

Conover's (Auk, 58, 1941:376-380) diagnoses of *hendersoni*. Jewett (Condor, 44, 1942:79) has recently recorded this race for the first time in Washington on the basis of a single spring bird collected at Westport, on the coast.

Tryngites subrufficollis. Buff-breasted Sandpiper. This rare species was met with on two occasions at Nisqually during late August, 1940. On the 25th a single bird was seen near the mouth of the river, and on the 28th one was collected in the same area (δ , 1080 JWS). There is, moreover, a male in the E. A. Kitchin collection taken on the Tacoma tideflats on September 7, 1919.

Crocethia alba. Sanderling. The Sanderling is rare on southern Puget Sound. On September 19, 1940, I collected a solitary female on the beach northeast of Dash Point near Tacoma, and on September 21, 1941, I saw a flock of 7 at the same place. In the San Juans it was "seen in considerable numbers on Smith Island by Rathbun, March 26, 1910" (Miller, *et al.*, *op. cit.*:58). Dr. Scheffer and I found them common at the same place precisely 32 years later (March 25 to 27, 1942; one collected on the 26th).

An albino skin of this species in my collection may be of interest. It is a female, collected on March 5, 1939, on the beach at Ocean City, Grays Harbor County. The soft parts were noted at death as follows: iris and bill dark brown, feet pale grayish brown. A normal specimen collected at the same time had the feet and bill black, iris dark brown. The plumage is generally white except for notable amounts of dull brown on the primary coverts, the pigment continuing proximally in a more dilute tint as far as the wrist and distally for about half the length of the outermost primaries.—JOHN W. SLIPP, *Tacoma, Washington, August 21, 1942.*

Uncommon Birds at the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, California.—A Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) was seen by many people at various times between March 27 and April 25, 1943, at the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, 12 miles east of Los Angeles, California. It was among a concentration of White-crowned (*Z. leucophrys*) and Golden-crowned (*Z. coronata*) sparrows. Once the writer heard its soft musical notes. It was generally found on or near a local garden adjacent to the sanctuary where birds were fed daily.

A Green-tailed Towhee (*Oberholseria chlorura*) also spent most of the winter around the feeding table of the sanctuary.

A Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) was seen and heard in the sanctuary by the writer on February 12. It showed reddish on the rump and shoulders. Although the spot was visited for several days, the bird was not seen again.

A Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), not uncommon in summer, was seen and heard by the writer and Mrs. Comby on February 12 and 15, and before and after those dates.

A White-throated Sparrow (*Z. albicollis*) was seen and heard both this spring and last spring. Black-and-White Warblers (*Mniotilta varia*) seem to be regular visitors in the fall. They have been observed for the last six years by the writer and others.—J. H. COMBY, *Pico, California, June 19, 1943.*

Flight-Feeding of the Ring-billed Gull.—Although no known nesting colony of the Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) is located in the Lahontan Valley, Churchill County, Nevada, the species occurs within this valley at all times of the year. On three occasions, in this area, Ring-billed Gulls have been seen feeding in flight. This behavior, similar on all three occasions, may be described as follows.

Flight was slow and irregular and often birds within a flock were flying in opposite directions. Repeatedly it was noted that an individual would cease flapping its wings and sail upward. Then it appeared to hesitate momentarily, as it probably captured an insect and then dropped downward for a short distance as normal flight was resumed.

A flock of about 50 gulls was seen feeding in this manner 2 miles east of Lahontan Dam on September 12, 1942. They were flying and feeding from 100 to 500 feet from the surface of the ground. The distance between the two outside individuals of the flock did not exceed 600 feet.

Another flock of about 30 gulls was seen feeding in flight $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west-southwest of Fallon on October 5, 1942. Mr. Vernon L. Mills obtained two of the gulls from this flock. Examination of their stomachs, gullets, and mouths revealed many insects. Those in the mouths were saved and later identified by Herbert T. Dalmat of Cornell University as ants of the species *Lasius* (*Acanthomyops*) *murphyi* and *Lasius* (*A.*) *latipes*, and the host of these two, *Lasius* (*Lasius*) *niger americana*; there also were two stink bugs (Pentatomidae).

