

Each bird eligible for this list was an adult when banded; hence it was a year, perhaps more, old at that time. Whether the younger generations seek homes elsewhere, or why it is that they form only a small percentage of my returns, I cannot say. At any rate, the numerous returns below the five year age include few birds banded when young. The reverse is true of "repeats." During their first season they try to live in the trap.

A large flock of Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) is with us from late March until mid-October. Fully half the flock are wearing bands when they first come in, but these birds are not prone to go into the trap more than once. So I am never sure whether they have been banded here or elsewhere. In looking over the few cards listing their repeats and returns I was surprised to find that one male had evidently returned to us for five seasons. It was banded September 19, 1926, and entered the trap again on September 5, 1931. Incidentally, "reports" on my Brewers signify that they spend the winters in the San Joaquin Valley.

On April 6, 1926, I banded a Western Robin (*Turdus migratorius propinquus*). On its breast was a spot about the size of a dollar, of a golden hue rather than the deep orange which surrounded it. From this we could instantly identify the bird upon its return each March. And to doubly prove that it was the same bird, it entered the trap on April 10, 1927, June 15, 1928, May 11, 1929, and May 22, 1930. It did not leave as usual the autumn of 1930 but was in the yard daily until February, 1931. At this time I found many robin feathers beneath its home tree. No tracks showed, nor was there sign of a struggle as there undoubtedly would have been had some creature killed it during the daytime, when it might have been on the sun-softened snow. I felt it more likely that the bird had dropped dead of old age and some animal found it during the night when the snow was crusted.

The Sierra Juncos (*Junco oreganus thurberi*) are year-round inhabitants of this vicinity. During the winter months they come to the tables in greater numbers. Many of them return year after year, but only two, I can be positive, have survived at least five of our rather severe winters. Number 96421 banded April 12, 1929, returned April 7, 1932, and again April 11, 1933. Number 187056, banded April 14, 1928, returned April 8, 1933.

Clark Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) are also with us all year. Their return average for less than five years is highest of all of our birds, but only two have topped that age. Number 373893, banded April 6, 1926, returned July 18, 1930. Number 373897, banded April 27, 1926, returned June 3, 1930.

To us the most interesting of all has been our lone pair of Cabanis Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus hyloscopus*). This pair has come to the tables and suet posts ever since we have lived here. Others of this species are farther away, but only these have been our guests. The female was banded, April 15, 1926, and came almost daily until early last winter (1932-33). Since then we have not seen her and presume that she died. The male was banded, January 5, 1927, and has been a constant boarder. Not only do we know something of their ages, but they were mates all those years.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Florence Lake, Big Creek, California, May 4, 1933.*

The Phainopepla on the Marysville Buttes.—On April 26, 1931, while exploring the Marysville Buttes, Sutter County, California, I observed a number of Phainopeplas (*Phainopepla nitens*) at an altitude of approximately 800 feet (aneroid barometer reading) on the northwest side of South Butte. There were at least six birds in the rather loose flock, apparently feeding upon berries of the common mistletoe (*Phoradendron villosum*) which is there parasitic upon both the blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and the interior live oak (*Q. wislizenii*).

Both males and females were present in the flock, but were quite wary, usually flushing from the bunches of mistletoe when approached within thirty or forty yards.—W. I. FOLLETT, *Oakland, California, July 24, 1933.*

The Savannah Sparrows of Northwestern North America.—In a study of *Passerculus sandwichensis* by Oberholser, one of the most recent to which the group has been subjected (Scientific Publications, Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 1, no. 4, 1930, pp. 109-111), certain northwestern forms of this species are allotted definitions and

distribution that do not accord with my own conclusions. In the summer of 1927 the late C. G. Harrold made for the California Academy of Sciences a collection of birds upon Nunivak and other islands, Alaska, a collection that included a series of some thirty Savannah Sparrows. Determination of these birds necessitated a careful weighing of the various assertions that are made in Oberholser's study; the conclusions reached are incorporated in a general report upon the whole collection. This report, a completed manuscript, probably can not be printed for some time, and in the interim I present herewith the gist of what I have written about the Savannah Sparrows. The subspecies with which I am here concerned stand as follows in Oberholser's scheme.

Passerculus sandwichensis sandwichensis (Gmelin). Breeds on the eastern Aleutian Islands, Alaska. South in winter to California.

Passerculus sandwichensis anthinus Bonaparte. Breeds in Alaska (excepting the Aleutian Islands) and Canada, east to Hudson Bay and south to Alberta. In winter south to the southwestern United States.

Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus Bonaparte. Western United States and extreme southern part of western Canada excepting the coast region of both, south to northern Mexico and east to the Great Plains. Winters south to Guatemala.

The A. O. U. Check-List, fourth edition (1931, pp. 334-335), adopts a distributional scheme that is essentially the same, though applying the name *alaudinus* to the form Oberholser entitles *anthinus*, and *nevadensis* to the form he calls *alaudinus*. As regards *P. s. sandwichensis*, that is a well defined subspecies with a limited island habitat on which I think we are all in accord. It is the form or forms occupying the area between Hudson Bay and the Pacific, and from the Great Basin northward, in which there is disagreement. Oberholser (*op. cit.*, p. 110) remarks: "Careful comparison of a large series of breeding birds from the interior of Canada and the interior of Alaska, with birds from the coast of Alaska and from Kodiak Island does not bring out any differences of either size or color between the coast bird and that of the interior which would serve to separate them subspecifically. Apparently both should, therefore, be united under the name *Passerculus sandwichensis anthinus*."

With this I cannot agree. For years past I have made occasional trips to the regions indicated, bringing back collections of birds that each time contained their quota of *Passerculus*. These birds were again and again subjected to careful scrutiny in the light of the yearly increasing series, and always to the same conclusion, that the coastal birds and the interior birds were recognizably different. Furthermore, in British Columbia and Alaska, south from Yakutat Bay at least, coast and interior are so utterly different faunally that there is hardly a single variable species of bird that occurs commonly in both regions, a fact that has been so strongly impressed upon me that I have given the closest attention to all the "complementary" subspecies concerned, both as to their physical characteristics and their distribution and migration routes. My convictions call for the following arrangement.

Passerculus sandwichensis anthinus Bonaparte. Most closely related to *P. s. sandwichensis*. Of smaller sizer, but, like that form, distinguished by richer brown coloration and rather heavy bill; extensive suffusion of yellow on head and neck. Habitat: The coast of Alaska in summer from Kodiak Island southeastward (apparently not in the Prince William Sound region); on islands and adjacent mainland west of the Coast Range from Cross Sound south perhaps to Dixon Entrance. Has a limited southward migration along the coast. Not known to nest south of Dixon Entrance, but migrants occur commonly on Vancouver Island and in smaller numbers into northern California.

Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus Bonaparte. As compared with *sandwichensis* and *anthinus*, with lessening of the yellowish and brownish tinges and accentuation of gray tones; bill relatively long and slender. Breeding habitat: Alaska, coast and interior from the Alaska peninsula northward; inland of the coast ranges from Prince William Sound southeastward at least to central British Columbia. (I have seen no specimens from points between British Columbia and Hudson Bay.)

The gray colored, slender billed bird of the interior reaches perhaps its extreme of development in the Cassiar region of northern British Columbia. Grinnell (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, 5, 1910, p. 399) has commented upon the intermediate nature of a series from Prince William Sound, Alaska, a region that in other respects, too,

shows a mixture of the faunal characters of interior and coast. Our series of *Passerculus* from Nunivak Island also shows an approach to *anthinus*, in thickening of the bill; not in any marked change in the grayish coloration. The occurrence of *alaudinus* in the Prince William Sound region, an extreme outpost of its habitat, an apparent intrusion into *anthinus* territory, between Kodiak Island and the Sitkan district, is an anomaly that is more apparent than real. Many of the summer residents of the Prince William Sound region (*Passerculus*, *Junco*, *Hyllocichla*, and others) must travel southward with the great stream of birds that heads toward the southeast, east of the coast ranges and mostly east of the Rocky Mountains. *Anthinus* of Kodiak Island, as also *sandwichensis* of more remote Unalaska, probably migrates due east across the Gulf of Alaska to the coast of the Sitkan district, never inland.

So far as known there is no *Passerculus* breeding on the British Columbia coast between Dixon Entrance and the mouth of the Fraser River, not on the Queen Charlotte Islands nor on Vancouver Island (except at the extreme south), a curious hiatus. The bird of the lower Fraser has been named *Passerculus sandwichensis brooksi* Bishop (Condor, 17, 1915, p. 187), and it is easily distinguishable from either of the northern forms in dispute. I may say in passing that, personally, I have never been able to distinguish between *brooksi*, of the coast, and *nevadensis*, of the same latitude inland; but that is a matter that need not be entered into here.

In the above discussion, nomenclature has been of minor concern; I have used the name *alaudinus* in the sense in which it has generally been accepted, despite Oberholser's conviction (*op. cit.*, p. 109) that Bonaparte's description is otherwise applicable. It seems to me that this is a matter that must await actual comparison of specimens with the type for settlement, and that in the meantime disturbance of the accepted nomenclature is unwise.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, August 15, 1933.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The Eighth International Ornithological Congress will be held at Oxford, England, July 2 to 7, 1934. Bird students who expect to visit Europe any time in the near future should so plan their program as to be in attendance upon this series of meetings. An interval of four years will have elapsed since the last Congress. The present session will convene under the presidency of Erwin Stresemann. The secretary is F. C. R. Jourdain, who may be addressed for further information at Whitekirk, Southbourne, Bournemouth, England. We already know of two Cooper Club members who will likely attend.

Readers of the *Condor* will be interested to learn that the Northern Division is the recipient of a generous gift to cover prizes offered in a "Program Contest." This contest consists of the presentation of carefully prepared talks, or papers, by local members, upon any phase of ornithology of informational value and interest to the Division. The presentations will be made before the regular monthly meetings of the Northern Division in the early part of 1934.

Our fellow Cooper Club member, Clarence S. Sharp of Escondido, is gather-



Fig. 50. STANLEY G. JEWETT: AUTHORITY ON THE BIRDS OF OREGON, CO-AUTHOR OF THE "BIRDS OF THE PORTLAND AREA" (PACIFIC COAST AVIFAUNA No. 19), AND MEMBER OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB SINCE 1909.