

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Siphia erithacus Sharpe, Preoccupied.—The name *Siphia erithacus* Sharpe, Ibis, 1888, p. 199 (= *Cyornis erithaca* of Sharpe's Hand-list), applied to the little flycatcher of Palawan Island is preoccupied by *Siphia erithacus* Blyth, P. Z. S., 1861, p. 201, applied to an Indian species. If no other name is available the Palawan bird may be known as *Cyornis paraguæ*.—RICHARD C. MCGREGOR, *Manila, P. I.*

Buteo albicaudatus sennetti seen in San Francisco, Cal.—While taking a walk in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Cal., on Nov. 7, 1905, a rather good-sized hawk, which had an unfamiliar look, attracted my attention as it circled around some little distance away. Fortunately it came close enough to be seen more distinctly, and to my great delight its size and general coloration appeared to answer in every particular to the description of the Sennett White-tailed Hawk, and then as the sun shone on its tail as the bird wheeled and circled in the bright light there could be no mistaking the black band across the white ground for anything else on earth. Dr. C. Hart Merriam saw one, last year I think he said, near Bakersfield, Cal., but this is the most northern record I know of for the coast.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, Cal.*

The Wood Duck in Southern California.—I have but seldom heard of the occurrence of the wood duck south of the San Joaquin, and even the few reports received have proven so intangible that definite records have been almost wanting. The southern coast belt of the State is obviously not suited to the preferences of this arboreal species, and in this we seem to find the explanation.

Mr. Roth Reynolds, the well-known Los Angeles taxidermist, has taken the pains to verify the following record. Mr. Reynolds received a wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) in the flesh, for mounting. It proved to be a "male of the year, in nearly adult plumage," and had been killed on a ranch near Oxnard, Ventura County, about November 6, 1905.—J. GRINNELL, *Pasadena, Cal.*

Notes on Some California Birds.—I secured an adult male and a young of the short-eared owl (*Asio accipitrinus*) at Los Banos, Merced County, on June 20, 1903. The young was still partly in the downy, juvenile dress, and is now in the collection of Dr. Dwight.

The northern phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) was abundant on our arrival at Monterey, June 3, 1903. We saw a few swimming on a pond near there when we left, June 15.

Dr. Dwight and I found a flock of about a dozen red phalaropes (*Crymophilus fulicarius*) on a small pond at Point Pinos, near Monterey, June 3, 1903. Those secured before a maternal government interfered were assuming nuptial dress, but would not have bred for several weeks.

Eleven sooty shearwaters (*Puffinus fuliginosus*) which I collected off Chatham, Mass., on August 19, 1904, are absolutely inseparable from eight dark-bodied shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) which I collected with Dr. Dwight off Monterey, California, on June 6, 1903. Both series are in the same stage of moult, which agrees with Dr. Dwight's discovery that birds of the Pacific moult two months earlier than those of the Atlantic.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, *New Haven, Conn.*

Red Phase of the California Screech Owl?—An owl that has remained in my collection since the early eighties, not satisfactorily identified, and of unusual interest on account of its small size and peculiar color, was sent to Mr. Wm. Brewster last November to be compared with his fine northwestern series of screech owls. Mr. Brewster says (in part) in regard to my specimen: "Your *Megascops* (Male; No. 339; Haywards, California; December 15, 1882) is unlike any screech owl from California that I have ever seen. I should refer it to *kennicotti*, or rather to the small form of *kennicotti* which I described some years ago (Auk, Vol. VII, 1891, pp. 141-143). Indeed it agrees very closely with one of my examples of the latter, *saturatus*, from Portland, Oregon."

This specimen measures: length 9 (inches); wing 6.25; tail 3.30; tarsus 1.50; bill from nostril .50. The entire upper parts are tinged with a tawny or rusty cinnamon, the whole crown of head and hind-neck being darker, with the shaft-streaks of the feathers a dull black, darker than on other parts of the back, giving it a sort of hooded or mantled appearance; the legs are a bright cinnamon, dark-barred on the tarsus; the lower margins of the auriculars are so strongly marked as to appear as bars of black; the middle of the throat is more cinnamon-colored than other parts of the breast. I have as yet been unable to find a similar specimen in the various Pacific coast collections so far examined. So it stands as either a unique specimen of the red phase taken in California, or of the race *kennicotti* of the Puget Sound region.—W. OTTO EMERSON, *Haywards, Cal.*