

Oriturus Bonaparte, *Consp. Gen. Avium*, 1, (pt. 2): 469, 1850. Type, by subs. desig., *Oriturus mexicanus* Bonaparte = *Aimophila superciliosa* Swainson (Bonaparte, 1856).

The San Francisco Brown Towhee becomes *Pipilo fuscus wrangeli* (Bonaparte).

Oriturus wrangeli "Brandt" Bonaparte, *Consp. Gen. Avium*, 1, (pt. 2): 470, 1850 [(As. s. maxime or.) = (probably) San Francisco, California].

—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *University of California, Los Angeles, California*.

Fuertes Red-tailed Hawk in northern Mexico and Arizona.—In the Dickey collection are three specimens of the Red-tailed Hawk which are to be referred to *Buteo jamaicensis fuertesi* Sutton and Van Tyne. Since they extend the range of that race as now understood it may be well to record them. All are fully adult.

11,065 Mouth of Bonita Canon, Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, Feb. 7, 1915; collected by A. J. van Rossem.

23,760 Colonia Pacheco, Chihuahua, Mexico, May 15, 1909; collected by H. H. Kimball.

27,619 Reserve, Catron County, New Mexico, no date, collected by H. H. Kimball.

In the British Museum is a typical adult female, No. 90.4.26.140, taken at Hermosillo, Sonora, Nov. 23, 1887, by (or for) F. Ferrari-Perez. This specimen was identified by me in 1933 as *kriderii* and re-identified in 1938 and 1939 as *fuertesi*. The breeding range of *fuertesi* should, therefore, be extended south, east of the Sierra Madre, to west-central Chihuahua; the winter range to southeastern Arizona and central Sonora. Incidentally, the breeding race throughout Sonora is *calurus*, even in the extreme northeast.

It is of interest to note the similarity in the color patterns of *fuertesi* and *Buteo jamaicensis costaricensis* of southern Mexico and Central America, that is to say in the contrast of dark-colored upper parts with light under parts and nearly, or quite, immaculate thighs. This contrast is, of course, much greater in *costaricensis*, but it is obvious that *fuertesi* has affinities in that direction and that it forms a good connecting link between *costaricensis* and the northern races. It is well to re-emphasize the characters of *fuertesi* as given by the original describers since it is obvious that some authorities consider it to be a generally pale colored race.

I am indebted to Dr. George Sutton for confirming my identification of the Arizona specimen.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *University of California, Los Angeles, California*.

Audubon's Autobiography.—On October 12, 1820, Audubon set out from Cincinnati on a voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. It was a collecting trip. He had determined to gather a portfolio-full of water-color drawings of birds, after the manner of Alexander Wilson, though to larger scale and with better artistry. He kept a journal, a record of the trip, for his sons to read; and on a rainy day (November 28) he filled half a dozen pages with a story of his own life. This journal was first published in 1929, by the Club of Odd Volumes, and the publication was represented to be a word-for-word transcript of the original. Francis Hobart Herrick in 1917 had brought to light the facts of Audubon's parentage (supplanting the legend that in his later years Audubon himself had begun), and Mr. Stanley Clisby Arthur in 1937 in his 'Biography' (Chapter 6) brought forward the early story first mentioned above, and called attention to alterations that had been made in the manuscript—alterations of no little significance, when considering this particular subject of Audubon's parentage. Mr. Arthur gave on page 118

a reproduction of the manuscript page, showing changes of certain words and the obliteration of two lines. At the time when Audubon made his voyage and kept this journal he was an humble and unknown man. He had then no reputation that might need to be protected from defamation. Since Audubon himself had penned the lines, and since by fair inference another hand than his had blotted part and changed the meaning of what remained, an effort seemed justifiable to recover them precisely as they were written. The Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, custodian of the journal, has caused the obliterated passage to be examined by infra-red photography, but with disappointing result. The passage has been inked and rubbed as with a finger-tip, and over that again heavy pen strokes have been laid, and photography fails to reveal anything legible beneath the mutilation. So far then as this item is concerned, we seem now to know all that is to be known.—BAYARD H. CHRISTY, *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*.

Termite-eating by birds in British Columbia.—The recent note by Blake (Auk 58 (1): 104, 1941) on termites taken by birds has prompted me to consult my notebooks with reference to the avian species of this region that I have personally recorded as eating these insects. In extreme southwestern British Columbia the extensive areas of deforested land, strewn with decaying logs and stumps, provides ideal habitat for termites. Three species occur: *Zootermopsis angusticollis*, *Z. nevadensis*, and *Reticulotermes hesperis*. The first of these is by far the most abundant and in August, September, and October huge flights of winged individuals take place. It is to this species that the following notes refer.

One of the most interesting phenomena associated with the mass dispersal flights of *Z. angusticollis* is the large number of gulls, swifts, and nighthawks that rapidly congregate over the area. The gulls are, for the most part, Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) and Short-billed Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*) with a few California Gulls (*Larus californicus*) and these birds will frequently penetrate two miles or more from salt water while 'termiting.' All feeding is carried out on the wing, the gulls circling and hovering in active pursuit of the insects. Usually along with the gulls are numbers of Black Swifts and nighthawks.

The Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisii*) normally conducts much of its feeding flycatcher-fashion, on sorties from snag-tops after passing insects. In August and September it consumes large quantities of termites. I have observed Harris's Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus harrisi*) behaving similarly but only upon infrequent occasions.

Several other species have been observed catching *Z. angusticollis* close to or on the ground. My notes contain definite records concerning *Colaptes cafer caurinus*, *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, *Turdus migratorius caurinus*, *Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*, *Myodestes townsendi*, *Piranga ludoviciana*, and *Euphagus cyanocephalus*.—I. McT. COWAN, *Department of Zoology, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C.*