

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Los Angeles County, California.—On Sunday, June 3, 1945, while visiting a mountain ranch in the vicinity of Vincent, Los Angeles County, California, my attention was called to a bird feeding in a black mulberry tree (*Morus nigra*). Examination with a 5× field glass at a distance of 25 feet revealed a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*). The red V-shaped patch on the breast was plainly visible.

This individual was the only one observed that day, but residents of the area stated they had seen this bird or others of the same species on previous occasions throughout the spring in various parts of the canyon. The bird did not sing while it was under observation and I was unable to attribute any call notes to this species.—ARTHUR L. BERRY, *Alhambra, California, June 11, 1945.*

Another Nighthawk Migration on an Arizona Desert.—In the November issue of The Condor for 1941 we reported (p. 293) on "A Nighthawk Migration on an Arizona Desert" noted on July 29, 1941. On August 17, 1943, in the same general area, we observed a flight which so overshadows the former observation that it should be recorded. Driving west on Highway 66 from Flagstaff toward Williams, about 7 p.m., we saw several groups of Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) between Bellemont and Grand Canyon Junction. The first two of five groups numbered twelve each, and the total count amounted to 43 seen in about 15 miles driving at 35 miles per hour.

On reaching Grand Canyon Junction and turning north, nighthawks were streaming across the road by the hundreds, flying from 50-75 feet above ground and in a southwest direction. We stopped the car and began counting the bird crossing about one-eighth of a mile of the highway where visibility was good against a cloudy sky. The counts by numbers were as follows:

7:35 p.m.,	56	7:39 p.m.,	27
7:36	67	7:40	13
7:37	33	7:41	29
7:38	57	7:42	5

Thus, in eight minutes, 287 had been counted.

Proceeding toward Grand Canyon, we could see a stream of Nighthawks following down a little valley to the east and then across the road behind us where we had made the count. The next few miles netted about two to six birds seen per mile near the road until, after sunset, visibility became poor. Total Nighthawks seen between Bellemont and the T.W.A. airport (approximately 46 miles) amounted to 412.—HAROLD C. BRYANT and AMY M. BRYANT, *Grand Canyon, Arizona, June 25, 1945.*

A Harris Sparrow at Santa Barbara, California.—On March 20 of this year, an immature Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) was taken in a two-celled Potter trap at our home at 165 Foothill Road, Santa Barbara, California. When it was discovered, no other birds were near the trap. Golden-crowned Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows, which are reported as its common associates by Grinnell and Miller in "The Distribution of the Birds of California," were frequently seen and trapped during March. The nearest occurrences of the Harris Sparrow to the Santa Barbara region as reported in the above-mentioned volume are one at Pasadena, April 25, 1937 (Michener and Michener, Condor, 40, 1938:39) and one at the San Gabriel River Sanctuary near Los Angeles, March 27 to April 25, 1943 (Comby, Condor, 45, 1943:199).

The identification of the bird was confirmed by Mr. Egmont Rett of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, who said that within his knowledge it was the first of the species to be reported in this vicinity. For that reason he asked that the bird be added to the Museum collection where it now is no. 3886.—MARY M. ERICKSON, *Santa Barbara College, University of California, August 30, 1945.*

The Earliest Name for the San Francisco Brown Towhee.—On a previous occasion (Auk, 59, 1942:449-450), I stated that Bonaparte's type of *Ori.urus wrangeli* belonged definitely with the central coast race of the Brown Towhee currently known as *Pipilo fuscus petulans* Grinnell and Swarth. In their recent work, "The Distribution of the Birds of California" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:479), Grinnell and Miller continue to use the name *petulans* on the basis that I had given no supporting evidence in regard to *wrangeli*. More properly, the conservative action is that of Miller since my note appeared after the death of Grinnell. Details concerning the type are given in the following paragraphs.

