

the Hughes farm in any instance. This may be the beginning of new colonies whose future growth will be watched with interest.

The only other colony of Cliff Swallows, so far as I know, in this part of the country is one just over the line in Berks County. This group is about seven or eight miles in an air line from the one described. It is reported that the Berks County colony was not as strong this summer as the one visited. Mr. Hughes is very proud of his colony and protects the birds carefully.—HORACE D. McCANN, *Paoli, Pa.*

Fish Crow Taken near Harrisonburg, Virginia.—On May 10, 1935, a Crow shot one mile west of Harrisonburg, Va. was sent to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the U. S. Biological Survey and identified as the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*). Dr. J. Murray of Lexington, Va., has seen and heard this species about Lexington since 1928 (*Auk*, July 1934, p. 381), but reports that this is the first actual specimen taken in the Shenandoah Valley or anywhere inland in Virginia, except in the Washington, D. C., region.—D. RALPH HOSTETTER, *Harrisonburg, Va.*

The Bush-tit of the Southern Great Basin.—In the course of my field work in the Charleston and Virgin Mountains of extreme southern Nevada in 1931, 1932 and 1933, three Bush-tits were collected as a routine matter and with no suspicion at the time that they were other than *Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*. Later on, when making the necessary critical comparisons for a report on the region, it was at once obvious that these birds were not *plumbeus*, at least as that form occurs in the mountains of southeastern Arizona.

Briefly, the differences are that eastern Arizona *plumbeus* possesses a more or less olivaceous back, contrasted with an ashy gray head. The Nevada specimens are clear ashy gray over the whole upperparts, which are concolor with the pileum or very nearly so. In addition, the Nevada birds are slightly paler below and lack a pinkish or brownish tinge which, in fresh plumage, is almost invariably to be seen in *plumbeus*.

In the fall of 1933 the three Nevada specimens were compared with the type and type series of *Psaltriparus minimus cecaumenorum* described from Central Sonora by Thayer and Bangs (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, 19, No. 4, Feb. 26, 1906, p. 20). The resemblance was exceedingly close, so very close indeed that had more than three Nevada specimens been available I would unhesitatingly have listed them as of the same race. In April of the present year Mr. Laurence Huey and the writer spent a week in the Providence Mountains in southeastern California, one of the principal objects of the trip being the collection of a series of Bush-tits. Five specimens, all adults, were taken, and four of the type series of *cecaumenorum* were subsequently borrowed from the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy for a re-examination.

As a result of these studies the range of *Psaltriparus minimus cecaumenorum* must be extended northwest to southern Nevada and southeastern California. The three southern Nevada and the five Providence Mountains specimens are most extreme in characters; those from Owens Valley (5), the White Mountains of California (21) and Mt. Magruder, Nevada (8), are varyingly intermediate toward *plumbeus*, though apparently closer, in series, to *cecaumenorum*. Dr. Oberholser informs me that specimens in the collection of the Bureau of Biological Survey from the Panamint Mountains and the New York Mountains, California, belong unquestionably in the same category with the southern Nevada and Providence Mountain birds.

Incidentally, I have been urged to provide the southern Great Basin Bush-tit population with a new name because, in the available series, the Sonora birds are not quite so ashy gray above and are slightly paler below. However, when allowance is made for the post-mortem color change which may have taken place in the thirty

years which have elapsed since the type series of *cecaumenorum* was collected, and also for the fact that the series is, in part, composed of juveniles (though listed as "adult" in the original description), I believe the differences far too intangible to recognize by name. It is entirely possible that a more adequate series of *cecaumenorum* will make the naming of the Great Basin birds desirable.

In conclusion I wish to thank Dr. Oberholser for critical notes on the type specimens of Baird's *plumbeus* and Ridgway's *santaritae*, both of which are, as one might assume on geographic grounds, definitely olive-gray dorsally.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California.*

The Ohio House Wren in Maryland.—On October 27, 1935, I collected an immature female Ohio House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon baldwini* Oberholser) at Cornfield Harbor, Maryland, near the mouth of the Potomac River. This bird, in full fall plumage, is typical of this recently described race in the distinctly gray tone of both upper and under surfaces. While Dr. Oberholser in his statement of specimens examined¹ included both the District of Columbia and Virginia the present is the first definite record for Maryland, where the race in question should come during migration.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) Nesting in September.—On September 12, 1935, I located seven young Short-billed Marsh Wrens just out of the nest in the Convis Twp. Calhoun Co. marsh fifteen miles east of Battle Creek, Michigan. The young were unable to fly and five of them were easily captured. One of these was kept for a specimen and weighed 7.5 grams.—LAWRENCE H. WALK-INSHAW, *Battle Creek, Michigan.*

Breeding Behavior of Bluebirds.—On the morning of March 27, 1935, I first noticed that a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia s. sialis*) were paying marked attention to a last year's Downy Woodpecker hole located in a willow tree back of my home in Middleton, Mass. For several days thereafter I observed the pair either in the vicinity of the tree or on the tree itself. It was apparent to me that this was their chosen nesting site. I gave these birds but passing notice, however, as it was a common occurrence for a pair to nest in the vicinity, although usually they had selected a bird house especially provided in a neighboring tree. In fact, it was not until April 8, when I saw the female having difficulty in trying to alight on a nearby telephone wire, that my interest was aroused in their behavior. Securing my binoculars, I readily determined the right leg of the female to be crippled in such a fashion as to give the bird no control over it whatsoever. The tarsus and toes, while of normal appearance, seemed stiff and lifeless and were held in a forward position. The slight breeze that happened to be blowing at the time was of sufficient velocity to continually upset the bird's balance by swaying the wire. The creature continually fluttered its wings in an attempt to right itself.

In spite of this severe handicap, I noted, during the days that followed, that the female Bluebird participated in the usual preliminary nesting routine. It was able to force itself through the small Woodpecker hole, even to bring in such nesting materials as dead grass blades and feathers. Once, while peering out from its nesting hole, the male passed it bits of nesting material. On another occasion I noticed the pair copulating.

Early on the cold, rainy morning of April 13 the harmonious relationship of the

¹ Ohio Journ. Sci., vol. XXXIV, March, 1934, pp. 90-93.