

on the basis of two specimens in the Cleveland Museum taken from the rim of Warner Valley northwest of Jacobs Ranch, Twenty Mile Creek, 9 miles south of Adel, Oregon, May 3, 1930. These birds were characterized as "similar to *griseus*, but much more clearly grayish above with practically none of the brownish tinge so evident in the latter race; also paler above; and somewhat lighter, more clearly grayish below, with little or no buffy wash."

Both specimens mentioned by Oberholser were forwarded and examined in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on March 5, 1936. They matched closely nos. 64713,-14 Mus. Vert. Zool., a male and female taken on April 30, 1934, 17 miles northwest of Reno. They are distinctly darker, more olive, than May and June birds from eastern Nevada. My measurements of the two were as follows:

	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
Male . . . . .	73.9	61.0	12.1	20.6
Female . . . . .	72.5	62.2	12.9	19.6

Fresh September and October specimens from the Madeline Plains, eastern Lassen County, California, and 17 miles northwest of Reno, Nevada, compared with *B. i. griseus* from eastern Nevada, are darker both above and below, with a distinct olive tone above. On these the color of back is Dark Olive-Gray rather than the Deep Olive-Gray of *B. i. griseus* or Deep Mouse Gray of *B. i. plumescens* from New Mexico and Arizona. The bill is larger and broader in these birds than in *griseus* or any other form of the species.

Thus it is evident that the name *zaleptus* may be applied properly to a distinct race of Plain Titmouse which occupies the northwestern part of the Great Basin from Warner Valley, Oregon, south through Modoc and Lassen counties, California, at least to the vicinity of Reno, in western Nevada. However, the characters mentioned in the original description appear to be the reverse of the true distinguishing features. This race cannot be considered intermediate for, in several characters, it reaches extreme development for the species.

This species is scarce or absent in central Nevada, for no specimen was obtained between 116° and 119° W. longitude. Possibly the range of the species is more continuous to the northward.

*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, September 28, 1937.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Rare Birds at a Pasadena Banding Station.**—It might easily be concluded that, after ten years of almost daily full-day operation of from one dozen to two dozen traps on a three-quarter acre lot near the center of a city of perhaps 70,000 inhabitants, the chance of catching a native bird of a species hitherto not seen at that station is extremely remote and that the thrill of banding a new species could no longer be counted upon to help compensate for the hard work. In our case such a conclusion would have been wrong. We began banding in November, 1924. Since 1934, the birds listed below have been banded for the first and only time at this station. With the exception of the first one in the list they are birds rare even for the State of California.

Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*, subsp.). A male was banded on September 27, 1936. One other of the species was seen on our place several years ago.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). An immature male, or a female, was banded on September 7, 1936, and repeated in our traps on September 7 and 9. The areas in the adult male which are normally red were a deep orange-yellow in this bird. Willett (in *A Revised List of the Birds of Southern California*, 1933, p. 150) reports four other occurrences in southern California, in Pasadena in 1905, in Griffith Park in 1923, at Verdugo Woodlands in 1925, and at Artesia in 1925.

Cooper Tanager (*Piranga rubra cooperi*). An immature male was banded on February 7, 1935, and repeated in our traps on February 12 and 22. Our notes record that new feathers about one inch long in the right side of the tail were a pink red instead of the gold brown of the full-length juvenal feathers of the left side. The red spots of post-juvenal feathers scattered over the body were a little paler than the specimen from the museum. Bill certainly *cooperi*. Mouth yellow inside. Went in trap having raisin bait. In addition to the trap occurrences, this bird was seen many times at a distance of not over four feet. It was compared with skins lent us by the Los Angeles Museum.

Mr. Sidney B. Peyton tells us that in June, 1935, he saw a Cooper Tanager, in adult male plumage, in Piru Canyon, eating bees from in front of the hives in his apiary. Willett (*op. cit.*, pp. 157-158) records three specimens taken in southern California: Santa Barbara, 1885, Hueneme, 1918, and San Clemente Island, 1907. He also reports sight records of two in Pasadena and one in Sierra Madre, all in 1926.

Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). One was banded on April 15, 1937. No repeats and not seen again. Willett (*op. cit.*, p. 177) cites two records, one from San Clemente Island, October 15, 1907, and one from Encinitas, December 21, 1927.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). One was trapped by Thomas Miller at our sub-station in Sierra Madre Villa, about three and one-half miles northeast of our home station, on March 23, 1937. It was brought to the home station, banded and released. It repeated at the latter station on March 24, 31, April 21 and 27, 1937. Willett (*op. cit.*, p. 179) says, "Occasional winter visitant." He cites ten published records in regard to its occurrence in southern California.

Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*, subsp.). Thomas Miller, assisting the authors by operating a banding substation at 1809 Bushnell Avenue, South Pasadena, saw a male cardinal enter one of his traps without tripping the door. A few days later, on January 11, 1937, it again entered and was caught and banded. During the following spring he received word that one of the neighbors three blocks away had been watching cardinals feed their young in her back yard. When he went to observe them he found the parents and could see that they were feeding young but he did not actually see the young. The male bore a band and presumably was the one he had banded in January. On April 19, 1937, the authors had a male cardinal in their home-station traps, which they banded.

Several times during the past two or three years Mr. Walter I. Allen has transmitted to our bird-banding group reports of male cardinals being seen in Altadena; and in May, 1937, Mrs. J. Eugene Law reported seeing one at her place in the eastern end of Altadena.

Miss Isabel Ames, Van Nuys, writes us that on April 8, 1937, she saw a male cardinal at her feeding table. He flew to the edge of her bird bath where he was soon joined by a female. For about ten minutes they hopped about the rock garden and trees. On April 9 and 10 they were seen among the trees. They were never seen arriving or leaving, nor have they been seen again.

Dr. Harry C. Fortner, at the Veterans' Hospital near San Fernando, writes that he and Mrs. Fortner saw a male cardinal in their back yard on April 26, 27, 28, May 19 and 20, 1937. On June 20, Mrs. Harlan H. Edwards and he heard the cardinals singing about 200 feet higher up the hillside. Although watched for every day no female cardinal was seen.

Willett (*op. cit.*, p. 158) gives a number of references to published accounts of the appearance of cardinals in southern California from about 1880 to 1932. Any one interested in the cardinals in this region should read the articles referred to by Willett. They are all in *The Condor*, 1925 to 1928, inclusive.

Some hitherto unpublished information on the sources from which some of the southern California cardinals probably have come is given in a letter from Mr. W. J. Sheffler, dated September 27, 1937, in regard to cardinals released in California by himself. We quote:

"First releases were two males and one female released in Santa Ana River bottom near Riverside in 1914. It is my reasonable belief that these birds were of the race *Cardinalis cardinalis superbus*, as I had purchased them from a Mexican near El Centro who informed me that he had caught them in Arizona.

"Second, in 1925 or 1926, a merchant at Kelvin, Pinal County, Arizona, gave me a half dozen Arizona Cardinals (*C. c. superbus*). I at once released five of these, two males and three females, in the river bottom about five miles south of Montebello.

"Third, in 1930 several Cardinals (*C. c. superbus*) which I had brought up from Mexico, escaped from my aviaries in Los Angeles.

"I might add that the birds released near Montebello have increased considerably."

