

PACIFIC COAST CHANGES IN THE
CHECK-LIST.

The tenth supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List contains additions of especial interest to Coast workers. These were acted upon at the recent session of the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature, and a list of the accepted forms occurring on the Pacific Coast is here given.

Ardea herodias fannini CHAPMAN, Northwest Coast Heron, Queen Charlotte Ids. and coast region of British Columbia; *Canachites canadensis osgoodi* BRISHOP, Alaska Spruce Grouse, Upper Yukon region and thence northwest to Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet; *Lagopus leucurus altipetens* OSGOOD, Southern White-tailed Ptarmigan, Southern Rocky Mts., (Colorado, New Mexico etc.); *Empidonax insulicola* OBERHOLSER, Santa Barbara Flycatcher, Santa Barbara Ids., Cal.; *Perisoreus obscurus griseus* RIDGW., Gray Jay, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and northern California east of the Coast and Cascade Ranges; *Ammodramus rostratus halophilus* (MCGREGOR), Lagoon Sparrow, Salt marshes in the vicinity of Abrejos Point, Lower California; *Pipilo maculatus atratus* RIDGW., San Diego Towhee, Southern coast district of California, south of San Fernando and Sierra San Gabriel, and south to Lower California; *Pipilo fuscus carolæ* MCGREGOR, Northern Brown Towhee, Northwestern California; *Dendroica nigrifrons* BREWSTER, Black-fronted Warbler, Sierra Madre of Chihuahua, Mexico north to the Huachuca and Chiricahua Mts., Arizona; *Geothlypis trichas arizela* OBERH., Pacific Coast region, from Southern British Columbia to northern Lower California, west of the Cascades and Sierra Nevadas; *Thryomanes bewickii charienturus* OBERH., Coast region of Southern California north to about Pasadena; Santa Catalina Island; *Thryomanes bewickii calophonus* OBERH., Pacific slope, from Oregon to southern Vancouver Island and valley of Fraser River, British Columbia; *Anorthura htemalis helleri* OSGOOD, Kadiak Winter Wren, Kadiak Island Alaska; *Anorthura meligera* OBERH., Aleutian Wren, The westernmost islands of the Aleutian group, Alaska; *Certhia familiaris zelotes* OSGOOD, Sierra Creeper, Cascade Mountains of Oregon and the Sierra Nevada of California; *Chamaea fasciata phæa* OSGOOD, Coast Wren-Tit, Coast region of Oregon and California from Astoria, Oregon to Marin Co. California; *Regulus calendula grinnelli* W. PALMER, Sitkan Kinglet, Sitka district, Alaska; *Hylocichla ustulata almæ* OBERH., Alma's Thrush, Yukon Basin, south to the Rocky Mountains region, and west to Utah and eastern Nevada.

The following changes are also of interest: Our *Colaptes cafer* becomes *Colaptes cafer*

collaris, the former being restricted to Mexico; *Sayornis nigricans semiatra* is assigned to the Coast as follows: "Pacific Coast of the United States and Mexico, from Oregon to Colima, eastward to Arizona"; *Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia* becomes *Zonotrichia l. gambellii*, while the former *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambellii* is changed to *Zonotrichia l. nuttalli*.



COMMUNICATIONS.

A BOON FOR OOLOGISTS.

Editor CONDOR:—

A saturated solution of cooking soda is quite effective for removing embryos. As an illustration of its work, last night at 6 P. M. I found a Black-throated Gray Warbler's nest with four eggs, certainly not less than three-fourths incubated, the shell being so soft that the drill sank into it. I put in as much soda as the eggs would hold and changed it once during the evening. This morning they were reasonably easily blown before 8 A. M., two perfect specimens, the holes being not much larger than for fresh eggs; the other two have a small nick in each hole but are perfectly strong. The embryo was shaved off with a sharp knife as it was forced out. It was equally successful on Northwest Crow 1-5, California Jay 1-6 and Oregon Junco ¼. It is probably too late for many to try it this year, but possibly you can test it. The principal advantage over other chemicals is that it does the work quickly.

CHAS. W. BOWLES.

Waldo, Oregon, June 15, 1901.

[We were happily enabled to test Mr. Bowles' process on a badly incubated set of Calaveras Warbler, the results being a pleasant surprise. By blowing out the softer parts of the embryos and filling the eggs with a saturated solution of soda, all blew readily on the following morning. As Mr. Bowles points out, the merit of using soda is in its quick results, thus enabling one to blow the egg before the shell has softened.—ED:]

USE OF COLLODION TO PREVENT ARSENICAL POISONING

Editor THE CONDOR:—

All ornithologists are aware that there is more or less danger in the handling of arsenic in preparing specimens. If a small particle finds lodgment in a cut, a sore is the result. Painting the cut and around the finger nails with collodion before using arsenic prevents all this. It forms a smooth coating, and used in that way is harmless, clean and leaves no stain.

Fort Collins, Colo.

W. L. BURNETT.