Sayornis saya saya. Say Phoebe. A female was taken off some old wreckage on the ocean beach at Samoa, California, on October 12, 1924. On November 26, 1939, another female was collected in Eureka, California.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. On February 12, 1922, a male was taken on the sand dunes a mile north of Samoa, California, by a local collector.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, September 4, 1946*.

Some Records of the Spotted Owl in Washington State.—Authentic records of the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurinus*) in the State of Washington are so few as to warrant publication of the following additional occurrences. Two records from the eastern slope of the Cascade Range are at hand. A skin labelled as a female collected at Cle Ellum, Kittitas County, on October 15, 1930, is in the E. A. Kitchin Collection at the College of Puget Sound. Presumably the collector was Mr. Kitchin, although this is not recorded; the length is given as 18¾ inches. In June of 1942 Dr. V. B. Scheffer and the writer examined a mounted specimen which was being held in the Jonas Brothers' shop in Seattle, for Mr. Leo P. Gleason of Leavenworth. In reply to my request for information Mr. Gleason wrote (June 6, 1942) that this bird "was shot by me last winter on the trap line about 1 mile above Lake Wenatchee, Chelan County. This is the only one that I know of that was ever killed here . . . ." These, and Kitchin's account of a pair seen in the Blewett Pass region (Mt. Rainier Nat. Park Nature Notes, 17, 1939:128), seem to be the easternmost records of this species in the state.

A number of specimens have been reported from the Puget Sound basin, including the type of *caurinus*. The whereabouts of two may be briefly noted: A male in the Kitchin Collection was collected by Leo K. Couch at Mud Bay [= Eld Inlet], [west of] Olympia, Thurston County, on August 15, 1934. An adult female from near Lake Washington, Seattle, collected November 1, 1905, by "W.H.S. for S.F.R." is in the S. F. Rathbun Collection at the Washington State Museum.

Published records of this owl on the Olympic Peninsula seem limited to the early statement of Merriam (Auk, 15, 1898:39-40) that it occurred there. A skin from Royal in western Clallam County in the D. E. Brown Collection at the Washington State Museum is therefore of interest; the bird was a female collected on September 11, 1927. A second clearly authentic record is attested by a letter from John Fletcher, dated August 25, 1942. He recalls that "the owl was captured by a cascara bark peeler around the last week of July or the first week of August, 1938: [it was] mid-afternoon [when] he noticed the owl flying short, clumsy distances, and walked up . . . and captured it quite easily as it sat on a stump . . . in the woods near the Fred Fletcher farm on the lower Hoh [River] . . . . The owl's height was approximately 15" and the first thing noticed was the dark irises of the eyes instead of the usual yellow . . . . The ease with which the bird was captured and the motley young looking plumage led us to suspect that it was a juvenile." The owl was identified by means of Taverner's "Birds of Canada," and was kept 3 or 4 weeks before being released. It fed well on chipmunks and jays that were shot for it.—J. W. SLIPP, *Tacoma, Washington, September 16, 1946*.

Loss of Feathers at Times Other Than the Normal Molt.—The loss of corresponding feathers on both wings at a time other than the normal molt is a condition we have observed a few times each year in the birds handled in the course of our many years of intensive banding. Most of these records are for House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). This species far outnumbered any other trapped by us.

The absence of feathers in one wing is always regarded as an accidental loss and the absence of identical or almost identical feathers in both at the same time was at first considered as due to some unusual accident and as a coincidence.

On November 24, 1936, when an adult male House Finch (C-34397) was taken from a trap, it was noticed it had dropped several secondaries in the trap. These were 2-3-4-5 from the right side. While examining the bird, secondaries 2-3-4-5-6 from the left wing came out at the merest touch and also secondary 6 from the right wing. All other feathers were firmly attached. With ten secondaries gone this bird flew well and was released. It was known to have been in the trap for only a short time and it was not molested in any way. This bird had been banded as an adult male on May 15, 1930. It was this experience that made us feel such cases merited observation.

On December 30, 1936, a male House Finch (37-1053), which had been in hand and had had wings spread for examination on four of the six days since it had been banded on December 24, was observed to have lost secondaries 4-5-6-7 of the right wing and secondaries 3-4-5-6 of the left wing. It was caught almost daily thereafter. On January 3 the two wings were exactly alike with secondaries 2-3-4-5-6-7-8 gone from both wings, and two upper greater secondary coverts and one upper middle secondary covert also were gone on each side. The missing feathers grew out and on February 12 this note was made: "The new secondaries are now all full length. Wings are perfect except that on

each side the fourth from proximal upper greater secondary covert is gone. Looking at the spread wing the division between old and new feathers is picked up exactly as in young birds that have undergone partial molt. The new feathers are darker and more strongly barred than the old."

