

male immature, taken in Sonoma County, California, December 5, 1886, is close to *D. c. auduboni* but has white upon only three of the outer rectrices, has too much white on the eyelids for this species and has a slight indication of postocular streaking, this latter being more distinct on one side of the head than on the other.

Number 42136, C. A. S. collection, male adult, was taken by Swarth, at Atlin, B. C., a breeding ground of *coronata*, April 22, 1934, and is close to typical *coronata*, but on one side the fourth rectrix has an intrusion of white of about the average size found in *auduboni*, whereas the fourth and fifth rectrices of the other side have heavy white edgings. Also, the supraloral streaks are absent and the postocular streaks are much restricted. Strange to say, Swarth did not mention this specimen to me on his return from the Atlin trip, and no comment appears upon the label.

The examples of hybridism above described are the most prominent ones in the Academy collections. There are also other specimens from the Pacific Coast which show more or less indications of mixed blood, but those described herein are sufficient evidences of hybridism to show, beyond question, that there surely must be a locality, as yet not discovered, where there is at least some contact in the nesting season between the two species.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, July 8, 1937.*

A Brown Pelican Record from Utah.—While visiting with a group of ornithology students, April 28, 1934, at the Rudy Duck Club near the mouth of the Jordan River on the southeast shore of Great Salt Lake, we observed a flock of about 20 to 30 White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) among which was a pelican of brown plumage distinctly contrasting with the other birds, which we concluded must be a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). We observed the bird in the flock several times during the day, but could not be sure of the subspecies. However, because of its size, closely approaching that of the White Pelican, and because it was with other birds that had probably come up from the southwest coast, we leaned to the belief that it was a California Brown Pelican (*P. o. californicus*).—A. M. WOODBURY, *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, June 15, 1937.*

The Duck Hawk Breeding in Nevada.—Jean M. Linsdale in his "The Birds of Nevada" (Pac. Coast Avif. no. 23, 1936) lists the only records of the occurrence of the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) in Nevada, as one specimen taken by Ridgway in 1868, and sight records in 1868 and 1931. It would therefore appear to be of interest to place on record that there is a set of four Duck Hawk eggs in the Barnes Oological Collection, Field Museum, Chicago, which are recorded as having been taken by F. H. Lord, April 3, 1910, at Walker Lake, Nevada.

I examined this set some time ago and the eggs are unquestionably those of this species; but I have been unable to secure any information as to where they were obtained by Mr. Barnes or any trace of the collector.—CAPTAIN L. R. WOLFE, U. S. ARMY, *May 2, 1937.*

The House Finch at Victoria, British Columbia.—A recent note of interest is that of the occurrence of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) as a breeding resident at Victoria, British Columbia. The birds were first noticed on May 28, when the song of the male attracted my attention. From that date I saw one or both birds daily and soon discovered that they were feeding young. The nest was situated 9 feet from the ground in a Virginia creeper on the south-facing wall of a brick building. On June 10 the writer, accompanied by Mr. Kenneth Racey of Vancouver, B. C., found that the young had left the nest, and two specimens were secured.

Five days later the male was again in full song, and the female was seen carrying nesting material to a new site on the same building. The male of the pair is evidently a young bird, as there is but a slight trace of yellowish pink on the face and throat. The area surrounding the base of the bill appears strongly darker than the rest of the head. The bird is almost identical with a specimen taken in Berkeley on May 16, 1935.

Inasmuch as this finch for the past 3 or 4 years has been reported by Mr. S. J. Darcus, on the basis of sight records, as a regular breeding resident at Penticton, B. C., it will be interesting to see if the House Finch is permanently extending its range to include the humid Transition Zone of coastal British Columbia and the arid Transition Zone of the interior of the province.—IAN MCTAGGART COWAN, *Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C., June 19, 1937.*

A New Race of Titmouse, from the Kern Basin of California.—The description of the race *Baeolophus inornatus zaleptus* (Oberholser, Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 4, 1932, p. 7) from southeastern Oregon, together with Linsdale's (Pac. Coast Avif. no. 23, 1936, pp. 87-88) recognition of this subspecies from Nevada, has led us to a reconsideration of the status of the titmouses in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from the eastern parts of California. In doing this,

particular attention came to be paid to a series from Walker Basin, Kern County, collected in the fall of 1933, which has remained unsatisfactorily identified. In conclusion, we now think it advisable to name this Kern County population, as follows:

Baeolophus inornatus kernensis, new subspecies. Kern Basin Plain Titmouse.

Type.—Adult male, no. 63801, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Rankin Ranch, 3300 feet, Walker Basin, Kern County, California; November 19, 1933; collected by R. M. Gilmore, orig. no. 3235.

