

this point during the nest season.—L. PH. BOLANDER and CHARLES A. BRYANT, *Oakland, California, September 10, 1929.*

Some Shore-bird Notes from Ventura, California.—A few notes on certain species of shore-birds seen along the coast at Ventura, Ventura County, California, follow.

Surf Bird (*Aphriza virgata*). A flock of twelve Surf-birds was discovered along the rocky beach at Ventura on May 11, 1929. The birds were accompanied by several Black Turnstones. A male specimen was secured.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres oahuensis*). An immature male Turnstone was collected on the bank of the Ventura River near its mouth on September 17, 1929.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*). A dead Knot in winter plumage was found on the beach at Ventura on September 16, 1929. The bird had become too decomposed to be preserved, but measurements taken tally for the species. A wing was obtained for reference.—JAMES STEVENSON, *Los Angeles, California, September 24, 1929.*

An Extension of the Range of the Band-tailed Pigeon and of the Lead-colored Bush-tit in Oregon.—While stopping at a sheep ranch in Catlow Valley, Harney County, Oregon, I was much interested in the numbers of magpies and blackbirds that came each morning to feed on the crushed oats placed in troughs for the sheep in one of the corrals near the house. The supreme surprise, however, came about sunrise on the morning of October 19, 1928, when a lone Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) alighted on one of the corral posts for a moment and then joined the magpies at the feast from one of the grain troughs. The bird was collected and proved to be a male of the year, much emaciated in flesh. The ranch house is located at the west base of Steens Mountain about 160 miles east of the Cascade Range and about 200 miles east of any previously known record station for this species. The intervening territory is mainly an arid sage-brush desert.

The range of the Lead-colored Bush-tit (*Psaltriparus plumbeus*) in Oregon has been known fairly well for some years as embracing the Steens Mountain district and west to and including the Warner Mountains in southeastern Oregon. It was with considerable interest that I learned that Mr. Harold Dobyns, of the Biological Survey, saw and watched a flock of ten or twelve of this species foraging in a clump of willows along Powder River near the town of Sumpter, Baker County, Oregon, on October 28, 1928. One bird was collected and preserved for identification. Sumpter is in the Blue Mountains and at least 80 miles north of previous record stations for this species.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 11, 1929.*

The Identity of *Ortyx leucopogon* Lesson¹.—In 1842, R. P. Lesson briefly described a quail collected about a year before by his brother, P. A. Lesson, at "San Carlos, *Americae centralis Oceani Pacifici*". For a few years thereafter this species remained in good standing. Then, no more specimens being taken anywhere in Central America, it was assumed, in spite of the pronounced characters evident in the two colored plates which had shortly followed the description, that the name really applied to the quail inhabiting western Panama. The colored plates of Des Murs and Gould were explained away as simply "a rather white-throated example of this [Panama] species" or even, and as it turns out very unjustly, as "probably improvements on nature."

Thus the matter has stood for nearly eighty years, for Gould in his great work on the American quails was the last authority of note to give to *Ortyx leucopogon* of Lesson its true value and characters. As will be seen, the resulting confusion was unnecessary, for in the first place the location of "San Carlos" was specifically stated as "San Carlos, prov. de San Salvador" in a preceding issue of the same magazine in which the species was subsequently described. Secondly, Lesson's description, while brief, applies well enough to the Salvador bird if the words "collari antici rufo" are interpreted to describe the reddish band across the upper chest.

When in Salvador in 1925 and 1926, the junior writer secured a series of 22 specimens of *leucopogon* which proved the correctness of the work of Des Murs and Gould. *Ortyx leucopogon* is the identical bird pictured by those two authorities. To make doubly sure, a specimen was sent to the Museum of Comparative Zoology for

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.

comparison with the skin in the Lafresnaye collection which almost certainly was the one from which Gould drew his plate. (See Todd, Revision of the genus *Eupsychortyx*, Auk, 37, 1920, p. 206.) Mr. Outram Bangs, after comparing the two, very kindly forwarded the skin we had sent him to the Paris Museum. Mons. J. Berlioz at the latter institution in turn compared it with Lesson's type and pronounced the two identical except that the type has the chest more definitely washed with rufous. In this respect it may be mentioned that there is a fair latitude of variation in the series at hand. Some have the foreneck and chest more reddish than others. There is also a good deal of individual difference in the spotting. Some have the foreneck and upper chest almost immaculate, while others are spotted much as in Gould's plate. Both Gould and Des Murs are wrong in one respect. The former shows the crest too long, the latter shows no crest at all. As a matter of fact, *leucopogon* has a short crest like *leylandi* and *hypoleucus*, thus removing any necessity for recognizing a separate genus ("*Eupsychortyx*" Gould) for the crested bob-whites of northern South America.

The synonymy of *Ortyx leucopogon* is a short one, for the name was correctly applied only for a matter of some eight years. Omitting those items of no bearing on the systematic status, it is:

"*Ortyx albifrons* Lesson" Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., 5, April, 1842, p. 130 ("San Carlos, prov. de San Salvador") [nomen nudum].

Ortyx leucopogon Lesson, Rev. Zool., 5, June, 1842, p. 175 ("San Carlos, Americae centralis Oceani Pacifici" [= La Union, Salvador]); Des Murs, Icon. Orn., livre 6, August, 1846, pl. 36 and text ("San Carlos").

Eupsychortyx leucopogon Gould, Mon. Odontoph., 1850, pl. 13 and text ("San Carlos").

In actuality, *leucopogon* is simply a more reddish colored, white-throated *leylandi*, or to put it the other way around, *leylandi* is a darker (more brownish), dark-throated race of *leucopogon*. The latter merges completely with *hypoleucus* so that instead of three "species" on the Pacific Coast of Central America there are, in actual practice, three races of one species. Their ranges are approximately as follows.

Colinus leucopogon leucopogon (Lesson). El Salvador, east of the Lempa River.

Colinus leucopogon hypoleucus (Gould). El Salvador, west of the Lempa River, and western Guatemala.

Colinus leucopogon leylandi (Moore). Northwest Costa Rica and western Nicaragua.

It naturally follows that the quail of western Panama must bear some name other than the one which has so long been mis-applied to it. In view of the confusion which has existed it seems preferable to describe it and name a type rather than to simply give a new name. It may be known as

Colinus leucotis panamensis, subsp. nov. Panama Bob-white

Type.—Male adult, no. 26082, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Aguadulce, Cocle, western Panama; altitude 50 feet; September 26, 1925; collected by Rex R. Benson; original number 1883.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Colinus leucotis leucotis* (Gould) of the Andean region of Colombia, but coloration very much darker throughout; ground color of underparts darker and very much redder, with the lighter markings reduced to roundish spots instead of occupying most of the individual feathers. The head pattern in the males has much more of white, with consequent restriction of red; the anterior half of throat, the loreal region, superciliary to above center of eye, forehead, center of crown, post-ocular streak and most of the auriculars, soiled white.

Range.—Lowlands of the Pacific side of western Panama. Known at present only from the departments of Cocle and Veragua.

Remarks.—The *leucotis* group of forms is evidently specifically distinct from the *leucopogon* series by reason of the decidedly longer crest, the white instead of dusky post-ocular streak and the reddish instead of white superciliaries. We follow Todd in considering *leucotis* specifically distinct from *Colinus cristatus* (Linnaeus) and *Colinus sonnini* (Temminck).

The new form is, of course, the "*leucopogon*" of recent authors, but not of Lesson, Des Murs and Gould.—DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, Pasadena, California, November 30, 1929.