

so placed that the current would bring fresh and living food through the wide mesh. The penguin survived for a month and a half.

There appears to be no prior record of a penguin taken in Middle America. Yet Mr. James Price of Panamá assures me that some years ago he was offered several unidentified penguins captured alive on the Pacific coast of Panamá. Hence this may not be an isolated incident.

According to Murphy (*Oceanic Birds of South America*, 1, 1936:466 ff.) the Galapagos Penguin is known only from the Galapagos Archipelago, particularly the central and westerly islands lying on or just below the Equator; it feeds in the cool waters of the Humboldt Current, which wash the shores of these islands. Murphy mentions (*loc. cit.*) that it has been "doubtfully reported from Wenman Island," which is isolated and lies at latitude 1° 20' N, to the northwest of the main Galapagos Archipelago. The Galapagos extend east to longitude 89° 16' W; Puerto Armuelles lies at about longitude 82° 50' W and latitude 8° 15' N—some seven hundred miles to the northeast. Since the Humboldt Current in its course through the Galapagos flows toward the west, it is a matter of speculation how a non-migratory and non-volant penguin from these islands ranged so far to the northeast. However, a short distance north of the Galapagos Archipelago, another current, the Equatorial Countercurrent, flows toward the east, veering northward as it approaches the continent. In some years, during the early months, this countercurrent displaces, or partly displaces, the Humboldt Current about the Galapagos. It is possible that a penguin chancing to stray into the countercurrent might reach the coast of Panamá. Perhaps a stronger possibility is that fishermen or yachtsmen may have captured the bird and later allowed it to escape near Panamá waters.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *New York City, New York, September 29, 1955.*

White-throated Sparrow in Humboldt County, California.—On September 27, 1955, we observed a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) at close range in a thimbleberry and salal thicket at the west end of the Wildlife Building on the Humboldt State College Campus, Arcata, California. There are few records for this area, although the species has been recorded in Eureka in the months of November, March, and May and at Adams, Del Norte County, on November 4 (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:526*).

This record is of significance because of the early date for the area.—CHARLES F. YOCOM and ROLF E. MALL, *Humboldt State College, Arcata, California, October 15, 1955.*

Distributional Data on the Birds of the White Mountains of California and Nevada.—The White Mountains are the largest and highest of the mountain ranges constituting the Great Basin mountain province of California. The breeding birds of the boreal areas of this province were tabulated in 1951 (Miller, *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, 50, 1951:584-591) from a scattered literature and from the notebook records of field parties of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology which have operated in the White Mountains, chiefly in 1917. When this tabulation was prepared, certain doubts remained about the summer resident status of some species and as a consequence a field party visited the mountains under the leadership of Russell in May and June of 1954 in order to gain further information. In addition to Russell, Francis S. Williamson, Joseph G. Hall, A. Starker Leopold, Robert S. Hoffmann and Jerry Russell took part, the last three only in the last week of June. Parts of the range lying in Esmeralda County, Nevada, were visited, as well as those in Mono and Inyo counties, California. The following data supplement the previous records for this mountain system.

Dendragapus fuliginosus sierrae. Sooty Grouse. No specimens of this type of grouse from the White Mountains were extant previously, although the species was known to occur. In 1944 Grinnell and Miller (*Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27:115-116*) tentatively included the population of these mountains in *D. f. howardi*. Russell took three males and one female in May, 1954, in Trail Canyon, 8900 feet, Esmeralda County, Nevada, and an adult female and downy young at 8200 feet on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, on June 6 and 7. The backs of the males as a group are intermediate in color and pattern between those of *sierrae* and *howardi* in the same way that grouse of the Yosemite district and the Sweetwater Mountains of northern Mono County are intermediate. The tails of adults are intermediate in length although closer to *sierrae* than to typical *howardi*: ♂ ♂, 173, 174, 183; ♀ ♀, 147,

148 mm. The specimens are, then, best placed with *sierrae*, as are those of the Yosemite district, rather than with the *howardi*-like birds of the Kearsarge area of the Sierra Nevada of west-central Inyo County. The multiple hooting from trees and the orange color of the neck air sacs normal for the coastal forms of *Dendragapus* were noted.

