

second for the Pacific coast of North America. The specimen is now number 48238 of the Bishop collection.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, May 2, 1933.*

**Behavior of Birds during the Long Beach Earthquake, March 10, 1933.**—The first shock, and the only really severe one, came at approximately 5:55 p. m. Minor shocks followed at such short intervals for twenty hours that it seemed to me as if the earth was in continual motion. Although it was about sunset at the time of the first shock, and not yet dark, a flock of a hundred Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) had retired to their roost in some nearby medium-height trees. While we felt no preliminary shocks, these birds became uneasy just before the severe shock. During the shock, the birds began leaving the roost, rising slowly into the air above the trees, and milling about uncertainly in twenty-foot ascending spirals. The first severe shock lasted about eleven seconds, but the blackbirds continued to rise for about ten seconds longer. Then, they had reached the height of about one hundred feet above the trees, and perhaps one hundred and forty feet above the ground. From that elevation they descended slowly to their roost, and settled rather noisily. During the minor shocks that came all night long, there was no noticeable disturbance, either among these birds or among other birds in my neighborhood. Apparently all birds remained asleep, or at least quietly on their roosts, or in their usual sleeping places. At the usual time near dawn, meadowlarks and mockingbirds began to sing. They kept up their morning songs in spite of the tremors that were occurring practically every minute.—M. P. SKINNER, *1316 Harding St., Long Beach, California, April 24, 1933.*

**Relationships of Coues and Olive-sided Flycatchers.**—In the fourth edition of the A. O. U. Check-list, as in the third, the Olive-sided Flycatcher occupies the monotypic genus *Nuttallornis*, while Coues Flycatcher and the several wood pewees are placed together in *Myiochanes*. At an earlier date they were all together in the one genus *Contopus*. In the *Auk* for October, 1899 (xvi, pp. 330-337), Dr. H. C. Oberholser published "A synopsis of the genus *Contopus* and its Allies," in which he proposed an arrangement essentially similar to the one now in use, the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the genus *Nuttallornis*, the others in *Horizopus*. It was, I suppose, Ridgway's procedure in his "Birds of North and Middle America" (iv, 1907, pp. 509-529) that inaugurated the substitution of *Myiochanes* for *Horizopus*.

It is stated by Oberholser that "*Nuttallornis* Ridgway, proposed in subgeneric sense for *Contopus borealis*, is, by reason of very pronounced characters, without doubt of generic rank." These characters (which I do not dispute) are given as follows: "Resembling *Horizopus*, but tarsi shorter than middle toe with claw; wing exceeding tail by about one-half the length of latter; rictal bristles less developed (actually as well as comparatively shorter than in *Horizopus virens*); first primary longer than the fourth." Ridgway (*op. cit.*, p. 504) characterizes *Nuttallornis* as: "With tail only one-third as long as wing, tarsus only one-seventh as long as wing and decidedly shorter than middle toe with claw, and with a conspicuous patch of white silky feathers on each side of rump." *Myiochanes* (pp. 509-510) is characterized in minute detail but mostly in comparison with *Blacicus*. *Nuttallornis*, obviously, is dismissed as clearly distinct without question.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher is a common bird over much of North America. Most observers are in some measure familiar with it, if not on the breeding grounds at least as a migrant. Coues Flycatcher is of more southern distribution, extending northward in summer only as far as the mountains of Arizona and New Mexico, and relatively few American ornithologists have seen the living bird. I think that I would be safe in asking those few if they did not agree with me that the Olive-sided Flycatcher and Coues Flycatcher, like "the Colonel's lady and Judy O'Grady," are sisters under their skins. Every action proclaims the close relation of the two and their similar un-likeness to the wood pewees. The clear, ringing note of the Olive-sided Flycatcher ("Give me beer," it has been rendered) is slightly varied in Coues Flycatcher (the Mexicans call the bird "José Maria"); the intonation is exactly the same. Both habitually perch on towering tree tops,