Diagnosis.—Compared as to coloration with *B. i. inornatus*, dorsum grayer, less brownish, and flanks and underparts generally slightly less buffy, clearer whitish; compared with *B. i. transpositus*, less olivaceous dorsally, and paler gray below; less clearly gray dorsally, but paler below, than in *zaleptus*. In size characters, closest to *inornatus*; bill decidedly shorter, less massive, than in *zaleptus*, and less massive even than in *transpositus*.

Measurements.—Of type: Wing, 68.6 mm.; tail, 58.4; tarsus, 20.3; hind toe with claw, 13.4; culmen, 9.8; bill from nostril, 8.0; depth of bill at base, 4.9.

Geographic Range.—Drainage basin of Kern River, within southeastern rim of San Joaquin Valley, in Kern County and extreme southern Tulare County, California. Thirty-seven specimens examined, from the following localities. In Kern County: Rankin Ranch, 3300–3700 feet, Walker Basin; Thompson Canyon, 3900 feet, Walker Basin; east end Walker Basin, 3500 feet; French Gulch, 6700 feet, Piute Mountains; Kern River at Bodfish, 2400 feet; Greenhorn Mountains, 5500 feet, 8 mi. W. Isabella; Isabella, 2500 feet; Fay Creek, 4100 feet; Weldon, 2650 feet; Onyx, 2750 feet; west slope Walker Pass, 4600 feet. In Tulare County: Trout Creek at 6000 feet.

Remarks.—As in the case of the brown towhee (*Pipilo fuscus kernensis*), we find in the Kern drainage basin of the southern Sierra Nevada a center of differentiation for titmouses. The population from this region presents in color tone a more grayish appearance than populations from southwestern and central California; yet there is not the extreme grayness as seen in titmouses from the Great Basin. Although intermediate in color between Pacific-slope forms and those of the Great Basin, it is doubtful whether direct intergradation with any of the latter races actually exists because of the great disparity in bill size, unbridged by any specimen seen. It is doubtful now that true *griseus* occurs at all in California, even at the extreme south; specimens heretofore referred to that race we now think all belong to *zaleptus*. According to this belief, the latter race occurs south along the eastern border of California at least as far as Waucoba Pass, Inyo County. Specimens from there in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, obtained in June, 1937, are like topotypes of *zaleptus*.

Examples in fresh fall plumage from the vicinity of Miramonte, Fresno County, in the oak belt on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, are somewhat paler than examples from farther north and from the San Francisco Bay region, being thus interpretable as intermediates approaching *kernensis*. This influence even seems to extend as far north as the Yosemite area. We may infer that the race *kernensis* has its closest affinities with *inornatus*, with which it thus does definitely intergrade northward along the west-Sierran foothills. We have here, then, another of the long trends so common in geographically variable birds over that general part of the state.

Titmouses at hand in unworn plumage from Waltham Creek, 4½ miles southeast of Priest Valley, Fresno County, a locality on the opposite, western side of the Great Valley, also are paler than typical *inornatus* and thus show an approach toward *kernensis*. In this respect as well as in the southward tendency toward paler tones along the Sierra Nevada, the titmouses show a remarkable parallel to conditions in the brown towhees as previously noted (Grinnell and Behle, Condor, vol. 39, 1937, p. 177).—JOSEPH GRINNELL and WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 29, 1937*.

Off-shore Bird Notes.—Recently, through the kindness of J. R. Pemberton, I was privileged to make a trip to the Cortez and Tanner bank region, off extreme southern California. On the morning of June 26, 1937, we left San Pedro on Mr. Pemberton's yacht "Kinkajou", and, laying a course between Catalina and San Clemente islands to the vicinity of Cortez Bank, we hove to near Bishop Rock shortly after dark. During the day's trip, deep water birds were not very common, but we saw several shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus* and *P. creatopus*), one or two Black Petrels (*Oceanodroma melania*), and a few Black-footed Albatrosses (*Diomedea nigripes*).

On the following morning, June 27, three specimens of Black-footed Albatross were secured near Cortez Bank; then we started north in the direction of Santa Barbara Island. At latitude 32° 50' N, longitude 119° W, about thirty miles west of San Clemente Island, a Red-billed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon aethereus*) flew by the ship. By waving a handkerchief I succeeded in bringing the bird within range and shot it. It proved to be an immature male, and is now number 18778, collection of the Los Angeles Museum. While we were maneuvering to pick the bird up, a Black-footed Albatross came to investigate it and was collected.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, July 6, 1937*.