We make no attempt at present to develop conclusions by combining the published articles referred to with the hitherto unpublished material presented here. However, we recommend to someone who likes to solve puzzles that he might find an outlet for his energies by trying to determine what relationship, if any, there is between the birds released by Mr. Sheffler and those reported in

the various published notes and articles. We also recommend that someone, preferably someone who is acquainted with aviculturists, should make a careful search, among all who are known to keep or to have kept caged birds, for information on the liberation of cardinals in California. We welcome the increase in the numbers of these birds.—HAROLD MICHENER and JOSEPHINE R. MICHENER, *Pasadena, California, October 19, 1937.*

**A September Mourning Dove's Nest.**—In a list of nesting dates of the Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*) in Grinnell, Bryant and Storer's "The Game Birds of California" (p. 595) three September nestings of this species are recorded. However, all of these September records are from southern California. It might therefore be of interest to report a nest with small young from which I flushed a Mourning Dove, at Benicia, Solano County, California, on September 10, 1937. This nest was in a heavy growth of shoots coming from a eucalyptus stump.—J. D. GRAHAM, *Benicia, California, September 24, 1937.*

**Some Waterfowl Nesting Records from Vicinity of Redlands, California.**—American Pintail (*Dafila acuta iztzihoa*). A female and her brood of small young were seen on Baldwin Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, August 5, 1937. The female was observed several times at close range as she flew back and forth in front of me in an effort to distract my attention from her young.

Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*). A female with young was seen at some small ponds near Loma Linda in the summer of 1935.

Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*). Two broods were seen in the summer of 1936 at Fisherman's Retreat, south of Redlands. I was told that a pair nested there several years ago.

Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*). About a dozen were seen August 5, 1937, in a small marsh on Bear Lake, San Bernardino Mountains. Two or three birds acted as if they had nests or young, and one nest containing egg shells from which young had hatched was found. Mr. Wilson C. Hanna checked the identification of the egg shells.—HAROLD M. HILL, *Redlands, California, September 19, 1937.*

**Another California Record of Red-billed Tropic-bird.**—George Willett's note on the taking of a Red-billed Tropic-bird (*Phaethon aethereus*) off southern California on June 26, 1937 (Condor, vol. 39, 1937, p. 226) was of particular interest to me, as I myself unmistakably observed a bird of this species in California waters on October 3, 1937. I was fishing for marlin, from a 22-foot open cockpit runabout, about five miles directly west of Point Loma, when I observed a bird in flight, the long central tail feathers of which, black eye-band, heavy red bill and quick wing-beat declared it to be something altogether new to me. It came close to the boat and alighted upon the water, holding up its tail, rooster-fashion.

The bird was very tame and we circled it twice at a distance of 50 to 75 feet before it took off. It alighted on the water again about half a mile away and we followed it. This time we ran the boat slowly up to the bird and shut off the engine—so close, in fact, that we debated the chances of catching it in a hand net. I could easily have collected it, had I had a gun of any sort. Under the circumstances, I had to satisfy myself by filming it with a hand motion-picture camera. My friends aboard and I had ample opportunity to study the bird at close range, and there can be no question of the identification which I made as soon as I had access to my books.

Willett informs me that there are only three previously published records for the State: Specimen (whereabouts now unknown) taken by W. H. Graves between Long Beach and Catalina Island in August, 1916 (Condor, vol. 21, 1919, p. 88); sight observations by Loye Miller (Condor, vol. 28, 1926, p. 14); and his own recent capture of a specimen referred to above.—J. W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, October 19, 1937.*

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Southern California.**—On October 2, 1937, I was en route from Palmdale to Los Angeles, via Mint Canyon, Los Angeles County. Six miles east of Saugus, I had the good fortune to see a visitor rare to California, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*). My wife and I were within forty feet of the bird, which was flying out apparently in pursuit of insects. The prolonged tail feathers and the beautiful salmon tint of the posterior under parts were plainly visible as it sat upon a barbed-wire fence. The bird appeared to be in excellent plumage.—GILBERT PHILP, *Beverly Hills, California, October 12, 1937.*

**Snowy Plover Nesting in Merced County, California.**—The Western Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*), although common on our sea-coast, is noted but rarely and in small numbers in the interior of the State. On May 13, 1937, the writer while in the field near Los Baños, Merced County, worked a shallow alkaline pond of about five acres which contained ten small bare islands. These were occupied by American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) and Black-necked