That such feather loss is not due to delayed molt is evident from an adult female House Finch (L-35255) in which the molt had been watched. On October 7, 1936, this bird was molting normally, our note on that date stating that secondaries 1-2-3-4 were new and full length, 5 was half grown and 6 was still old. The sides were alike. Yet on November 17 this bird was taken with secondary 1 short on each side, and the upper greater secondary covert above it was gone on each side. These feathers did not grow out normally and were the same on November 30. This bird was banded as an adult female on July 24, 1933.

A young bird of the year, a female House Finch (36-67371), that had molted no primaries or secondaries was taken on November 30, 1936, with the two distal upper greater primary coverts of each wing gone.

On November 28, 1939, a female House Finch was found with upper greater primary coverts 4-5-6-7-8-9 gone on each wing. There were very small quills started at this time to replace them. But these were again lost, for on February 6, 1940, this bird had only upper greater primary coverts 1-2 on each side. The white quills of the primaries exposed by the absence of the coverts were so conspicuous that the bird appeared to have a whitish spot on each wing. We have other records of this condition.

Gambel Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) seem rather prone to such feather losses. One of these birds on February 27, 1940, lacked primaries 3-4-5-6-7-8-9 in both wings. The spring molt is in progress in Gambel Sparrows at this itme of year but the primaries are not affected by it, nor is any such simultaneous loss normal in molt. This bird was released with many misgivings. The next day it was trapped again. It had survived a hard rain and when released it flew to the top of a shrub fourteen feet away and ten feet high. We wonder what may be the safety factor in a bird's wing.

We have found body tracts entirely bare or covered with very young quills. In these we have not always seen such exact symmetry as in the wings. We reported some years ago a male House Finch taken in April, 1932, with no feathers on the body (Condor, 38, 1936:102-109); head and wings were in normal condition. This bird entered our traps regularly. New feathers grew on the anterior part of the body, but the rump was unfeathered until the normal molting season. The breast feathers on renewal were brown, not red, until the next molt.

In our experience such feather loss has accounted for a yellow superciliary streak in a male House Finch with the otherwise usual red head coloring. In a bird with colored wings it might occasion a striking wing pattern if the normal color were produced only at the normal molt. In immatures of birds with a wing pattern that is not acquired at the postjuvenal molt, such loss and renewal would produce a wing part adult and part juvenal in pattern. It might also well account for the occasional bird that fails to migrate at the usual time if the loss of flight feathers were at all extensive. We have no theory as to the cause of such feather losses.

Probably the main importance of knowledge of the occasional occurrence of such feather losses lies in the recognition of it as a possible cause of abnormal plumage pattern.—HAROLD MICHENER and JOSEPHINE R. MICHENER, *Pasadena, California, May 10, 1946.*

The Elf Owl Moves West.—My own impression, based on a number of years' acquaintance, is that the Elf Owl (*Micropallas whitneyi*) thins out in population density as it nears the western limit of its area of distribution, with a sharp drop to zero at the Colorado River valley. A. J. van Rossem has taken it on the California side of the river at Pot Holes. I once met it among the marginal shrubbery at Blythe, but we have only a highly questionable record of the species any farther west in California. It is not strange, then, that some quite definite excitement was aroused when van Rossem and I were greeted shortly after sunset by the first quaver of an Elf Owl in a scrubby tree at Cottonwood Spring, May 6, 1946. This locality lies at the western end of the Eagle Mountain mass within the Joshua Tree National Monument in Riverside County, California. Seventy-two miles of pretty severe desert separate it from the Colorado River valley directly east. The meridian of 116° W. longitude lies 12 miles to the west. Published records from Lower California (Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 32, 1928:118) relate to the race *M. w. sanfordi* of the Cape district.

The tree from which the first notes came was searched at once, and a pair of birds was twice seen as the male appeared to bring food to the female. At these times the cricket-like trill which may be designated as the "desire note" was given. This note had been definitely identified just two weeks earlier while I was at work in the Harquahala Mountains of Arizona.

The male bird moved about more or less but the female appeared to remain in one closely restricted part of the tree repeating the "station call," a single soft whistle which I have learned to associate with a stationed female. The typical querulous note of the species was heard frequently, and