

## 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 unalaschkensis* (not the *Hirundo unalaschkensis* 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.

Mr. T. E. Slevin who has been located at Tucson, Ariz. for several months past is now in Mexico, gathering in specimens for his private collection.

John Lewis Childs of Floral Park, N. Y., prominently known from his extensive ornithological museum, spent a portion of April in California.

Malcolm P. Anderson leaves in June for the Stickeen River region of Alaska where he will collect through the summer in the interests of the American Museum of Natural History of New York.

Mr. John M. Willard of Oakland announces that he will conduct a small party of boys interested in nature study to the Sierras for a six weeks' outing. Mr. Willard's enthusiasm and love of the mountains will serve to insure for his students a splendid trip.

C. Abbott Davis has issued an interesting pamphlet entitled "Instructions for Collecting and Mounting Insects and a Check-List of the Coleoptera of the State of Rhode Island." The paper consists of 47 pages, is well printed and contains numerous figures.

The eleventh session of the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory of the Leland Stanford Jr., University will open June 9, 1902 at Pacific Grove and will continue six weeks. A course in General Ornithology will be given by Mr. Joseph Grinnell, which feature has heretofore proven a very popular one of the summer school.

The April number of the *Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society* contains as frontispiece a half-tone portrait of Ora W. Knight, ex-president of the Society. Editor Swain has favored us with a photograph of those in attendance at the recent annual meeting, for which we extend thanks.

The following raptorial scores for 1902 have reached this office: Wm. Steinbeck reports golden eagle  $\frac{2}{3}$  and 7-2. Chas. S. Thompson makes affidavit to  $\frac{1}{3}$ , 3-2 golden eagle, 5-2. 8-3,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Pacific horned owl and 25 sets of western redtail, while Chas R. Keyes affirms to golden eagle  $\frac{1}{2}$  and some seven sets of western redtail, all remarkably handsome in their markings.

On May 3 the Northern Division sanctioned the formation of the first Club Chapter at Oakland Cal. The intent of such chapters is to promote local bird study as well as mutual acquaintance among numbers of the Club members who are closely grouped as to residence. There are several other well populated points where chapters should flourish, and the result will be a firmer establishment of the Club-at-Large.

The "Albatross" expedition to the Hawaiian Islands, of which Dr. C. H. Gilbert, W. K. Fisher and John O. Snyder are members, reports briefly as follows: "We have been working in the vicinity of Molokai, Lanai and the northeast coast of Maui. The bottom is very rough and we have experienced some difficulty in making successful dredge hauls in most localities. In spite of obstacles, however, a large amount of very interesting and valuable material is accumulating." Birds are reported as scarce.

A National Committee of the Audubon Societies of the United States was organized in New York City on April 4. The utility of the committee seems assured when we mention that Mr. William Dutcher has been elected chairman, for his vigorous work along these lines is familiar to all: It is intended that the work of this committee shall be national in its scope, since it will not deal with local matters but with those which equally affect all the societies. Mr. Dutcher hopes to create an active society in California.

Richard C. McGregor writes from Manila: "Have just returned from a five weeks' trip to the province of Bataan. Results are very satisfactory and I had a fine time. We got lots of rare things, a few of them new to Luzon and others second and third specimens of which there only existed in Museum the types. This country is full of good things. In some ways I am sorry to say that I am probably a fixture here for some years to come." Mr. McGregor's address is care of Philippine Museum, Manila, P. I.

With the beginning of its ninth volume, the *Wilson Bulletin* changes its place of publication from Berwyn, Pa. to Oberlin, O., where its former editor, Mr. Jones, assumes management. The March issue reflects numerous tasty improvements, including a new cover, coated book paper and an up-to-date magazine make-up. All these will tend to make the *Wilson Bulletin*, always heretofore excellent and meaty in contents, one of the leaders among ornithological magazines. The current issue is notable in its excellence.

Circular No. 35 of the Biological Survey has been issued under the supervision of Dr. T. S. Palmer, Assistant Chief, and is entitled "Directory of State Officials and Organizations concerned with the Protection of Birds and Game, 1902." As the title implies it furnishes a complete list of all state officials and state organizations interested in game or bird protection, besides a list of the Audubon societies. The directory has been brought down to date and should be in the hands of those who are interested in the great protection movement.

