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

Suitable habitats include streamside woodlands and yellow pine forest. Is known as a migrant from Sinaloa and the Tres Marias Islands, Mexico, where it possibly winters.

Measurements.—Eighty *S. a. aurocapillus* from the Mississippi Valley and the eastern United States were measured and compared with the 11 adults and fall immatures of *cinereus* that were available. No significant differences is size were found. The sample of *cinereus* lacks long-billed variants such as are present in the eastern populations; tarsal length and, accordingly, bill length average less than in *S. a. aurocapillus*, but the minima for *cinereus* are no less than those for *S. a. aurocapillus*. Measurements of the type of *cinereus* are: wing, 72.5 mm.; tail, 51.9; bill from nostril, 8.4; tarsus, 20.7.

Comment.—In comparing dorsal coloration it was found that 6 of 64 migrant and spring residents from the East could not be distinguished from the least gray individual of *cinereus*. Only 1 of 28 eastern birds in fresh plumage approached the dull green of two fresh-plumaged *cinereus*. I would not interpret these few gray birds from the East as strays of *cinereus* but as variants of the eastern population.

Localities and dates for specimens of *cinereus* examined in addition to the type: Montana State College, Hedges Coll.: Miles City, Custer County, Montana, May 23, 1902, May 31, 1902. Mus. Vert. Zool.: 79834, 79835, type locality, June 12, 1940. Colo. Mus. Nat. Hist.: 12191, City Park, Denver, Colorado, July 30, 1930; no. 12289, Mt. Morrison, Jefferson County, Colorado, May 24, 1931; no. 22619, same locality, August 28, 1941; no. 21245, Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado, small juvenile, June 29, 1940; no. 2903, Holly, Prowers County, Colorado, May 19, 1913. Mus. Vert. Zool. 74815, 21 miles northeast of Rosario, Sinaloa, Mexico, May 1, 1932. Calif. Acad. Sci. 27763, Maria Madre Island, Mexico, May 16, 1925.

An additional bird from Holly, Colorado (C. M. N. H. 2904, ♀), taken May 14, 1913, does not agree with *cinereus* in coloration. It may be a migrant of *S. a. aurocapillus*, or this locality, far east in Colorado, may be an area of intergradation in which some bright green birds occur. A bird (M. V. Z. 75868) taken June 18 at Edmonton, Alberta, seems to indicate breeding of *S. a. aurocapillus* west to that point in Canada. Two stray migrants taken in California (C. A. S. 18078, Farallon Island, May 29, 1911; M. V. Z. 40648, near Lavic, San Bernardino County, May 18, 1920) are *S. a. aurocapillus*.

For essential aid in assembling material for this study I am indebted to the following persons: Alfred M. Bailey of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, James Moffitt of the California Academy of Sciences, and Philip L. Wright of Montana State University at Missoula.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 14, 1942.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The following resolution sent to us should strike a responsive note among Cooper Club members.

"In times of stress, such as the present, there is danger that public resources of permanent value may be exploited unduly to furnish food and other materials.

"Be it resolved, therefore, that the American Society of Mammalogists at its 24th annual meeting, April 3, 1942, goes on record as opposing the use of any such materials from National Parks, National Monuments, or National and State Wildlife Refuges, unless it be demonstrated that such materials cannot be obtained elsewhere."

Mr. A. C. Bent writes us as follows: Now that fourteen of my Bulletins on the Life Histories of North American Birds have been published, your readers may be interested to know what progress is being made on future volumes. The fifteenth, on the Corvidae and Paridae, has long since been completed and is in the hands of the publishers in Washington. My work on the sixteenth, containing all the birds on the 1931 Check-list, from the nuthatches to the thrashers inclusive, is now practically done, except a few minor details.

I am now starting work on the seventeenth volume, in which it is planned to include all the birds on the 1931 Check-list from the thrushes to the vireos, inclusive. It is planned to accumulate manuscript in advance of publication, which may be retarded under the present war conditions.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed material for previous volumes, to remind them that this is a cooperative work, and to ask them to send me contributions of notes, data and photographs relating to birds to be included in the seventeenth volume; the sooner these are received, the easier it will be for me to use them.