

feet high. Its appearance differs greatly from that of *americanus*, as it closely resembles a round basket, having a very slight projecting rim of sticks. The average rim of projecting sticks in a series of *americanus* I have found to be 9.78 inches, while that of *caurinus* is only a trifle over 4 inches. The inner dimensions average about 7 inches in diameter by 4 inches in depth. The composition also is nearly the same, only the material used is much less coarse, being a foundation of fine sticks and mud, lined with cedar bark.

Fresh eggs may be found from the middle of April to the middle of May, four or five being the number always constituting a complete set. In color they are indistinguishable from eggs of the American Crow, being subject to about the same variation, and the size also is about the same. Those in my collection average 1.61x1.15 inches, the

largest measuring 1.72x1.18 inches, the smallest 1.51x1.13 inches.

The bird clings very closely to the nest, never leaving until nearly reached by the climber. This is due, I think, to its natural tameness, as it then flies to a neighboring tree where very little complaint is made. Generally it is joined by two or three others who appear to discuss the matter in low tones.

At the approach of winter they gather into small flocks of from six to forty, at which period they are more inclined to shyness than at any other season. The call notes are much the same as those of *americanus*, but the "caw" is not, in my opinion, nearly so harsh and the birds are much more fond of talking to themselves. This they do in a soft, throaty tone that is really very fascinating, seeming to be a criticism of everything in general and nothing in particular.



The Intermediate Wren-tit

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL

The Wren-tit (*Chamaea fasciata* Gambel) is a peculiar species in having its habitat restricted almost wholly to California. True it extends a few miles into Lower California on the south, and into the coast district of Oregon on the north, still the extremes in its geographic variation are undoubtedly to be found within the limits of California. The Wren-tit, as far as my experience goes, is a purely resident species. In fact, it does not even wander locally to such an extent as such resident birds, so considered, as the Song Sparrows. It is therefore not surprising to find the Wren-tit following the usual condition in resident species of this region, and varying from a pale form in the south and interior to a dark colored race in the northern coast district. Parallel geographic variation is exhibited throughout the same range by *Thryomanes*, *Otocoris*, *Melospiza*, *Pipilo* and *Junco*.

W. H. Osgood in the "Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington," Vol. XIII, pp. 41-42, has given the subspecific name *phaea* to the extreme northern form, extreme not only in habitat but in the darkness of its coloration. He is undoubtedly right in assigning the type locality of *fasciata* to Southern California, though after looking up Gambel's descriptions and subsequent remarks, I should place it in the vicinity of Los Angeles, rather than in San Bernardino County.

Thus the two extremes of variation are subspecifically recognized. Yet between these extremes there certainly exists an unbroken gradation from one to the other. As Mr. Osgood states, specimens from the vicinity of San Francisco Bay are of an intermediate character, and moreover they are distinct from either *C. f. phaea* or *C. f. fasciata*. Now, trinomial nomenclature is simply a convenient means of recog-

nizing such geographic variations. If the forms from contiguous faunal areas are distinguishable to an appreciable extent, even if the differences are slight, as in the present case, I deem it advisable to indicate them by different names. It would surely be awkward to designate the San Francisco Bay Wren-tits as *phaea* × *fasciata* or "*fasciata* inclining to *phaea*!"

Chamaea fasciata henshawi, described from Walker Basin, California, is of the extreme pale southern form, and so becomes a pure synonym of *fasciata*, as pointed out by Mr. Osgood, and cannot be used for this darker form. Therefore I feel warranted in proposing for the Wren-tits of the San Francisco Bay

region, the subspecific name *intermedia*.

TYPE of *Chamaea fasciata intermedia*, ♂ ad, No. 4211 Coll. J. G.; Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California; May 28, 1900; Collected by J. Grinnell.

DESCRIPTION—Back and upper tail-coverts, sepia, shading into hair brown on nape and top of head. Lores and small spots on upper and lower eye-lids, pale gray. Throat and breast, cinnamon-rufous, fading posteriorly into pale vinaceous-cinnamon on middle of belly. Feathers on breast, with faint dusky shaft-streaks. Sides, flanks and lower tail-coverts, brownish olive. Under wing-coverts and axillars, pale vinaceous-cinnamon. Wings and tail, clove-brown, the feathers with slightly paler edgings.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE—Length, 6.50 (165 mm); wing, 2.37 (60 mm); tail, 3.40 (87 mm); culmen, .45 (11.5 mm); tarsus, 1.04 (26.5 mm).

A List of Unrecorded Albinos

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR

THERE have been brought together in this list notes on birds either albino or with some white feathers in areas where they do not normally occur. Nearly all the notes have been furnished me by letter and the authority for each follows the description. For descriptions of such specimens as I have examined I am responsible. Twenty-three species are recorded, all from California, except the *Agelaius* from Phoenix, the *Passerella* from Nutchuk, and the *Ammodramus*, the locality of the last being forgotten. Thanks are due Messrs. D. A. Cohen, W. O. Emerson, H. B. Kaeding, C. Littlejohn, T. E. Slevin, F. Stephens and H. S. Swarth, all of whom most courteously gave me the use of their notes and specimens.

Querquedula cyanoptera.—Tulare. Many of the Cinnamon Teal in San Francisco market I have seen, said to come from Tulare, etc., were very light, going so light as to be whitish buff and dirty white. In one consignment of say 150 birds noted about ten years ago over one half of them would have been worth preserving for peculiar plumage.—COHEN.

Rallus obsoletus.—Redwood City, California, Dec. 2, 1892. Coll. C. Littlejohn. The following parts are white: A few feathers on auriculars and many on nape and top of head; secondaries and outer web of third, fourth and fifth primaries of left wing; one secondary, outer web of second, fourth and fifth primaries and inner web of two primaries. Alameda marsh, fall of 1896, a hunter had a California Clapper Rail with white in patches rather uniformly distributed over the entire body so as to give it a gray appearance. Old hunters mention having seen several cases about the same.—COHEN.

Lophortyx californicus.—San Carlos, Nov. 10, 1896, ♂. Coll. C. Littlejohn. The pattern is normal, crest and throat patch black; chestnut spot of breast pale; the remainder of plumage is buffy cream as near as I can describe it.

I have mounted a female quail, probably *L. c. vallicola*, secured from San Francisco market about ten years ago; of a uniform light buff color, the usual white-lined feathers of the under parts being buffy-white and in contrast with the darker color just described.—COHEN.

Lophortyx californicus vallicola.—San