Asio wilsonianus. Long-eared Owl. This is not normally a boreal zone species, but it is worth noting that in the White Mountains it ranges up to 9500 feet where on June 20 large young were seen on Cottonwood Creek, Mono County.

Aegolius acadicus acadicus. Saw-whet Owl. Although this owl is known from other mountains in the Inyo area, it has not been recorded breeding in the White Mountains. Juveniles were taken on Indian Creek at 7400 feet, Esmeralda County, on June 1 and 2 and on Wyman Creek at 8200 feet, Inyo County, on June 8, 9, and 13.

Chordeiles minor hesperis. Booming Nighthawk. Two males were taken on Wyman Creek at 6750 feet, Inyo County, on June 16; testis length 7 mm.

Stellula calliope. Calliope Hummingbird. This species probably breeds although actual nesting has not yet been observed. A female taken on June 12 at 8200 feet on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, had ova up to 1 mm. in diameter.

Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The Great Basin race *nuchalis* proved common in the aspens and willows of Cottonwood Creek, Mono County, at 9500 feet. Sapsuckers were seen feeding young on June 19 and 28. Among the eight birds taken there was no sign of characteristics of *S. v. daggetti* of the Sierra Nevada.

Empidonax difficilis difficilis. Western Flycatcher. A male in breeding condition (testis 6 mm.) was taken on June 27 at 9500 feet on Cottonwood Creek, Mono County.

Nuttallornis borealis. Olive-sided Flycatcher. Although some reservation was expressed earlier (Grinnell and Miller, *op. cit.*:263) about the breeding of this species in the White Mountains, there can now be no doubt. Birds in song and full breeding condition were taken as late as June 22 on Cottonwood Creek.

Sitta canadensis. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Apparently summer resident in small numbers. A male in breeding condition was taken in Trail Canyon, Esmeralda County, on May 26 and others in worn adult plumage and post-breeding condition were taken on June 22, 27, and 29 in the Cottonwood Creek area at 9500 feet, Mono County.

Sitta pygmaea melanotis. Pigmy Nuthatch. Contrary to expectation, this nuthatch proved to be nesting in the bristle-cone pines in the Cottonwood Creek area, 9500 to 10,500 feet, Mono County. Nests with young were found on June 21, 23, and 27.

Myadestes townsendi townsendi. Townsend Solitaire. Although this species is known to nest in the Panamint Mountains, it has not been reported breeding in the White Mountains. A laying female was taken on June 28, at 9500 feet on Cottonwood Creek, Mono County.

Regulus satrapa olivaceus. Golden-crowned Kinglet. A male in breeding condition (testis 5 mm.) was taken on May 26 in Trail Canyon, Esmeralda County, at 8900 feet in limber pines. Probably the species nests in small numbers in the better stands of conifers in the range.

Regulus calendula cineraceus. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. This species breeds commonly. One was found building a nest in a lodgepole pine 8 feet above ground on Cabin Creek, Mono County, at 10,500 feet on June 4.

Vermivora pinus. Blue-winged Warbler. A vagrant of this eastern species was detected by Russell on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, at 7000 feet in willows, on June 16. It proved to be a male with the testes 4 mm. in length. This is the first record of this species west of the Great Plains.

Vermivora virginiae. Virginia Warbler. Although this warbler previously was reported as rare in these mountains, it proved to be fairly common in mountain mahogany habitat. In the Cottonwood Creek basin at 9500 feet, Mono County, seven breeding males were taken. A female with a brood patch was taken on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, on June 16.

Oporornis tolmiei tolmiei. Tolmie Warbler. A high-altitude breeding area for this species was at 9500 feet on Cottonwood Creek.

