

may have to reconsider some of these decisions from time to time and make nomenclatural changes to correspond, but comparatively few of them are specific in concept. In any event why should stability in vulgar usage be held more sacrosanct than in scientific language established largely for that purpose?

The real obstacle to the creation of a vernacular system of specific names lies in the practical difficulty of the undertaking. I have had to provide such a popular medium of expression for the forthcoming *Birds of Canada* and have been faced with the difficulty. Ninety-five per cent of the species treated fall naturally into nomenclatural pigeon holes. The remaining five per cent give rise to some unfamiliar and awkward word combinations. If some one would tell me how to designate specifically such forms as *Oceanodroma castro*, *Aimophila aestivalis*, *Tyrannus melancholicus* and some others without violating sensibilities, I would appreciate it. Most of these difficulties deal with species that the more northern amateurs will be little bothered with; but what can be done with such species as *Hyllocichla ustulata*? These are problems that have to be faced and if the preliminary results presented do not satisfy the general public all I can say is that if it knows a "better 'ole," let's go to it.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Ottawa, Canada, November 29, 1934.*

**Bird Records from Northeastern Nevada.**—The specimens listed below were obtained for my collection in the course of a survey of the vertebrate fauna of the Ruby Mountains region in northeastern Nevada. (See *Jour. Mammalogy*, 15, 1934, pp. 12-44 for accounts of mammals.) Some of the species here recorded are ascribed to Nevada for the first time; others have been observed, some commonly, but for most of them no Nevada-taken specimen is at present easily available to substantiate earlier records. Some of the species were found commonly by us; others were represented by only the single records given here. Identifications were confirmed by Jean M. Linsdale of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, to whom I am indebted. Numbers of specimens refer to the Ralph Ellis collection.

*Ixobrychus exilis hesperis*. Western Least Bittern. Male (no. 4130) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, July 18, 1927, Adrey E. Borell.

*Cygnus columbianus*. Whistling Swan. Two males (nos. 6788-89) from west side of Ruby Lake, 6 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, November 5, 1929, A. E. Borell.

*Branta canadensis canadensis*. Canada Goose. Male and female (nos. 6786-87) from west side of Ruby Lake, 6 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, November 2, 1929, A. E. Borell.

*Nyroca collaris*. Ring-necked Duck. Male (no. 4560) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, December 27, 1927, A. E. Borell.

*Nyroca valisineria*. Canvas-back. Male and female (nos. 4558-59) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 and 6 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, December 29 and 31, 1927, Ralph Ellis.

*Charitonetta albeola*. Buffle-head. Two females (nos. 4568-69) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, December 17, 1927, A. E. Borell.

*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*. Ruddy Duck. Male (no. 6980) from Hobson, south end of Ruby Lake, White Pine County, May 23, 1929, A. E. Borell.

*Lophodytes cucullatus*. Hooded Merganser. Male (no. 4538) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, December 28, 1927, Ralph Ellis.

*Grus canadensis tabida*. Sandhill Crane. Male (no. 5063) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, May 22, 1928, A. E. Borell.

*Totanus flavipes*. Lesser Yellow-legs. Two females (nos. 4158-59) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, August 2 and 8, 1927, A. E. Borell.

*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*. Black Tern. Two young males (nos. 4054-55) from west side of Ruby Lake, 6 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, August 2, 1927, Ralph Ellis; female (no. 4121) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, July 19, 1927, Raleigh A. Borell.

*Asio flammeus flammeus*. Short-eared Owl. Male (no. 5105) from north end

of Ruby Lake, Elko County, June 27, 1928, A. E. Borell; male (no 6804) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, October 14, 1929, A. E. Borell; male (no. 6805) from west side of Ruby Mountains, 4 miles north of Lee, Elko County, October 24, 1929, H. H. Sheldon.

*Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis*. Western Crow. Female (no. 7052) from east base of Ruby Mountains, 20 miles north of Ruby Valley P. O., Elko County, June 29, 1929, Ralph Ellis.

*Certhia familiaris montana*. Rocky Mountain Creeper. Male (no. 4622) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, December 30, 1927, A. E. Borell; female (no. 6849) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3½ miles south of White Pine County line, White Pine County, November 1, 1929, H. H. Sheldon.

*Regulus satrapa olivaceus*. Western Golden-crowned Kinglet. Male (no. 4628) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, December 30, 1927, A. E. Borell.

*Acanthis linaria linaria*. Common Redpoll. Male and female (nos. 6829-30) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles south of White Pine County line, White Pine County, November 2, 1929, A. E. Borell.

*Melospiza georgiana*. Swamp Sparrow. Female (no. 4612) from west side of Ruby Lake, 3 miles north of Elko County line, Elko County, December 17, 1927, A. E. Borell.—RALPH ELLIS, *Berkeley, California, January 15, 1935.*

**A Note on Passenger Pigeons in the Nineteenth Century.**—The following passage is taken from a book of small circulation, the "Diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin, Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society 1829-1835." (Worcester, Massachusetts, published by the Society, 1901.) It is under date of January 4, 1830. "Rise early and go hunting all day. Have Asa Hosmer with me, who is a hunter by profession and does nothing else for several years. He tells me that last fall he caught 830 dozen pigeons. Mr. Bryant and John Hancock caught half as many more. They sell for 25c to \$1. a dozen." . . . "I can well remember in the spring of 1811 a flock passed over Templeton that was many hours in sight and so large as to cover the whole horizon. They first appeared a half hour before sunrise and continued till after ten o'clock."

C. C. Baldwin was the son of Eden Baldwin, for whom the village of Baldwinville, Massachusetts, in the town of Templeton, was named. My father, Herbert S. Morley (born 1844), long a resident of Baldwinville, wrote me under date of May 14, 1934, as follows: "When we first came here [about 1870] the 'blind' of the hunters was in evidence near the railroad track. They used to bait the ground and then in some way throw a net over the birds, and then they killed them by crushing in the heads with the ball of the thumb. And George Day told me that when the thumb got too lame Hosmer would crush them with his eye teeth."—S. G. MORLEY, *Berkeley, California, January 4, 1935.*

**Louisiana Herons on San Diego Bay.**—While taking a bird census around San Diego Bay on December 20, 1934, Mr. Lee Arnold and I saw two Louisiana Herons (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*). They were feeding along the shore of the narrow neck of water separating Coronado and North Island. These I think make a total of six specimens seen in southwestern California, all from San Diego Bay.—JAMES E. CROUCH, *San Diego, California, January 5, 1935.*

**Virginia Rail in Yosemite Valley.**—Although Grinnell and Storer in "Animal Life in the Yosemite" (p. 260) record the Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) as breeding at Smith Creek near Coulterville, I have been unable to find any record, either published or unpublished of this species in Yosemite Valley. I therefore wish to record that, at a location about the middle of the floor of the valley, along the Merced River, on September 30, 1934, at a distance of from six to ten feet, I cautiously followed and observed a bird of this species. The bird used its bill, which was over an inch and a quarter long, to turn over the dead leaves along a bare moist bank. The rail then deftly picked up the insects and worms which it had thus exposed.—JOSEPH S. DIXON, *Wildlife Division, National Park Service, Berkeley, California, October 26, 1934.*