

On March 14, 1926, number 226,191 was in the box again and was taken out so the number could be read. Then the box was visited several times without finding her there, and I had about decided that she had nested elsewhere when, on April 28, I found that she was in the box with five eggs. On May 8 there were six eggs; May 24, four of them had hatched; and on June 8, six young were banded, receiving numbers 367341-42-43-45-46-47. Two of these young left the nest June 20, two were still there June 23, and one was still in the nest June 28. After leaving the nest they remained in the locality for a while as a family group, being fed by the adults. But before long they drifted away to unknown hunting grounds. On September 7, 1926, number 226,191 was found dead, about one hundred feet from the nest box. She had been dead so long that there was no clew to the cause of death.

I have no data as yet on what has become of the fourteen young of number 226,191, banded during the three seasons. There are Screech Owls here, as they have been heard at night lately, and very probably another one will fill the place of number 226,191 when nesting time comes again. Will it be one of her children?—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, Buena Park, California, October 18, 1926.

**The Meeting Place of the California and White-rumped Shrikes.**—Intergradation is part of the definition of subspecies, and it has been generally assumed that in the region between the habitats of two subspecies of the same species the birds breeding must be intergrades, possessing to a greater or less degree the characters of each, and that this is true wherever two races come together in the breeding season. Doubtless this is true of some races everywhere and doubtless equally true of all at certain points where their summer ranges intersect; but it assuredly is not true of all species at all points of their juxtaposition. Thus Mr. Ridgway has recently shown in a very interesting paper, in *Bird-Lore* for September, 1925 (xxvii, p. 305), that in several species two races occupy the same territory near his home in Mount Carmel, Illinois; and I have found the same to obtain with certain species in North Dakota.

But very few studies seem to have been made by collecting birds breeding in a region where two subspecies closely approach, so I was especially anxious to learn how the two common shrikes of California, the White-rumped (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*) of the Imperial and Coachella valleys and the California (*L. l. gambeli*) of the coast belt and most of the rest of the state, acted where their habitats approached. So, as opportunity offered, I have collected birds from this twilight zone, where intermediates would be expected. But such I have failed to find; either the ranges of the two were separated by territory apparently destitute of shrikes, or both occurred in typical form breeding in the same region, except in one locality, and even there breeding birds could easily be allocated to one race or the other.

The White-rumped Shrike, breeding abundantly in the low and hot Imperial Valley, I have found breeding as far west as Dixieland, thirteen miles west of El Centro, taking a female that had laid, and small young, on April 4, 1922 (nos. 34287-9); and I have no doubt this race occurs for a few miles farther west to where the escarpment rises rapidly to the San Diego mountains. In the forty miles between there and Potrero in the uplands I have seen no shrikes, but collected at Potrero a typical male breeding California on April 4, 1922 (no. 34305), a few hours after I had taken the White-rumped at Dixieland. Still farther west, both races may be found in winter, as the late Mr. Henry W. Marsden collected typical examples of both for me at Witch Creek in the winters of 1903, 1904 and 1907 (nos. 10234-5, 17259, 17261).

Northward from the Imperial through the Coachella Valley the White-rumped breeds commonly to Palm Springs, Riverside County, where I collected a breeding male and set of eggs on March 16, 1917 (no. 29833). Through the coast country, west of the divide, the California also breeds commonly, and at San Gorgonio Pass extends some miles to the desert side, where at Cabezon and Fingal I collected breeding males on April 7, 1919 (no. 31926) and March 21, 1921 (no. 34298). In the twenty miles

<sup>1</sup> By "typical" I refer in this paper in the case of the California Shrike to the bird of the coast region of California from Monterey southward to the Mexican border, without entering into the question whether this is the true *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* of Ridgway; and with the White-rumped, to the bird of the vast territory from North Dakota south to southern Texas and northern Mexico and west to eastern California, though my two specimens of the species from Alberta and Manitoba so closely resemble the race known as *L. l. migrans* as to raise a doubt whether the subspecific appellations of these races are properly applied.

between Fingal and Palm Springs I have never seen a shrike of any kind, though the country seems suitable, and I have looked for them carefully the many times I have passed that way.