Geothlypis trichas occidentalis. Yellow-throat. An exceptionally high breeding station was represented by a singing male (testis 7 mm.) taken on June 7 on Wyman Creek at 6700 feet.

Loxia curvirostra grinnelli. Red Crossbill. Family groups containing streaked juveniles were taken

on Indian Creek at 7400 feet, Esmeralda County, on May 31 and June 1, and on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, at 6750 to 8200 feet on June 12 and 15. Similar occurrences were previously known for the Grapevine Mountains to the southeast.

Junco caniceps caniceps. Gray-headed Junco. This form of junco was unexpectedly well represented and several were taken that lacked any hybrid features involving *Junco oregonus thurberi*. The latter was of course common. A considerable introgression of the two types is taking place here which may more appropriately be analyzed later when additional data are obtained.

The results of the further exploration of the White Mountains here reported add seven boreal species as probable or certain summer residents of the Great Basin mountain province of California that also occur in the Sierra Nevada. This has the effect of reducing the faunal difference score (see Miller, 1951, *op. cit.*:587-588) between the two boreal areas from 51 to 44. This alteration in value still leaves the Great Basin mountain province of California highly distinct from related provinces to the west and the comments offered earlier (*op. cit.*) concerning this situation are still appropriate. —ALDEN H. MILLER, and WARD C. RUSSELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 9, 1955.*

Observations on Red Crossbills in Marin County, California.—In the spring and early summer of 1954, Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) were observed approximately two miles northwest of Inverness, Marin County, California. The area, known as Inverness Ridge, is covered predominantly with Bishop Pine (*Pinus muricata*) and is about 600 feet above sea level. The birds were first seen on March 15 when a flock of at least five individuals was flushed from several points on the ridge. Other dates of occurrence and numbers seen were as follows: April 11, 5; April 20-24, 6; April 29, flock; May 2, flock; May 13-14, 18; May 16, 25; May 22, flock; May 31, 40; June 11, 30. From these records it would appear that the number of individuals on the ridge increased as the season progressed.

While feeding, the crossbills were quiet as usual and difficult to locate and observe, but on three occasions we were able to watch their foraging activities. At no time were they seen foraging on ovulate cones but always on or near staminate cones toward the tops of the trees. Indeed, several of the birds that were collected had their bills covered with pollen. The stomach contents of nine birds consisted of minute insect remains, insect eggs, and grit. From the mouth and esophagus of four birds were taken numerous larvae of a sawfly, *Xyela* sp. (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae). This identification was made by Dr. B. D. Burks, Entomology Research Branch, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Nine specimens were collected, four on May 31 and five on June 11. The testes of six males ranged from 2.0 to 4.0 mm. in length and follicles in the ovaries of the three females included were in no instance greater than 1 mm., indicating that the crossbills were not breeding in this locality. Males averaged 41.2 gm. in weight; females, 37.5. All were adults on the basis of skull ossification and showed varying amounts of fat. There was no noticeable molt among any of the specimens except for two males that were molting a few crown feathers. The specimens have been identified as *L. c. grinnelli* by Alden H. Miller and have been deposited as skins in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

There are three previous records of this species at Nicasio, Marin County: specimens of the race *sitkensis* taken on October 28, 1878, and on February 21, 1909, and specimens of *grinnelli* taken on March 5, 1895.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Department of Biology, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia*, and ROBERT A. NORRIS, *Aiken, South Carolina, September 16, 1955.*

Eggs of the California Quail in the Nest of a Spotted Towhee.—On April 22, 1950, near Eagle Rock, California, Elvirita Bleitz, Loren Whitelock, Henry Isham and I found the nest of a Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) on the ground in a tangle of wild raspberry bushes. The nest contained four young about three days old and two unhatched eggs of the California Quail (*Lophortyx californicus*). The eggs were fertile and well incubated. On April 28 I returned and found that a riding horse had died nearby and that in the disturbance of hauling it away the nest had been de-