

storms of this very mild winter. It stayed with Mrs. Riese January 23 and 24, visited Mrs. Wallace Webber January 25, and on the 26th was with a flock of English Sparrows at the station of Mrs. C. W. Willis, these points being within a quarter of a mile of each other.

According to the A. O. U. Check-list, the only previous records of this species east of Colorado and Nevada were from Wisconsin, about seventy-five years ago. This bird on dissection was found to have a severe injury to its side, probably caused during the strong wind of a few days preceding, and it is very doubtful if it would have survived this wound and the zero weather of the week following its discovery.

Bedford has a very active Bird Club, with many feeding stations maintained by the members, who are doing fine work in bird conservation.—JOHN B. MAY, *Cohasset, Massachusetts, February 8, 1928.*

The Sahuaro Screech Owl in California.—The westward limit of the Sahuaro Screech Owl (*Otus asio gilmani* Swarth) has been for some time an unknown quantity. Grinnell's Distributional List (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 11) records it as "Common resident along the valley of the lower Colorado River from the neighborhood of Needles to the Mexican boundary. . . . Probably occurs also in the Imperial Valley (see van Rossem, CONDOR, XIII, 1911, p. 131)."

The van Rossem note is a brief mention of *Otus asio* subsp. which was heard at night but could not be taken. I was with van Rossem on the Colorado River when he took a specimen of the race in December, 1924, and I myself collected a pair from willow thickets at Laguna Dam by flash light in the December following. The birds were repeatedly heard here during a week's stay and were somewhat closely studied in the field. When whistling they invariably occupied a perch less than five feet from the ground, in dense willow tangle grown up from beaver cuttings to a height of twenty feet or more. Out of the midst of this brush, birds were repeatedly called (or stimulated or what you will) by imitating the whistled note. They came out into the moonlight and circled my body so closely that the faint bat-like flutter of the wings was plainly audible and one bird perched within two feet of me, where it was clearly visible in the moonlight. Otherwise they always returned to the depth of the thicket where the two birds collected were searched out with the electric flash light.

The song (?) of all individuals was the same in its composition, though the absolute pitch might differ by a major third. The composition of the performance differed from the customary note of the race of the San Diegan district (*Otus asio quercinus* Grinnell) in being made up of two tetrads of notes of equal tempo but with the first one pitched a half tone above the second. The final note of the second tetrad slides down to a slightly flatted pitch. I heard no other whistle from the Colorado River birds.

On January 28, 1928, I was greatly interested again to meet the Sahuaro Screech Owl, to collect a specimen, at Shaver's Well on the Mecca-Blythe road and to hear the typical note at White Tank south of Twenty-nine Palms. The Shaver's Well bird was flushed from dense mistletoe on a small iron-wood tree, five feet from the ground. The gonads contained swelling ova as large as number six shot. The notes of the species were heard during the night, and once after sunrise on the following morning. The bird at White Tank was trailed for some distance across the desert at 9:30 p. m., but was finally lost. It was probably in some crevice of the granite boulders that characterize that region. The tallest plants in the whole vicinity were sparse creosote bushes.

Swarth, in his original description (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol 7, 1910, pp. 1-8), speaks of the race in Arizona as a Lower Sonoran bird, particularly in the Arid regions. Such would seem to be its habitat toward the west also, and I see no reason why it should not occur still farther westward toward the mountain barrier. The soft gray owl feather found clinging to the "door sill" of an empty flicker hole in a tree yucca in the Morongo Valley was most probably left by a bird of this desert race.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, February 10, 1928.*

American Goshawk in San Diego County, California.—Records of Goshawks (*Astur atricapillus*) as far south as southern California are rare, and for San Diego County

there appears to be only one recorded capture (Stephens, CONDOR, XXI, 1919, p. 87). It is therefore worthy of note that a male Goshawk was obtained by R. E. Bushnell on his ranch at Mesa Grande, San Diego County, on January 5, 1928. The bird was in excellent plumage and was turned over to the San Diego Society of Natural History, where it is now preserved in the scientific series. Mr. Bushnell stated that, when shot, the hawk had just killed a hen and was coming back to eat it.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, March 15, 1928.*

An Erroneous Record for the Japanese Pipit in Alaska.—In the Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences (vol. 9, 1919, p. 176) and in the Auk (1920, p. 251) Dr. G. Dallas Hanna has recorded a pipit taken on St. Paul Island, in the Pribilof group, on Augst 29, 1916, as *Anthus spinoletta japonicus*, from an identification made by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. In recent comparisons of skins of this genus we have had occasion to examine the specimen in question (U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 255,173) and find that it is the American Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta rubescens*. The bird is somewhat darker than average but is not abnormal, as a number of other specimens seen in similar stage of plumage appear identical. It is strikingly different from *japonicus*, which is paler below, with heavier markings, duller, less buffy above, has the wing bars more prominently white, and differs in the coloration of the sides of the head.

This form, therefore, should be removed from the list of birds recorded from the Pribilofs (see Preble, North American Fauna, no. 46, 1923, p. 98) and from this record is not valid for inclusion in the A. O. U. Check-list.—J. H. RILEY and A. WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., February 18, 1928.*

A New Race of the White-throated Swift from Central America.¹—Among the birds recently collected by the junior writer in El Salvador are two breeding males of *Aeronautes saxatalis*. Comparison of these birds with extensive series of North American skins shows them to be sufficiently different to need formal recognition in nomenclature. The new race is named

Aeronautes saxatalis nigrior, subsp. nov. Central American White-throated Swift.

Type.—Male adult; no. 18,483, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Los Esesmites, Department Chalatenango, El Salvador, C. A.; altitude 7,000 feet; February 26, 1927; "breeding condition"; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original no. 11,346.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Aeronautes saxatalis saxatalis* (Woodhouse), but dorsally clearer black; forehead, loreal and auricular regions concolor with head; superciliary streak nearly obsolete, being indicated only by grayish edging of feathers; white flank patches reduced in area; white median abdominal streak reduced in width.

Range.—High mountains of El Salvador, northwest through Guatemala at least to Hidalgo, Mexico.

Remarks.—It has been proposed (Oberholser, Auk, vol. 37, 1920, p. 294) to reinstate the prior name *saxatalis* of Woodhouse for *melanoleucus* of Baird, because while inaccurate in some respects Woodhouse's description is easily recognizable as applicable to this species and to no other.

Two specimens from the vicinity of Dueñas, U. S. National Museum nos. 30,836 and 30,837, are typical of the Central American race here described. A single bird, no. 154,775 of the Biological Survey Collection, from El Chico, Hidalgo, Mexico, is somewhat intermediate toward *saxatalis*, but is closer to *nigrior*. Two birds from Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, on the other hand, are close to if not typical *saxatalis*.

Examination of material from the northern part of the range of the species shows that specimens from the Rocky Mountain region average considerably whiter than do those from California and Lower California, but the differences are seemingly too inconstant to justify naming the California bird.

Specimens examined.—*Aeronautes saxatalis nigrior*: El Salvador: Chalatenango (Los Esesmites, 2); Guatemala: Sacatepequez (Dueñas, 2); Mexico: Hidalgo (El Chico, 1). *Aeronautes saxatalis saxatalis*: United States and Lower California, 79. Mexico: Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, 2.—DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, February 15, 1928.*

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.