two subspecies in juvenal and winter plumages. In summer adults, the wing length alone can be relied on.

There is obviously a considerable migration of *fulva* down the Pacific Coast in the fall, the adults preceding the young as is usual in the Limicolae. Whether this migration is deflected by the prevailing southeast trades to cause it to end up in the Hawaiian Islands is at present only problematical. But the assumption by Wells W. Cooke that all the plover that reach these islands from Alaska take the direct route from the tip of the Alaska Peninsula requires confirmation.

A complete list of Pacific Coast and interior records of *Pluvialis dominica fulva* as known to the writer is as follows:

Comox, Vancouver Island, November 2 and 4, 1903; 5 juveniles taken (not 3 as stated in "A Distributional List of the Birds of British Columbia"). Brooks.

Clayoquot, Vancouver Island, October 16, 1907. W. Spreadborough.

Comox, Vancouver Island, September 15, 1922. H. M. Laing.

Tofield, Alberta, September 9, 1925. C. J. Harrold. These three specimens are all juveniles, typical *fulva* in every respect. National Museum of Canada.

Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, August 10, 1920, 1 adult. Brooks.

Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, August 22 and 25, 1936, 4 adults. Brooks and Mackie.

Clallam Bay, Washington, October 28, 1921, 1 juvenile, Carl Lien (A. J. van Rossem, Condor, vol. 38, 1936, p. 217).

San Francisco Bay, California, January 15, 1922, 1 in winter plumage. D. D. McLean (Grinnell, Condor, vol. 38, 1936, p. 219). An examination of all Pacific-Coast-taken Golden Plover will probably show further specimens of *fulva;* a doubtful specimen in worn plumage is in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in addition to the one recorded by Grinnell.

Curlew Sandpiper. *Erolia testacea.* On the beach some twelve miles east of Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, I sighted a Curlew Sandpiper among a large crowd of adult Sanderlings and Western Sandpipers, in the evening of July 31, 1936. All were very restless, but by making a detour and allowing the flock to feed up to me, I was able to collect the stranger. The bird is a male in summer plumage with the first feathers of the winter dress coming in; a very fat bird. Measurements: Wing 124 mm., culmen 34, tarsus 30; now no. 8321 in my collection.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, Canada, April 26, 1937.*

A New Race of Brown Towhee, from the Kern Basin of California.—A series of 20 brown towhees in fresh fall plumage, obtained in 1933 from Walker Basin and vicinity, in Kern County, California, present differences from comparable material representing the race *Pipilo fuscus carolae* of the San Joaquin Valley to the northward. In 1935, there appeared the description of a new race of brown towhee from Inyo County, by A. J. van Rossem (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 8, pp. 69–71). The range of this new race, *Pipilo fuscus eremophilus,* was stated as the "Argus Mountains of Inyo and San Bernardino Counties, southeastern California." Through the courtesy of Mr. van Rossem, we have been able to borrow from the San Diego Society of Natural History, 9 of the Argus Mountains birds he has collected. Comparison of these examples of *eremophilus* with our Walker Basin birds indicates that the specimens from the Kern River drainage basin possess at least one distinctive character, as well as a different combination of other characters. These disclosures justify, we think, the naming of the Kern Basin Brown Towhee as yet another race, which we designate as

Pipilo fuscus kernensis, new subspecies

Type.—Adult male, no. 63969, Mus. Vert. Zool.; 2 mi. N. Sorrell Ranch, 4500 feet altitude, Kelso Valley, Kern County, California; November 29, 1933; collected by R. M. Gilmore, original number 3304.

Subspecific characters.—Color of dorsum somewhat intermediate between that of *carolae* and *eremophilus,* being less brownish and more grayish than in *carolae* and less grayish, more brownish than in *eremophilus;* general tone, below as well as above, grayer than in *P. f. crissalis;* well marked patches of lighter gray on sides of hind neck, these patches tending to meet across dorsum in nape region so as to separate dark brown of crown and occiput from lighter brown of back [in the other races these two areas grade into each other fore-and-aft uninterruptedly]; in size characters, larger than *eremophilus,* especially as to bill, feet and claws, thus comparable with *carolae.*

Measurements.—Of type: Wing, 101.1 mm.; tail, 111.0; exposed culmen, 14.4; depth of bill at base, 9.0; tarsus, 27.4; middle toe without claw, 20.1; chord of hind claw, 11.4.

