another was recorded from approximately three miles east of Yuma on May 11, 1941. The actions of those observed in April and May would lead one to suspect that they are breeding locally.

Mycteria americana. Wood Ibis. A flock of 91 was seen in a field being flooded by irrigation water approximately two miles southwest of Somerton, Yuma County, Arizona, on September 22, 1940. This species is evidently a common but irregular summer visitant.

Dendrocygna bicolor. Fulvous Tree Duck. One was seen on October 5, 1940, at Lake Haughtelin near Bard, California.

Erismatura jamaicensis. Ruddy Duck. That the Ruddy Duck is present throughout the winter months is shown by the fact that 21 were seen on December 22, 1940, 10 on January 9, 1941, and one on February 9, 1941. On April 19, 1941, an adult female with two very young ducklings was seen on Mittry Lake, Arizona. A pair of this species with eight, one-fourth grown young was observed on this same lake on May 11, 1941.

Mergus merganser. American Merganser. On December 22, 1940, nine were observed along the river and on Mittry Lake by Dr. C. T. Vorhies and the writer. On May 11, 1941, a single male was seen on Mittry Lake. According to local sportsmen this species may be on the increase in this area.

Gallinula chloropus. Florida Gallinule. One was seen among the tules bordering Mittry Lake on December 22, 1940. A pair with seven very small young was watched for some time on the same lake, May 11, 1941. Local residents claim that it has also been known to breed at Lake Haughtelin, on the California side of the river. It is evidently resident in the lower Colorado River Valley.

Fulica americana. Coot. An abundant resident in the lower Colorado River Valley. On April 6, 1941, an adult with one, one-quarter grown young was observed on the small lake northwest of Somerton. On May 11, 1941, five adults with young varying in size from very small to almost half grown were seen on Mittry Lake.

Squatarola squatarola. Black-bellied Plover. Two individuals of this species were observed near Somerton on December 30, 1940.

Phaeopus hudsonicus. Hudsonian Curlew. On January 12, 1940, a flock of nine was positively identified approximately two miles south of Somerton. Although this appears to be the first record for this species in Arizona, it is understood that they are of quite common winter occurrence in Imperial Valley, California.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater Yellow-legs. A not uncommon winter resident of the Yuma district. Two were observed September 28, twelve on December 22, and six on December 30, 1940, while eight were seen on January 12, 1941.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. This is a species of very common winter occurrence. Usually travelling singly or in pairs, it frequents the irrigation canals and margins of the lakes and sloughs on both sides of the river.

On October 1, 1940, the first *continuous* stream of water was allowed to flow into the All-American Canal which carries Colorado River water to Imperial Valley, California. It was with much interest that this newly formed large body of water was watched for signs of responsive bird life. During the first four months following its opening Lesser Scaup Ducks (*Nyroca affinis*), Redheads (*Nyroca americana*), Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*), Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*), Killdeers (*Oxyechus vociferus*), and Belted Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*) were observed on or along the edges of the canal.—LEE W. ARNOLD, *Yuma, Arizona, April 15, 1942.*

Range Extensions of Three Lower California Birds.—Across the Gulf of California at its narrowest point lie three islands which form a broken bridge between the mainlands of Lower California and Sonora. These are, from west to east, San Lorenzo, San Esteban, and Tiburón. The first and last are, as might be assumed, closely connected faunally with their respective mainlands. San Esteban lies almost in the center of the Gulf, although closer to Tiburón than to San Lorenzo, and its avifauna seems to have been derived from several sources. Lower California, although more distant in a geographical sense, seems to have contributed the greater proportion, for at this writing only one species, *Toxostoma curvirostre*, can be definitely stated to have been of Sonoran origin. On the other hand, Lower California has contributed at least three races and one of these is not that of the nearest peninsular point but from some distance farther south. The three races in question are *Dryobates scalaris lucasanus, Myiarchus cinerascens pertinax,* and *Auriparus flaviceps flaviceps*.