North of the San Bernardino, San Gabriel and Sierra Madre mountains, the first forming also the north side of San Gorgonio Pass, stretches the Mohave Desert, connecting east of the mountains with the low land of the Coachella Valley, and on the west through Antelope Valley and passes with the San Joaquin Valley. At Bakersfield, Kern County, in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley, on March 25, 1921, I collected two breeding male shrikes only a few miles apart, one a fairly typical example of the White-rumped (no. 34285) and the other of the California (no. 34299). One hundred and fifty miles southeast, but still in the western portion of the Mohave Desert, and just north of the San Bernardino Mountains, at Hesperia and Victorville, I collected two breeding adults of the White-rumped on April 8, 1919, and March 26, 1923 (nos. 31924, 34291), and five breeding birds of the California on March 7, 8 and 9, 1921, and March 28, 1923 (nos. 34295-7, 34307-8). Fifty miles farther northeast, but still in the Mohave, at Newberry Springs, I found two males of the California on December 7 and 11, 1917 (nos. 30502-3).

But the final and conclusive evidence that both races breed in the same region was obtained in 1924, when in country of the same character and elevation and much the same vegetation I collected a female California Shrike (no. 37066) with a set of seven fresh eggs on April 13, and a female White-rumped (no. 37065) with set of six fresh eggs on April 15, the nests being not seven miles apart, and both birds quite characteristic of their respective races.

Of course I have not been able to examine all the shrikes in this very extensive region, but my specimens indicate that in the 200 miles from the Mexican border north to the San Bernardino Mountains there is an intermediate district not occupied by either race in the breeding season; that for about 150 miles through the Mohave Desert and Antelope Valley from Victorville to Bakersfield both subspecies breed side by side; and that, if there is a place where one melts insensibly into the other, it must be farther north, in the San Joaquin Valley.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, *Pasadena, California, May 19, 1926.*

**The Whistling Note of the Wilson Snipe.**—On September 18, 1926, while hunting Jacksnipe (*Gallinago delicata*) on a meadow near Crane Lake, Dane County, Wisconsin, I heard one of these birds give a whistling note which seems to be worth recording. My notes written at the time are as follows:

"It was about sunset and dead calm. It had just ceased raining and the sky was overcast. My two boys and I had located a few snipe in a muddy hay stubble. I was standing in the middle of the stubble when I heard a series of whistling notes overhead. I immediately associated the sound with some sort of waterfowl, and looking up saw a snipe high in the air. His location corresponded with the direction from which the whistle had come. I kept my eye on him as he made a half turn around the meadow, and when he was directly overhead and not over eighty yards high I again heard the same whistle, this time definitely identifying it as emanating from the snipe. I noticed that the notes did not synchronize with the bird's wing beats. He spiraled down and alighted about 40 yards away, where I soon afterward flushed and missed him.

"The whistle was alike both times, and consisted of six or seven mellow whistling notes, all run together, each of the same low pitch, and each occupying the same time. The sound reminded me of one of the loon's calls, heard at a distance.

"I do not see how this whistle could have been other than vocal, because the intervals of a snipe's wing beats are irregular, like a dove's, whereas these notes were very uniform in interval. I did not see any dive which could have produced a whistle in the tail feathers, although his overhead position might have prevented me from seeing this. My son, who was standing a hundred yards to one side, thought the snipe dove at the time the sound was heard."

I believe that this is the same note as the one described by Forbush as "like the strong wing beats of some powerful waterfowl in flight". This is a convincing description of the sound I heard.

Forbush says, furthermore (*Birds of Massachusetts*, vol. I, 1925, p. 394), that this is the note that accompanies the nuptial song flight. He quotes Thoreau to the effect that it is most common in April. "European ornithologists", Forbush says, "believe