, quicker perhaps than almost any other bird, to any violence. That the Thurber Junco (*Junco oreganus thurberi*), however, does not readily succumb even to violent blows is indicated by two incidents which happened during the past summer at Bluff Lake, in the San Bernardino Mountains, California.

When not trapping, we scattered bread crumbs about the cabin door for birds, and very soon a little flock of juncos learned to make this a regular feeding ground. Occasionally one made so bold as to enter the kitchen, the door of which was usually open. On either side of the door, and also across the room from it twelve and a half feet away, were windows whose sills were about three feet above the floor. These windows were regularly kept closed.

An immature male junco (no. 59948), which had been banded 450 yards away on September 11, 1925, came into the kitchen on September 16 without being noticed. A quick move on my part sent the junco dashing from the middle of the floor to a window on the left of the door, where it banged the pane at full speed; then it dashed across the room with greater momentum striking against the pane of the window opposite the door and falling to the sill; then across again, bumping the window at the right of the door at full speed. Here it dropped to the floor unconscious.

When picked up, it lay on my hand as if dead. It was then laid right side up on a chair which was placed in the doorway. There it tumbled forward onto its breast with beak against the chair seat, eyes closed. Gradually labored breathing began. In about five minutes, during which we quietly watched it, it raised its head to normal position though still squatting against the chair, and a little later it flew away. Within an hour, a junco which looked like the same bird, but which was distinguished from the rest of the flock because it kept its head down close to body and feathers fluffed out as if stiff-necked, was hopping about in front of the cabin looking for food.

Again, on September 25, junco no. 91403, banded on September 12 as an immature at the same place where no. 59948 had been banded, and retaken there on the 13th and 15th, underwent the same disaster, dropping as if dead at 12:18 M. Just as with 59948, this bird rested forward on breast and beak, eyes shut, when laid on a chair. At 12:26 it had revived and had raised its head, though still squatting, and had its eyes open and it was alert to movements and noises. At 12:33 it flew off into the willows, a 75 yard flight, during which it gave a normal chirp. At 10:03 A. M. on September 26, it was again in the trap, apparently as well as ever.

It seems notable that on the only two occasions when we inadvertently frightened juncos that had entered the kitchen, they chose the window beside the door and not the door, through which passage was unobstructed, and through which many birds undisturbed entered and departed. Compare this apparent stupidity with the sophisticated composure of the young Green-tailed Towhee, recorded in a concurrent note herewith.—J. EUGENE LAW, *Altadena, California, March 25, 1926.*

Anna Hummingbird Bathing.—One warm summer day in 1924, a half mile north of Yountville, on the Calistoga highway, I was standing by an old windmill, when suddenly I noticed an Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) fly down onto the pump below. As the pump was old and needed repairs it was a small fountain whenever the windmill was running; and the top of the pump, forming a small basin, was covered nearly a quarter of an inch deep with water. The hummingbird entered this basin and began bathing, splashing the water in much the same manner as would a tame canary. Afterward it flew to a willow close by, and, perching on a twig, shook its feathers and began preening and drying itself in the warm sunshine. After a few minutes it flew away.—JAMES L. ORTEGA, *Yountville, California, January 27, 1926.*

Contents of Barn Owl Pellets.—The following material contained in 68 pellets, was picked up under the nest of a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) in Wildcat Canyon, near Berkeley, California. The 68 pellets held the remains of 123 meadow mice, 37 white-footed mice, 24 harvest mice, 7 pocket gophers, 6 shrews, 1 mole, 1 pocket mouse and 13 Jerusalem crickets, a total of 212 items. The pellets examined were of recent origin, less than a year old. Old decomposed pellets on the ground beneath the nest showed remains of many gophers and wood rats as well as remains of smaller rodents. The wings of a Red-shafted Flicker were found beneath the nest, but no remains of birds were found in any of the pellets. Identification of mammal remains has been checked by Joseph Dixon of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.—G. L. FOSTER, *Berkeley, California, October 20, 1925.*

An Additional Subspecies of Spotted Towhee from Lower California.—In an attempt to identify a series of spotted towhees from north-central Lower California, it became apparent to the writers that an additional subspecies would have to be named. This we now do, as follows: