The race *saturatus* Bishop has had a checkered career. Nearly everyone agrees that Yukon birds are dark, yet few ornithologists recognize *saturatus*. This attitude stems from Ridgway, who remarked (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 50, pt. 4, 1907:522, footnote) "I am, unfortunately, unable to verify any geographic correlation in the matter, these darker birds occurring almost everywhere outside the limits of the supposed subspecies." This sort of statement is all too rife in our literature, by authors who presumably consider pewees to be permanent residents in the Yukon! The one Yukon bird examined (University of Alaska) is somewhat darker than breeding birds *of the same sex* from Arizona; we therefore tentatively follow van Rossem (Occ. Papers Louisiana State Univ. Mus. Zool., 21, 1945:155) in recognizing *saturatus*.

The Mexican races hardly call for comment, except to remark that, in spite of statements to the contrary, we know of no evidence that any wood pewee winters anywhere in Central America.

With the rejection of *Tyrannula richardsonii* Swainson as inapplicable to any wood pewee (the name probably belonging in the synonymy of *Sayornis phoebe*), the species reverts to the next oldest available name, *sordidulus* Sclater. The races of the Western Wood Pewee, from north to south, should thus stand as:

Contopus sordidulus saturatus Bishop
Contopus sordidulus veliei Coues
Contopus sordidulus peninsulae Brewster
Contopus sordidulus sordidulus Sclater

We wish to thank W. Earl Godfrey, Thomas R. Howell and Brina Kessel for lending pertinent specimens, and H. B. Cott and J. D. Macdonald for their efforts to locate Swainson's type specimen. —ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona,* and KENNETH C. PARKES, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 9, 1954.*

Mid-winter Nesting of the House Finch at Los Angeles, California.— On December 23, 1954, a burst of rapid chirping by a House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) was heard coming from a light fixture on the south side of the Physics-Biology Building of the University of California, Los Angeles. Such light fixtures are about 12 feet above the steps leading into the building and are often used for nesting by House Finches; the fixtures have a small, peaked iron "roof" that shelters a space near the top, and this provides a well-protected nest site. There was a nest visible in the above-mentioned fixture, and the tail of the vocalizing bird could be seen projecting over the edge. On December 24 the nest was inspected several times and there was a bird on it each time. At 4:30 p.m. a bird flew off the nest to an adjacent tree where several other House Finches were gathered. The bird had no red in its plumage and was presumably a female although it could have been an immature male. It went into a begging display like a juvenile, with wings drooping and fluttering, but at the same time sang an adult-type song. One of the other birds then went through the motions of feeding the begging-singing one; whether or not any food actually passed between them could not be told. On December 29 a bird was flushed from the site and three warm eggs were felt within the nest. Later that day the incubating bird was heard chirping vociferously. On December 30 a bird was still incubating, and a male sang frequently from bushes near the nest site.

During the week of December 17 to 23 the weather had been clear and mild, with daily maximum and minimum temperatures ranging from 71 to 82°F. and 53 to 63°F., respectively. From December 24 to 31 the weather was still clear but colder, with daily maximum and minimum ranges of 58 to 64°F. and 42 to 50°F. January 1, 1955, was overcast all day and 1.20 inches of rain fell at the university campus; the temperature varied only between 53 and 48°F. January 2 was clear again, but the nest was deserted and the eggs were cold; possibly the inclement weather of the prvious day was at least partly responsible for the desertion.

Smith (Condor, 32, 1930:121) recorded a House Finch nest with four eggs on November 24, 1929, at Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, California. The nest was empty 11 days later and it is doubtful if any young were raised. Winter nestings of this species are perhaps more common than the published records indicate, and data on hatching and raising of young, if any, at this season would be of interest.—THOMAS R. HOWELL and ROBERT D. BURNS, *University of California, Los Angeles, California, May 10, 1955.*