Bonaparte's type of *Oriturus wrangeli* is (or was in July, 1939) in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden. It is a mounted bird, perched on a small bar stand, and is in good condition

although undoubtedly somewhat reddened by post-mortem "foxing." The plumage is fresh save that the tail feathers show a slight amount of abrasion and it is reasonable to conjecture that it was collected in early winter. A very old and faded, hand-written ticket on the upright of the stand reads "Pyrgita Brand [sic] / Fringilla Wrangelli [sic] / Brand [sic] Sp. nov / Russie." At some subsequent date "Russi america" has been added, and still more recently Dr. Junge (Director of the Museum) has written in pencil the word "Type." On the bottom of the stand is written "Pyrgita? Brandt / Fringilla Wrangelli [sic] / Brand [sic] sp. nov. / Russie." The word "Wrangelli" has been lined through and "fuscus" written below. There is no indication of sex other than that provided by the bird itself. There is no catalogue number.

This type is somewhat redder (as a result of foxing, probably) than three other Bay region specimens in the Leiden Museum. It is not, nor in my judgment ever could have been, colored like the darker and grayer *crissalis* and *carolae*, of which there were three and one specimens, respectively, available also. Further evidence in support of this belief is found in the description of this specimen by Hartlaub, written ninety years ago (Jour. für Ornith., 3, 1855:361-362), wherein he describes a reddish brown, not a grayish brown bird. In regard to the measurements given by Hartlaub, it would seem that he used the English or Rhineland foot rather than the Pied du Roi which he usually employed.

Further, the type has the normally longer bill with straighter (less convex) lateral profile, and longer tarsi of the central coast race as compared with *crissalis*. The general size and particularly the bill rule out any association with *carolae*, aside, of course, from color considerations. Measurements of the type which, in so far as size is a criterion, is a female, are as follows: both wings (unflattened), 88 millimeters; tail (from insertion of the central pair of rectrices), 103; culmen (from edge of skin across ridge, to tip), 15.0; depth of bill (from edge of skin on mandibular ramus to edge of skin on ridge of culmen), 10.0; tarsus, 29.4; middle toe minus claw (not properly measurable because flexed around perch), 17+.

To repeat the previous determination, the name of *Oriturus wrangeli* is to be associated with the race of central coastal California since structural as well as color characters so identify the type. The citation for this earliest name for the San Francisco Brown Towhee, *Pipilo fuscus wrangeli* "Brandt" (Bonaparte), together with other comment concerning it may be found in the Auk as above cited.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, September 20, 1945.*

A Second Specimen of the Eastern Pileolated Warbler Taken in Oregon.—On the morning of December 6, 1944, W. H. Crowell, former President of the Oregon Audubon Society, found a dead warbler on the lawn at his residence in the west Portland hills district, Oregon. The writer was out of town at the time, so Mr. Crowell laid the bird away in his refrigerator until I returned on December 21, when it was presented to me. It proved to be an immature Eastern Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*) in first fall plumage. This identification was verified by Dr. John W. Aldrich. The only other record of the occurrence of this bird in Oregon is a specimen (Jewett Coll. no. 685) taken by the writer on December 11, 1908, on Government Island in the Columbia River ten miles east of Portland, Oregon (Birds of Oregon, 1940:515).—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, June 30, 1945.*

Snail-eating by the California Jay.—In June of this year a California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) was observed at a distance of eight feet searching the main stem of a small bush of the cultivated plant *Ochna floribunda*. The bird's activity around a plant that would not be expected to yield fruit and its plucking away of dead and withered leaf clusters along the main stem led to more than casual observation. It was a surprise to see it locate and capture a common introduced garden snail, *Helix aspersa*, then hop to a fence rail and commence hammering at and breaking through the side of the snail's shell. Even with this evidence of gustatory interest, it did not occur to me that I was watching more than a display of curiosity and "play" until the bird began eating the contents of the shell.

On speaking of this interesting discovery to my family, I was surprised and chagrined to discover that they had observed the occurrence on several occasions, but they had not thought it worth mentioning.—R. B. COWLES, *University of California, Los Angeles, September 8, 1945.*

More Records of the Chat in Marin County, California.—We have previously reported in The Condor the trapping and banding of two specimens of the Chat (*Icteria virens*) at our residence in Manor, Marin County, California. The first specimen was taken on August 15, 1934, and the second specimen was taken on September 29, 1943. Additionally, we obtained a mid-summer