The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia presents its Proceedings for 1901 in the form of a royal octavo publication, handsomely printed, and entitled *Cassinia*, "An Annual Devoted to the Ornithology of Pennsylvania and New Jersey". *Cassinia* is a continuation of the Club's previous and less sumptuous "Abstract of Proceedings," while its increased size permits the publication of a greater volume of material. The initial number presents an excellent half-tone plate of John Cassin as frontispiece and its sixty pages are replete with interesting papers read before the Club.

Oologists will be interested to learn that the major part of the Jean Bell collection, recently purchased by Mr. John Lewis Childs, has been sold to Mr. C. W. Crandall of Woodside, N. Y. We are informed that Mr. Childs preserves but two typical sets of each species, and after filling any existing gaps from the Bell collection, it was sold as above stated. Mr. Crandall informs us that his cabinets now hold not less than 50,000 eggs, among which may be mentioned white-tailed kite; 42 sets; prairie falcon; 21 sets, golden eagle, 38 sets; California vulture, 3 sets; duck hawk, 24 sets; sharp-shinned hawk, 112 sets etc.

### Official Minutes Southern Division.

#### MARCH.

The Division met March 28 with Roth Reynolds, Vice President Leland presiding and ten active members present. Wm. G. Renwick of Claremont, W. C. Hanna of Colton, Clarence S. Sharp of Escondido, Thomas Brown of Los Angeles and Edward Howard of Los Angeles were elected to active membership. The name of Robert F. Jones of Santa Monica was proposed for active membership. A communication from O. W. Howard regarding the condition of a number of caged birds in a certain bird store was read and the secretary instructed to investigate and if necessary to report the matter to the health officer. Mr. C. S. Sharp of Escondido presented a paper on the Swainson hawk, and a discussion followed which brought out many interesting facts. The grebes were selected for study at the next meeting.

#### APRIL.

The Southern Division met again with Mr. Reynolds on April 26, President Daggett presiding and nine active members present. Robt. F. Jones of Santa Monica was elected to active membership. "Grebes" was the subject of the evening and a paper on the American eared grebe was presented by Howard Robertson. The meeting adjourned to meet next with Mr. Daggett in Pasadena on *Friday evening*, May 30, when the loon family will be considered.

HOWARD ROBERTSON, Div. Secretary.

### Official Minute Northern Division.

#### MAY.

The Division met with Mr. Chas. R. Keyes at Berkeley on May 3, President Grinnell pre-

siding and fourteen active members present. Mr. H. W. Fowler was present as a visitor. The programme of the evening was first presented, consisting of the following papers: "The American Ornithologists' Union of 1840-45" by H. W. Fowler; "The Dusky Horned Owl in Captivity" by H. R. Taylor; "Nesting Habits of the Wren-Tit" by D. A. Cohen; "Vocal Powers of the Yellow-billed Magpie" by H. R. Noack. Mr. H. C. Johnson of American Fork, Utah had kindly forwarded for the inspection of the club a set of five eggs with nest and male parent of Clarke nutcracker, taken in Utah Co., Utah April 8. The set is extremely unusual as to number of eggs. Mr. Barlow exhibited a set of four eggs and nest of the rufous-crowned sparrow collected near San Jose on April 27.

The following were elected to active membership in the Club:—Lee Nims, Pacific Grove; Hubert O. Jenkins, Stanford; Miss Alice M. Jenkins, Stanford; Frederick W. Kobbe, San Francisco and Geo H. Ready, Santa Cruz. Mr. Grinnell as a committee reported the collection of funds necessary to the publication of a "Check-List of California Birds" to be issued as *Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 3* during June, the publication being now in press. Four applications for active membership were read and filed as follows:—Henry F. Bailey, Santa Cruz; Miss Anna Head, Berkeley; Mrs. Ruby G. Bell, Stanford and Miss M. E. Skillings, Alameda.

A letter signed by five active members residing in and about Oakland, Cal., petitioning the Club to grant the necessary permission for the formation of a chapter as provided by the constitution, was read, and being in proper form the request was, on motion, granted. The Club adjourned to meet at San Jose, July 5.

C. BARLOW, Div. Secretary.