

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**A Singing Female Oven-bird.**—The scarcity of museum specimens of the Gray Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus cinereus*), newly named subspecies (Miller, Condor, 44, 1942:185-186) with type locality in the Custer National Forest, Powder River County, Montana, indicated the desirability of collecting members of this race whenever the opportunity might arise. On June 22, 1942, I had occasion to be in the Custer National Forest eight miles south of Ekalaka, Carter County, Montana. This region is a few miles east of the type locality mentioned above. Oven-birds were in full song, enabling an observer to locate them with ease. One bird, singing the familiar notes, was stalked while it walked among the fallen leaves and branches on a side hill clothed with yellow pine and an undergrowth of alder. The bird was subsequently collected and prepared as a study skin. The specimen, collector's number 32 (1942), was found to be a female containing a normal ovary in which several follicles in a late stage of development were present. The apparent lack of published records of female warblers in song, coupled with the fact that the singing of a female Oven-bird is heretofore unknown, makes this incident worthy of recording.—ROBERT W. HIATT, *Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana, May 10, 1943.*

**Cooper Tanager at Santa Barbara, California.**—On March 7, 1943, Father Severin Baumann captured in one of his banding traps at the Santa Barbara Mission, an immature male Cooper Tanager (*Piranga rubra cooperi*). As he removed it from the trap, it uttered a couple of harsh calls and another bird answered from a tree a short distance away.

I mounted the specimen for the bird hall of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.—EGMONT Z. RETT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, April 13, 1943.*

**Description of a Race of Goldfinch from the Pacific Northwest.**—Several years ago a single specimen of the goldfinch from western Oregon had attracted interest because of its dark, rich coloration, but the matter was not further pursued at the time and until recently had been forgotten. The Dickey Collection now contains a series of twenty-three goldfinches from western Washington and western Oregon, and there are also available four from Vancouver Island and one from western Oregon in the Bishop Collection. These differ in several respects from typical *Spinus tristis salicamans* of southern California; in fact on the basis of the material at hand it seems odd that the existence of a northwestern race has previously escaped formal notice. In slight recognition of the fine work accomplished in the Pacific northwest by Stanley Jewett, and also because of a pleasant acquaintance-ship extending over many years, I propose as a name

*Spinus tristis jewetti*, new subspecies  
Northwestern Goldfinch

**Type.**—Female, apparently fully adult, in fresh fall plumage, number 19823 Dickey Collection; Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon, October 19, 1923; collected by William Sherwood.

**Subspecific characters.**—A small race of *Spinus tristis*, similar in this respect to *salicamans* Grinnell of southern California (wings of 17 males average 69.4 mm., of 9 females 67.2). Both sexes in winter plumage everywhere darker and browner than in *salicamans*; back Saccardo Umber instead of Tawny-Olive; flanks Tawny-Olive to Sayal Brown instead of grayish Tawny-Olive; under tail coverts and edging of inner secondaries more strongly suffused with brown. The characters are most evident in newly acquired fall plumage but are observable up to the time of the prenuptial molt.

**Range.**—Coastal slope of western North America from southern British Columbia south to southwestern Oregon, and probably to northwestern California.

**Remarks.**—*Salicamans* from southern California differs markedly from other races of *Spinus tristis* in the partial, sometimes nearly complete, suppression of the prenuptial body molt of both males and females. It occurs gradually and in an irregular, patchy manner over a period of several months from about mid-January to late in May and the vast majority of individuals apparently never attain the full summer plumage. Egg laying begins in early April, in the midst of the molting process, and it has been suggested to me that breeding activity at this time might be in part responsible for the partial suppression. However, I have personally observed simultaneous breeding and molting in a considerable number of birds in the tropics where no such suppression was evident, and I am inclined, therefore, to consider it in the present case a racial characteristic. My own collecting has produced only one individual of each sex which wore a complete summer livery, but there is a rough portion of one in ten according to the total number (147) examined. What the proportion is in other races I do not know, but an incomplete prenuptial molt is obviously a relatively rare condition. One summer