

**A New Spotted Screech Owl from Guerrero, Mexico.**—Study of the Salvin and Godman collections of Mexican birds in the British Museum has resulted in the discovery of an astonishing number of unexpected novelties, even from supposedly fairly well known areas. One of these is here described, based on a pair of Spotted Screech Owls (*Otus trichopsis*) collected in the isolated Sierra Madre del Sur of Guerrero by Mrs. H. H. Smith, who spent some time there in the Salvin-Godman interests. These two specimens are very distinct from *trichopsis* of the Valley of Mexico and northward, and are named as

*Otus trichopsis guerrerensis*, new subspecies

*Type*.—Adult female, no. 90.5.16.46, British Museum; Omilteme, Guerrero, Mexico; July, 1888; altitude 8000 feet; collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Otus trichopsis trichopsis*, but coloration very much paler throughout, the white markings everywhere at a maximum, the brown, gray, and black, at a minimum; thighs and tarsi immaculate, the former pale cinnamon, the latter white.

*Range*.—Known only from the two specimens from the type locality.

*Remarks*.—Both specimens are fully adult and have completed the annual molt. They are in the gray phase.

The comparative color differences between *trichopsis* and *guerrerensis* are much the same as between *Otus asio cineraceus* and the palest specimens of *Otus asio mccallii*.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, August 2, 1938.*

**Birds Observed in the Vicinity of Twenty-nine Palms, California.**—In the last volume of the Condor (vol. 39, 1937, p. 210–219) Frances Carter described the ornithological features of the oasis at Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino County, in the southern Mohave Desert. She listed the species observed there during two periods: December 30, 1933, to May 17, 1934; and October 17, 1934, to May 30, 1935. She also tells of some of the birds seen at Barker's Dam, twenty-five miles southwest of Twenty-nine Palms. I have been fortunate enough to make two visits to this region, but for much briefer periods: January 18–22, 1935; and April 22–29, 1937. Certain of the records made in the course of my first stay were mentioned by Miss Carter, but the following few notes selected from those of my second trip, in 1937, were not presented for inclusion in her paper. Of the species mentioned, all but the Tolmie Warbler and Desert Sparrow are absent from her list.

*Aquila chrysaetos*. Golden Eagle. Two were seen circling over the hills east of the road leading to Forty-nine Palms on April 27.

*Actitis macularia*. Spotted Sandpiper. One was seen on the edge of a pond on the western half of the oasis close to the Twenty-nine Palms Inn on April 27.

*Tringa solitaria*. Solitary Sandpiper. Two were seen at Barker's Dam on April 28, first while flying down the outlet stream from the dam, then later perched on the mud at the edge of this stream where they were observed closely.

*Chaetura vauxi*. Vaux Swift. Two were seen flying over the Twenty-nine Palms Inn and the western part of the oasis on April 27. One also, in the company of many White-throated Swifts, was seen at Barker's Dam on April 28.

*Aëronautes saxatilis*. White-throated Swift. Twelve or more were seen flying over Barker's Dam on April 28. A pair was observed more than once in what may have been copulation in the air; one mounted the other as they swooped downward.

*Heleodytes brunneicapillus*. Cactus Wren. One noted both in chollas and in a Joshua tree in Yucca Valley along the highway west of Twenty-nine Palms on April 22. Also one was heard singing among the Joshua trees along the road from Twenty-nine Palms to Split Rock on April 26.

*Vermivora ruficapilla*. Calaveras Warbler. One was seen at Barker's Dam on April 28.

*Oporornis tolmiei*. Tolmie Warbler. Observed in a mesquite clump near the Twenty-nine Palms Inn on April 23. Miss Carter did not note this bird before May 11, 1934.

*Amphispiza bilineata*. Desert Sparrow. An adult seen with food in its bill in the presence of streaked young, along the road from the Twenty-nine Palms Inn to Split Rock on April 26.

*Spizella breweri*. Brewer Sparrow. A flock was seen and heard singing along the road from Twenty-nine Palms to Barker's Dam at a point just north of the Riverside County line on April 28.—LIDLAW WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California, September 15, 1938.*

**Feeding Habits of the Treganza Blue Heron.**—During the spring and summer of 1938 an abundance of Treganza Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias treganzai*) has been noted around the shores of Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada. For some time the cause for the great influx of herons was not discovered. However, careful observations around the areas of concentration revealed that an abundance of food was the contributing factor. In several areas where mesquite and low shrubs were