

## The Western Barn Swallow

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

***Hirundo erythrogastra palmeri*** new name.

*Hirundo horreorum* BAIRD, Pac. R. R. Rep. IX, 1858, 308, part (notes large size of specimen from Sacramento); BAIRD, Rev. Am. Bds., May 1865, 294, part (attention called to large size of specimens from Fort Rae and New Mexico).

*Hirundo erythrogastra* COUES, Bds. Col. Val., 1878, 407, part (synonymy).

*Chelidon erythrogastra* NELSON, Rep. Nat. Hist. Coll. Alaska, 1887, 197 (Gmelin's name thought to apply to the Barn Swallow because only this species has been found at Unalaska).

*Hirundo erythrogastra unalaskensis* (not the *Hirundo unalaskensis* of Gmelin, which seems to be not now identifiable) W. PALMER, Fur Seals & Fur Seal Ids. N. Pac., Pt. III, 1899, 422 (characterization of an Alaskan race: large size, and great extent of white markings on tail); ALLEN, Auk XVIII, April 1901, 176 (republication of description, with critical remarks); BISHOP, N. Am. Fauna No. 19, Oct. 1900, 87 (deep coloration of Alaskan specimens noted).

*Hirundo erythrogaster* GRINNELL, CONDOR III, Jan. 1901, 23 (critical: Alaskan specimens stated to not differ from "U. S. specimens" [= skins from California]).

SUBSP. CHAR.—Similar to *Hirundo erythrogastra erythrogastra* of Eastern North America, but colors beneath deeper and the frontal chestnut band broader and darker; wing and tail somewhat longer and bill smaller.

TYPE—♂ ad.; No. 5094, Coll. J. Grinnell; Amaknak Id., Unalaska Harbor, Alaska; June 23, 1900; Collected by R. C. McGregor.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE—Wing, 122 mm; tail, 101; from tip of shortest tail feather to tip of longest (that is, "forking"), 48; culmen, 6.5; bill from nostril, 5.5.

COLORATION OF TYPE—Foreneck, rich hazel; rest of lower parts including under wing and tail coverts, uniform cinnamon-rufous; forehead, deep chestnut, forming a band 8 mm. wide abruptly defined against the metallic marine blue of rest of upper surface; wings and tail blackish glossed with greenish; inner webs of outer five tail feathers, each marked with an oblique white spot, the outer one being the largest and following the white shaft distally to within 40 mm. of its tip.

RANGE—Western North America, summering from southern California north to Kotzebue Sound, Alaska; west to Unalaska and east to and including the Rocky Mountains.

REMARKS—The form here characterized exhibits a significant tendency toward the *Hirundo tytleri* JERDON of Kamtschatka (See STEJNEGER, Bull. 29, U. S. N. M., 1885, 269). This tendency reaches its extreme in examples from southwestern Alaska. Perhaps continuity in the range of a stock form of Barn Swallows once existed by the way of the Aleutian, Copper and Behring Islands to Kamtschatka. Divergence of migration routes may have caused specific separation of the two initial races. *Hirundo tytleri* winters in Southern Asia (India, Burmah, etc.) while *H. e. palmeri* passes south on the American side to Central America and beyond.

*Hirundo erythrogastra palmeri* is named for William Palmer of Washington, whose paper on the "Avifauna of the Pribilof Islands" is a model of painstaking work.

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 GENERAL NEWS NOTES.
 

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Wm. H. Kobbe of San Francisco is taking a course in forestry at the Biltmore (N. C.) Forest School.

W. E. Loucks, a well known ornithologist of Peoria, Ills. has been spending the spring months in Southern California.

Mr. Joseph Mailliard of San Geronimo is rustivating at Santa Barbara during the spring months, where he will collect locally.

W. Otto Emerson writes us of a rufous-crowned sparrow captured by his cat in his garden at Haywards, Cal. on March 17, 1902.