

Noteworthy Bird Records from Baja California.—During the course of a bioecological survey of Bahía de San Quintín, Baja California, under the auspices of the Beaudette Foundation for Biological Research, the author collected several birds which are considered to be rare in Baja California and one which is the first record for México.

Ammospiza caudacuta. Sharp-tailed Sparrow. On February 2, 1961, while collecting along the edge of a small, nearly dry marsh, I flushed a small sparrow which took refuge in a clump of bushes near the edge of the marsh. By "squeeking," the bird was brought out into the open and collected. Although the plumage is worn, the measurements and coloration indicate that this specimen is referable to the subspecies *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*. The area where the specimen was obtained, as well as other areas of similar habitat, were checked repeatedly for several days following, but no additional individuals of this sparrow were seen or heard.

The specimen, a male (L.A.C.M. no. 38067) is apparently the first record of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow for México. The species is recorded as occurring only accidentally in California (A.O.U. Check-list, 5th ed., 1957:595).

Stercorarius parasiticus. Parasitic Jaeger. On November 9, 1960, I collected an immature female of this species. It was shot about sixty yards inside the mouth of the bay proper. The bird was being chased and harassed by three medium-sized terns. This specimen (L.A.C.M. no. 36916) lacks the elongated central tail feathers but is definitely of this species; the ulna and radius measure, respectively, 108.2 mm. and 105.1 mm. For the method of determination see Willett and Howard (Condor, 36, 1934:158).

It is noteworthy that this jaeger was collected inside of the bay. The Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico, Part I (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 29, 1950:103) notes only five records for Baja California, "at sea." This specimen weighed 458.2 gms.

Steganopus tricolor. Wilson Phalarope. Three specimens of this phalarope were collected; one, a nonbreeding female (L.A.C.M. no. 36917) was collected on August 13, 1961, from a large flock of Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*) and Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*), feeding on the exposed mudflats at low tide. The second and third individuals (L.A.C.M. no. 36918 and 36919), a nonbreeding male and female, were taken from a group of seventeen phalaropes, consisting of Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*) and Wilson Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*), on the same date. These birds were feeding in a small, fresh water pond about one mile inland from the bay.

The Mexican Check-list (*op. cit.*:102) records the Wilson Phalarope in Baja California as being "rare, three records." The weights of the phalaropes were 36.4, 35.2, and 36.8 gms., respectively.—JAMES R. NORTHERN, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, September 28, 1961.*

Winter Wren Feeds Townsend Solitaire Young.—Skutch (Condor, 63, 1961:198–226) in his survey of the literature on helpers among birds cites several instances where individuals of the Old World population of the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) were observed feeding young of another bird species. This note records similar behavior by a Winter Wren from North America.

On July 2, 1961, along the Congress Trail in Sequoia National Park, Tulare County, California, I found the nest of a Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) containing four young. These young left the nest on July 8 or 9. During four visits to the nest in this 6-day period a Winter Wren was observed feeding the young solitaires. On two of the four occasions more than 40 accompanying park visitors witnessed the behavior.

On July 6 a Winter Wren and a Townsend Solitaire simultaneously fed the young birds from opposite sides of the nest. No aggressive behavior was observed. During all four periods of observation the Winter Wren seemed less reticent to approach the nest than did the solitaire.

Nothing in the behavior of the wren suggested that it had a nest in the area. Consequently, into which of Skutch's categories this bird would fall is unknown.—GERALD G. ROBINSON, *Biological Science, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, October 9, 1961.*

A Recent Record of the Ovenbird for California.—On July 23, 1961, I picked up a dead Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus*) in the vicinity of Sugar Bowl Lodge, Norden, Nevada County, California. On first sight the bird seemed in relatively good condition, but further examination revealed that it had received a severe blow on the back of the head. Judging from the condition