Re-investigation of the subspecific status of certain resident birds of San Esteban Island was initiated when a recent study of the distribution of the Sonoran races of the Ladder-backed Woodpecker showed *lucasanus* to be the resident race there. (Incidentally, the race on the peninsula opposite San Esteban is not *lucasanus*, but *eremicus*.) From certain other data at hand it would seem none

too certain that this colony is of fortuitous origin. The flycatcher is too generally distributed to allow of any inferences, but the verdin is seemingly identical with that of the nearest part of the peninsula and the intermediate San Lorenzo Island. It may be here noted that the abundant material in the Dickey Collection and in the Natural History Museum at San Diego fully endorses the contention of Huey (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 6, 1930:211) that there is a readily distinguishable race of the verdin in central Lower California and that *lamprocephalus* is confined to the Cape region proper.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California at Los Angeles, May 1, 1942.*

Slate-colored Junco in Nevada.—Recently while studying a collection of birds from the West, a specimen of Slate-colored Junco (*Junco h. hyemalis*) was noted. This junco had been taken by Luther J. Goldman of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey at an elevation of approximately 8500 feet, near the summit of Silver Peak Mountains in Esmeralda County, southern Nevada, on October 6, 1915. The specimen, a female, is no. 260121 in the National Museum catalog. Insofar as we have been able to ascertain, this is the first record of the subspecies in Nevada.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., April 28, 1942.*

Another Woodpecker Bill Once Having Commercial Value.—In his well-known work (Reise in das innere Nord-America, 2, 1841:16), Maximilian, Prince of Wied, informs us that among the Mandan Indians some of the decorations for pipes were not locally available, "for example the upper beak and the red crown of a certain wood pecker (*Picus pileatus* Linn.), a bird that does not occur so far up the Missouri. For such a woodpecker head, which was brought from St. Louis, they gave a beautiful large bison robe, worth $6 to $8." For previous notes on this subject see the Condor for 1939, p. 164, and for 1942, p. 41.—W. L. MCATEE, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., March 28, 1942.*

Differentiation of the Oven-birds of the Rocky Mountain Region.—Anyone who inspects a series of skins of the Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) may readily note an ample range of variation in the tone of green of the back, rump and tail. Occasional individuals are dull, gray-green. That there is a high degree of geographic segregation westwardly of the extremely dull-colored individuals has come to my attention through study of oven-birds from the east slope of the Rocky Mountains. This region constitutes the extreme western segment of the range of the species in the United States. A trend toward less intense green in birds inhabiting arid sections of the west is familiar in several species that possess similar dorsal coloration, as for example the Solitary Vireos, the Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and the Nashville Warblers. The differentiation in the oven-birds probably has not come to notice heretofore because they are not frequently collected in the Rocky Mountain region and because in spring and fall there may be an intermingling of bright green migrants that presumably breed in Alberta or Saskatchewan.

The differentiation of the western oven-birds is not complete. As with many races of birds occurring in continental North America, one may expect an occasional individual in one race population to possess many or all the characters typical of an adjoining race. The genes for these racial characters are it seems ubiquitous, but certain ones are rare indeed in some populations, while abundant if not universally present in others. I would not advocate nomenclatural distinction of a partial differentiate were not the magnitude of its color characters great and the segregation of individuals of the two races thus conceived possible to the extent of about 90 per cent. This constitutes a taxonomically practical situation on a par with, or even above par for, a number of long-recognized races of birds. It is suggested that the race of the Rocky Mountain region be known as

Seiurus aurocapillus cinereus new subspecies. Gray Oven-bird.

Type.—Breeding male, no. 79836 Mus. Vert. Zool.; 4 miles west of Fort Howe Ranger Station, 4000 feet, Powder River County, Montana, June 13, 1940; collected by Ward C. Russell, orig. no. 7317.

Diagnosis.—Compared with *Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus* of the eastern United States and Mississippi Valley, back, rump and lateral webs of rectrices grayer and paler, less intense olive-green, the feather tips at least approaching grayish olive; green almost lacking in the tails of some individuals; auriculars and side of neck less tawny. Although examples of a proposed form (*S. a. furvior*) from Newfoundland have not been examined, the coloration specified in the description (Batchelder, Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, 6, 1918:81) is the antithesis of that of *cinereus*.

Geographic distribution.—Breeds along the lower eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains and adjacent plains from the Yellowstone River in Montana south to the Arkansas River in Colorado