

the foot of a tiny sapling tamarack. It was composed outwardly of ordinary moss, whilst the lining inside consisted of fine dry grasses, the dimensions being as follows: outside diameter three, inside one and a half inches; outside depth two and a half, inside one and a half inches. It contained an extra full set of five eggs (four being the usual number) whose average dimensions were .62×.49. The notes of the male were first heard whilst searching for orchids, and after adopting the tactics as explained in my "Singing Tree" paper ('Auk,' Vol. XXXVI, 1919, No. 3, pp. 339-348) the nest was eventually found at a distance of eighteen and twenty yards respectively from the favorite singing trees of the male. With the addition of this little flycatcher my list of birds actually found breeding at Hatley now stands at 85 species, with another 15, some of which are known and others believed to breed more or less regularly, but whose nests, eggs or young have so far escaped detection.—H. MOUSLEY, *Halley, Quebec.*

**Ornithological Notes from Southeastern Alaska.**—In anticipation of the appearance of a new 'A. O. U. Check-List' it would seem opportune to publish the appended data for the consideration of the committee in charge. While most of this is in the nature of extension of ranges as given in the last 'Check-List,' there are included a few suggestions as to vernacular names.

**Colymbus holboelli** and **Colymbus auritus.**—Both of these grebes winter plentifully in the southern part of southeastern Alaska. They were common, for grebes, throughout the winter of 1919-20 at Craig, Prince of Wales Island, and at the present writing, November 11, they are common in the vicinity of Wrangell.

**Gavia adamsi.**—The writer knows of several unpublished records of this bird for southeastern Alaska, but, at present, is unable, for various reasons, to present all of them. He has personally met with the species on three occasions, as follows: adult bird seen at close range near Craig October 17, 1919; adult seen in outer Shakan Bay, Prince of Wales Island, September 24, 1920; and immature female taken at Wrangell, October 5, same year.

**Larus argentatus** and **Larus brachyrhynchus.**—Both rather common in the vicinity of Craig during the past winter, the latter being the more plentiful.

**Branta canadensis occidentalis.**—The vernacular name, White-cheeked Goose, being inappropriate for this bird, inasmuch as it is no more white-cheeked than are several other allied races, it is here proposed that the name be changed to the Western Goose. Its habitat should also be corrected, as there is no satisfactory record of its occurrence in California either in summer or winter. As to its subspecific validity which has recently been questioned (Figgins, 'Auk,' XXXVII, Jan., 1920, pp. 94-102), the writer, having been familiar with the bird in southeastern Alaska for several years past, and having taken numer-

ous specimens and examined a great many more, can see no reason to question its validity as a geographical race. He considers it very probable that Mr. Figgins was misled by the erroneous nature of the characters given by many authorities as distinguishing this from the other allied subspecies. It is also very possible that a lack of breeding specimens of the southeastern Alaskan bird was a contributing feature to Mr. Figgins' deductions. *Branta canadensis occidentalis* is not only a breeding bird in this part of Alaska but it remains in apparently undiminished numbers throughout the winter. It is locally known as the "native goose."

**Olor columbianus.**—Though the writer has not personally noted this bird in winter in this region, several undoubted records by reliable observers of its occurrence at this season have come to his attention. These all apply however, to the territory a few miles north of the Canadian boundary. Mr. Winfield Wood, at present with the U. S. Signal Corps, shot a swan from a flock of four at Essowah Lake, west side of Dall Island, in early February, 1913. The same observer took a bird from a flock of twenty at Devil's Lake, Dall Island, the middle of March following, and saw a single bird at Sulzer, Prince of Wales Island, December 26, 1916. A swan was killed by William Hughes at Howkan, Long Island, December 20, 1915, and was eaten by the family of the late Mr. W. D. McLeod.

**Gallinago delicata.**—Fairly common in the region during the early part of the winter, at least. Taken at Craig as late as December 7, 1919, and is still seen almost daily at Wrangell (November 11, 1920). It may, however, go farther south during the latter part of the winter, as it has not been noted by the writer during January, February or March.

**Arenaria melanocephala** and **Haematopus bachmani.**—Winter commonly at least as far north as Craig.

**Lagopus lagopus alexandrae.**—A rather common bird throughout the region, south to the extreme southern end of Dall Island. Many specimens taken on Kuiu, Prince of Wales, Hecate, Suemez, San Juan, Dall and Long Islands at different seasons of the year. Have never taken any rock ptarmigan in any of these localities and doubt their occurrence, unless on Kuiu Island which has not been thoroughly covered.

**Accipiter velox.**—Seen and taken frequently at Craig throughout the winter of 1919-20.

**Falco sparverius sparverius.**—One bird seen at close range in the town of Craig September 11, 1919. Another seen in the same locality by A. M. Bailey, U. S. Biological Survey, March 10, 1920. The writer has never been able to perceive the differences ascribed to the race *deserticola*, hence the above heading.

**Glaucidium gnoma** subsp. ?—A female Pygmy Owl was taken on Dall Island August 24, 1920, and a male at Wrangell October 20 following. There are also two specimens taken at Wrangell in a local collec-

tion of mounted birds. Have not yet had the opportunity of comparing these specimens with others from different localities, so am not certain as to subspecific determination.

**Ceryle alcyon caurina.**—As this race has been shown to occupy the entire western portion of the country, south to the southern U. S. border, it would seem fitting that it be known as the Western instead of Northwestern Kingfisher, as used in the 16th Supplement to the 'Check-List.'

**Cyanocitta stelleri stelleri.**—The writer can see no reason for referring the crested jay from Prince of Wales Island to the form *carlottae*. As has been pointed out by Swarth (Univ. Cal. Pub. Zool. 7: 1911, pp. 78-79), birds from this locality are identical with those occurring throughout the entire Sitkan district.

**Pinicola enucleator flammula.**—Not very abundant, but as common in summer as in winter. A pair was seen feeding young in a nest fifty feet up in a spruce tree on a mountainside near Cape Lookout, Dall Island, July 10, 1915.

**Melospiza melodia rufina. Melospiza melodia caurina.**—Both *rufina* and *caurina* were common at Craig throughout the past winter, but, at the present writing, *caurina* is the only form to be found at Wrangell. This latter place, though only about a hundred miles distant from Craig, is, by virtue of its proximity to the mainland, considerably colder.

**Nannus hyemalis pacificus.**—Rather common at Craig during the past winter, but apparently absent at Wrangell now, though one was seen as late as November 3.

**Certhia familiaris occidentalis.**—As this bird occupies a much greater range outside of California than it does in that State, would it not be more appropriate to translate its scientific name literally and let it be known as the Western Creeper.

**Regulus satrapa olivaceus.**—Common at Craig throughout the past winter and still plentiful at Wrangell at date of present writing. (November 11, 1920).—GEORGE WILLET, *Wrangell, Alaska*.

**A Striking Case of Adventitious Coloration.**—On February 8, 1920, I spent the afternoon with my family at a point in Moraga Valley, Contra Costa County, California, some five miles, airline, northeast of Berkeley. My son Willard undertook to exercise the shotgun for the purpose of securing some specimens of local birds such as happened to be needed at the Museum. In so doing he chanced upon the interesting case now reported.

We had been hearing two Plain Titmouses in a willow thicket up a ravine, and Willard proceeded to stalk them. One was finally shot and brought to me—an object of immediate marvel. For, instead of the usual light ashy gray tone of color, its lower surface was bright yellow. The other bird was still calling from the willows and when brought to hand it, too, exhibited much yellow, though not of the intensity shown by the first. Subsequent dissection, when the two birds were made up