

### The California Least Vireo.

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

As compared with skins from Arizona and southern Lower California, a series of Least Vireos from California (Tulare, Pasadena and Pomona) agree in being grayer dorsally and whiter beneath. The rump and sides are not distinctly greenish and there is no pectoral buffy suffusion. These differences seem to me sufficient to warrant recognition. The California form may be called

#### *Vireo pusillus* \* *albatus*.

TYPE—No 961, Coll. J. G.; ♂ ad.; Pasadena, California; April 25, 1896; collected by J. Grinnell.

DESCRIPTION—Upper surface almost uniformly smoke-gray; top of head faintly hair-brown, and back with a scarcely perceptible olive-buff tint. Lower parts continuously pure white; sides faintly washed with olive-buff. Greater wing-coverts distinctly white tipped; median coverts gray-tipped; wings and tail edged with whitish. Loes and eye ring whitish. Length 127 mm; extent 178; wing 55; tail 56.

\* Among a series of 40 specimens examined, I can find no evidences of intergradation between *Vireo pusillus* and *V. belli*.



### Notes on San Luis Obispo County Birds.

*Botaurus lentiginosus*. American Bittern. While camping at Morro in July and August 1900, I several times saw birds which I took to be of this species, but as no specimens were secured I was not positive. However, in November of the same year I took several, thus making the record positive. The birds were fairly common and spent most of their time in the tules.

*Nycticorax n. navius*. Black-crowned Night Heron. On April 13, 1897 I saw two of these birds at Paso Robles, one of which I collected. It was a male in spring plumage and quite fat. This is the only time I have met this heron in the Upper Salinas Valley.

*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*. Pacific Kittiwake. March 22, 1899, a bird was brought to me alive, which had been captured in a plowed field six miles east of Paso Robles and probably 25 miles from the ocean. I kept it in the zoological laboratory of the High School for several days, where it ate frogs, clams and other provender. Finally it was taken away and I kept it at home for about ten days when it pined away and died April 6. I skinned the specimen and compared it with another at Stanford University and concluded it was

*Rissa t. pollicaris*, and later it was positively identified by Mr. Joseph Grinnell. The bird was an immature female and was badly infested with mallophaga. Mr. Grinnell informs me that this is one of the few records of the Pacific Kittiwake for California.

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### Recent Records of the Fulvous Tree Duck For Southern California.

I AM indebted to Rev. F. Reiser for a fine male specimen of *Dendrocygna fulva* taken under very unusual conditions. While hunting rabbits in the Big Santa Anita wash Sept 16, 1901 he made out "a strange animal" moving rapidly among the bowlders in the driest part of the wash miles from water. It proved to be a Fulvous Tree Duck; the bird was much emaciated and had no doubt, from weakness, settled there from a passing flock.

Mr. J. S. Torrance reports a flock of twenty about the grounds of the Chico Bolsa Gun Club near Newport, Sept. 25. October 10 a specimen in fine plumage was shot in the San Gabriel river bottom near Whittier. This bird also was much emaciated.

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