Range.—Drainage basin of Kern River, within extreme southeastern rim of San Joaquin Valley, in Kern County, California.

Remarks.—Many years ago, A. W. Anthony (Auk, vol. 12, 1895, p. 110) commented on the pallor of a specimen of brown towhee from the South Fork of the Kern River; he suggested that

this was an indication of intergradation with the form *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus*, the nearest range of which is far to the eastward, in Arizona. Swarth (Condor, vol. 20, 1918, p. 120) attributed the pallor of Kern River specimens chiefly to geographic variation in fading; so he referred all his Kern County material to *carolae*. Grinnell and Swarth (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 21, 1926, p. 429) indicated on their map this same disposition of their Kern County representations. That there can be no significant approach of any of these Californian populations to *mesoleucus* was shown by van Rossem who stated (*op. cit.*, p. 70) that the tendencies in his *eremophilus* are actually away from *mesoleucus*.

The one outstanding feature in the series of *kernensis* viewed as a whole is the presence of the light hind-neck areas, although the character is present in different skins in different degrees of intensity. Only one of the examples in fresh fall plumage does not show this character, an immature male, no. 63280, in molt. The character seems to be entirely lacking in long series of *crissalis* and *carolae*, except in those from the west base of the Sierra Nevada in Fresno County, where intergradation between *carolae* and *kernensis* thus evidently takes place. A few of the Argus Mountains birds possess but faint indications of these patches.

Van Rossem stated (*op. cit.*, p. 69) that the Argus Mountains colony is isolated from the geographically nearest race of brown towhee, *P. f. carolae* as he applied this name, by the Sierra Nevada as well as by intervening deserts. Specimens at hand show that brown towhees occur practically continuously across the faunal divides separating the Kern basin from the Mohave Desert. The general trend observable, toward increasing grayness of the brown towhees of the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, southeastward from the Yosemite region, accentuated in *kernensis* and then culminating in *eremophilus*, points to the probability that the Argus Mountains population itself originated from that of the southern San Joaquin Valley. The series of *eremophilus* at hand shows more uniformity in characters than does the series from the Walker Basin region, perhaps an indication of the effects of the sharper isolation, by the desert interval, in the former case.

On the *west* side of the San Joaquin Valley (though also in Fresno County) we find geographic variation to involve the race *crissalis*. December-taken examples from Priest Valley, in the San Benito Mountain region, have a dorsal coloration that is somewhat intermediate between the characteristic color tone of *crissalis* and that of *kernensis*. There is also shown, very weakly developed, the gray neck patches. Thus we have *kernensis* apparently intergrading with *crissalis* in the extreme southwestern part of the Great Valley.

Incidentally, some recently received material shows that the range of the Oregon race, *Pipilo fuscus bullatus*, extends south into California. A female, no. 67880 Mus. Vert. Zool., taken by David H. Johnson and Fletcher G. Palmer on the Klamath River at 2100 feet, two miles south of Hornbrook, Siskiyou County, May 29, 1935, is fairly typical of *bullatus*, as is male no. 67879, from the south base of Table Rock, 3400 feet, ten miles east of Montague, Siskiyou County, taken by the same collectors May 21, 1935.—JOSEPH GRINNELL and WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 13, 1937.*

Western Tanager Nesting near Cordelia, Solano County, California.—A set of four eggs of the Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) was taken by J. Duncan Graham and myself along Green Valley Creek, five miles northwest of Cordelia, in western Solano County, California, on May 23, 1936. The nest was thirty feet from the ground near the top of a maple tree on the edge of the creek. It was not easily discernible from the ground and was located only by the fact that I had thrown a stick against a tall, dead stub adjoining the maple, causing the female tanager to flush and the male to join her. The nest was on the end of a slender limb and required considerable planning and maneuvering with ropes in order to obtain it. It was rather loosely constructed of dry fruit stems of wild grapes, a few dry grasses and weed stems, and tendrils from grape vines; it was lined with a few rootlets. Incubation in the eggs was three to five days advanced.

This is the second record of the breeding of this species in Solano County, the previous record being from the same vicinity by H. W. Carriger and myself (Condor, vol. 34, 1932, pp. 259–260). —EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, September 13, 1936.*