May, 1926

The Pacific Coast races of Pipilo maculatus as now recognized by the writers stand as follows, listing them as near as it is practicable to do so from north to south. The accompanying map shows in part the approximate territory inhabited by each in the breeding season, as inferred from a study of the materials in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

1. Pipilo maculatus oregonus Bell. Oregon Spotted Towhee.

2. Pipilo maculatus falcifer McGregor. San Francisco Spotted Towhee.

3. Pipilo maculatus falcinellus Swarth. Sacramento Spotted Towhee.

4. Pipilo maculatus curtatus Grinnell. Nevada Spotted Towhee.

Pipilo maculatus montanus Swarth. Rocky Mountain Spotted Towhee.
Pipilo maculatus megalonyx Baird. San Diego Spotted Towhee.
Pipilo maculatus clementae Grinnell. San Clemente Spotted Towhee.

8. Pipilo maculatus umbraticola Grinnell and Swarth. Cape Colnett Spotted Towhee.

9. Pipilo maculatus magnirostris Brewster. Large-billed Spotted Towhee.

10. Pipilo consobrinus Ridgway. Guadalupe Spotted Towhee.

-J. GRINNELL and H. S. SWARTH, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, February 22, 1926.

Another Straggler Reaches the Pribilofs .--- On St. George Island, Alaska, June 20, 1923, a small bird was found in a rain barrel by a resident of that island. It had been so long in the water that it would not make a good laboratory skin, but it was preserved in-the-flesh in alcohol. This specimen was recently sent for identification to the California Academy of Sciences and proved to be a Bank Swallow (Riparia riparia), new to the recorded list of birds of the Pribilof Islands.-JOSEPH MAILLIARD, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, February 3, 1926.

Green-tailed Towhee Qualifies in Intelligence Test.—In early August, 1925, Mrs. Law and I were occupying the Walker cabin at Bluff Lake, in the San Bernardino Mountains, California. Crumbs and nut meats, which we scattered about, soon began to assemble Green-tailed Towhees (Oberholseria chlorura).

The first to appear was a youngster, in juvenal garb but grown, and with it an older bird of the year, already in post-juvenal plumage. As the days passed three adults came along, one of them wearing an old band. All five became competitors for the food which we kept constantly ready for them, the adults dominating the immatures mercilessly.

All soon learned that a swinging arm meant a tossed crumb, and one or more birds invariably dashed for a thrown crumb, but never apparently tried to catch the morsel on the wing. Their sight is particularly keen and far, and even a crumb held up for inspection was at once detected by the birds from their brush cover some twenty-five feet away, and they were alert to start for the morsel the instant it was thrown. They often snatched the thrown tidbits from among chipmunks (Eutamias speciosus) which appeared stupidly unconscious that food had been thrown. The chipmunks soon learned, however, that we were favoring the birds and became openly jealous and chased the birds around. The latter yielded ground but that was all, and we often saw one hopping around comically just in advance of a pursuing chipmunk. Once I saw a towhee stand its ground, with lowered head, and then the chipmunk vielded.

If a crumb or kernel was too large to be swallowed entire, it was usually borne in beak to the brush cover, from whence most of the spurts began. When "chewing" such a crumb of bread, it is held at the side near the base of the beak, and the edges of the upper tomia cut off morsels into the mouth as the mandibles move rapidly. Never did we see any effort to hold a morsel with the foot.

Quite to our surprise, when we had nuts suspended on strings to test the jumping limit of the chipmunks, adult towhees, never more than one in action at a time, possibly only the same individual at all times, often jumped up and caught at the nut kernel thirteen inches from the ground, and occasionally one hung there by its beak flopping the body about, ludicrously like a fish just pulled from the water. In no case did we detect the bird actually dislodging the nut. As soon as the adults had tasted English Walnut meat, they lost their interest in bread crumbs and seemed to instantly distinguish between the two.