March, 1937

Woodpeckers (Asyndesmus lewis), September 25; one Black-headed Grosbeak (Hedymeles melanocephalus), October 1; a pair of Lazuli Buntings (Passerina amoena), August 20. On September 2 a visit to the ponds showed 100 Pintail ducks, five Black-necked Stilts (Himantopus mexicanus), 11 Avocets (Recurvirostra americana), one Osprey (Pandion haliaëtus), 4 Snowy Egrets (Egretta thula), 2 Great Blue Herons (Ardea herodias), 15 Black-crowned Night Herons (Nycticorax nycticorax), and one Northern and one Wilson Phalarope (Lobipes lobatus and Steganopus tricolor). September 13 the census at the ponds was: 40 Cinnamon Teal, 5 Pintails, 8 Great Blue Herons, 1 American Egret, 4 Shoveler Ducks (Spatula clypeata), 6 Snowy Egrets, 19 American Bitterns (Botaurus lentiginosus), 1 Night Heron, and 34 Avocets.—M. FRENCH GILMAN, Death Valley, California, November 16, 1936.

Further Additions to the Known Avifauna of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.—In the past few months the United States National Museum has received from Paul Silook, an Eskimo collector on St. Lawrence Island, two small lots of birds comprising eight birds of seven species, six of which have not been hitherto reported from the island. All were collected by Silook, at or near Gambell, in the northwestern part of the island, in the summer (May to August) of 1936. The birds new to the island are as follows:

Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe. European Wheatear. An adult, unsexed, collected in August.

Cyanosylvia suecica. Red-spotted Bluethroat. One taken in August. This essentially palearctic species occurs casually in Alaska, other localities there being St. Michael, Cape Blossom, Meade River, and Point Barrow.

Acanthopneuste borealis kennicotti. Kennicott Willow Warbler. Two specimens, one taken in July, the other in August, were sent in by Silook. Both are somewhat more greenish yellow below than either kennicotti or typical borealis, recalling in this respect manthodry as Swinhoe of the Kurile Islands; but they have the outermost primary very short, not exceeding the greater outer upper primary coverts, thereby agreeing with kennicotti and borealis. These two forms are very slightly differentiated, the former being a trifle smaller than the latter. The present specimens have wings measuring 62.5 and 63 mm, respectively, and are in agreement with the type and a few other specimens of kennicotti, to which race they are identified.

Anthus spinoletta rubescens. American Pipit. One specimen, June.

Anthus cervinus. Red-throated Pipit. One, collected in July. It is in fresh winter plumage and lacks the reddish on the throat which is pale ochraceous buff streaked with blackish like the rest of the underparts. The date indicates that the winter plumage is acquired early.

Pyrrhula pyrrhula cassinii. Cassin Bullfinch. An unsexed bird, adult male by plumage, was taken in May, and forms the third record for the species in Alaska. The previous two records were, one at Nulato, January 10, 1867, and three specimens on Nunivak Island, October 12 to 16, 1927. Silook recognized it as a new bird in his experience as he wrote on the label, ". . unusual kind and killed very first time. ." A reëxamination of the relationships of the Alaskan Bullfinch fully corroborates Swarth's findings (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, vol. 16, 1928, pp. 248-250). The present specimen is cassinii, the form inhabiting Kamchatka (of which Pyrrhula kamtschatica Taczanowski is a synonym), and is very distinct from the Lake Baikal bird, cineracea Cabanis, which Hartert (Vög. pal. Fauna, vol. 1, 1903, p. 96) considered to be cassinii.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., December 9, 1936.

The Western Mockingbird in Oregon.—In August, 1935, while Mrs. Jewett and I were camped at the old P Ranch in the Blitzen Valley, Harney County, Oregon, one evening Mrs. Jewett came into the ranch house and casually remarked that she had seen a mockingbird about a mile south of the house, where the Blitzen River emerges through a narrow canyon as it leaves the Steens Mountains. Needless to say, I was surprised and, I admit, skeptical as well; for the mockingbird had not only never been recorded anywhere in Oregon, but its presence was not even suspected. The unexpected often happens to the ornithologist, however, as I was to learn later.

On November 21, 1935, while I was very busy with a large crew of CCC boys building a concrete dam in the Blitzen River, I saw a "grey and white" bird fly from off the hillside and light on the topmost twig of a dead alder tree on the river bank. I thought at the time that it was an odd-looking Northern Shrike, a common winter resident in this locality; but being absorbed in my construction job, I paid little attention to it.

While hiking in the Upper Blitzen Canyon in the Steens Mountains on February 9, 1936, where winter birds were scarce indeed, I flushed and collected an adult male Western Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) in a scattered clump of junipers. It was then that I realized what bird I had seen on November 21, 1935, and that my wife was apparently correct when she reported one seen