The third flock, consisting of about 100 gulls, was seen 4 miles west of Fallon on October 17, 1942. These were feeding about 60 to 300 feet above the ground. Examination of one gull that was

shot revealed ants (queens of *Lasius* sp.) in its mouth.—J. R. ALCORN, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Fallon, Nevada, June 27, 1943.*

The Bobolink in New Mexico.—Florence Bailey, in her "Birds of New Mexico" (1928:637) stated that since the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) is a fairly common migrant in Colorado, it might be expected in New Mexico and that observers should be on the lookout for it.

So far as I know, the Bobolink has gone unrecorded in New Mexico until noon on May 15, 1943, when an adult male in breeding plumage was observed at a small tule pond, 45 miles north and slightly west of Albuquerque, in Sandoval County. The pond is situated on the Ojo del Espiritu Santo Grant, 18 miles northwest of San Ysidro. I first saw the bird when it flew from the ground and alighted thirty feet away on the dry seed stock of a cattail. The day was bright and my view was unobstructed. I have known the Bobolink in the East, and there is no question as to identity.

The bird was still at the pond at 5:00 p.m. on May 15, but it was not observed when I again visited the pond on June 14.—A. E. BORELL, *Soil Conservation Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 19, 1943.*

Additions to the Avian Check-list of Lassen Volcanic National Park.—While residing in Lassen Volcanic National Park in northeastern California in the summers of 1941 and 1942, the writer observed the following birds which, according to the park check-list, have not been previously reported within the park boundaries.

Dafila acuta. Pintail. Observed on June 27, 1942, on Manzanita Lake, elevation 5845 feet.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. Observed on July 10, 1941, at Manzanita Lake. Two individuals, apparently adult females, were seen swimming among the snags and partly submerged logs in a small cove on the south side of the lake. The supposed sex of these individuals in conjunction with the date of their appearance suggested that they might be breeding birds but no nests or young could be found.

Erismatura jamaicensis. Ruddy Duck. Observed on June 27, 1942, at Manzanita Lake. An adult female in full nuptial plumage was seen diving intermittently several hundred feet from shore in water known to be of a depth of from 10 to 15 feet.

Cryptoglaux acadica. Saw-whet Owl. On August 1, 1941, at about 10:30 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time) in the vicinity of Manzanita Lake, an adult bird was discovered perched close to the trunk of a lodgepole pine at a height of approximately 12 meters. Its presence was heralded by the alarm notes of juncos, chickadees, nuthatches and other small birds.

The owl seemed but mildly concerned about the sounds and movements made by a group of at least a dozen people who had been attracted to the tree by the chorus of excited birds. It only occasionally interrupted its nap to survey the ground below through half-closed eyelids. Even the constant chatter and the occasional sallies of the more adventuresome among the horde of small birds did not cause it to change its position.

At 3:30 p.m. on the same day, the tree was again visited. The bird had apparently moved but little, for it was still perched on the same limb. This time there was a notable absence of other birds. They had probably become accustomed to the owl's presence. Once again the bird showed its disinclination for movement. In an effort to get it into a more suitable place for photographing, it was first pelted with rocks, pine cones, and sticks and then, failing this, the writer climbed an adjoining tree to within a few feet of its position. In spite of shaking branches, shouting, and a hail of pieces of bark, twigs and other missiles, it would not give up its coveted retreat. On the next day a third visit was made to the "owl" tree on the chance that the bird might be regularly roosting in the region, but it was not found.

The following summer, on July 7, the alarm notes of robins coming from a Jeffrey pine adjacent to the Loomis Museum at Manzanita Lake drew attention to a juvenal Saw-whet Owl. The little fellow was being subjected to a merciless attack by two beak-clacking robins which had a nest near by. It was finally driven to a lower level in the tree, making it possible for me to get within 8 to 10 feet of the bird by climbing on to the roof of the museum. From this vantage point I could see that the owl clutched the remains of a white-footed mouse in its claws. In a few moments the rodent was swallowed and the bird took wing, roughly ushered out of the area by the perturbed robins.

Psaltriparus minimus. Bush-tit. Observed by ranger-naturalist George Hale on August 9, 1941, near Manzanita Lake.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend Warbler. An adult male was observed on August 7, 1941, on the Bumpas Hot Spring Trail, elevation approximately 8200 feet. It was among the branches of a mountain hemlock and came within a few feet of the observer in response to an imitation of a bird in distress.