

ject in the last issue of THE CONDOR.—H. S. S.

A. H. CLARK ON BIRDS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC AND ADJACENT SHORES.²—As indicated in the full title of the paper given below, this is a list of species observed at very many widely distant points. The North American itinerary began with San Francisco, and included Puget Sound, Vancouver Island, Unalaska and certain of the Aleutian Islands to the westward of the latter point. The annotations are of a heterogeneous nature, and many of them could very well have been briefer. For instance, on pages 47 and 48, at least the whole second paragraph, of 16 lines, consists of irrelevant incident, foreign to a purely scientific paper. And further, of what possible use is the record of the Western Gull from San Francisco Bay and the Glaucous-winged Gull from Puget Sound! So on with the bulk of the water birds and at least some of the land birds, which have been recorded over and over again from the same localities.

There are, however, a number of the North American records of interest, such as some of those from the Aleutians. The two gulls, *Larus schistisagus* and *Larus vegae*, are listed from the vicinity of Unalaska. Both are rare in Alaska, and in each case we would like to have known more about the specimens, if any were taken in American waters. *Larus vegae*, even, has been seriously doubted, as a species distinct from *L. argentatus* (see *Auk*, 1902, p. 20), at least as occurring in American waters. *Thalassaeetus pelagicus*, the Kamchatkan Sea Eagle, is recorded from Unalaska on the basis of one seen overhead in flight—not altogether satisfactory as the sole basis for the inclusion of the species as a bird of North America.

The willow ptarmigan of North America are subjected to a revision (pp. 51-54) the main points in which are the separation of the American continental form from the Scandinavian under the name *Lagopus lagopus albus* (Gmelin), and the inclusion of all the willow ptarmigan of the southern coast region of Alaska, from Norton Sound to extreme southeastern Alaska, under the name *Lagopus lagopus alexandrae* Grinnell. The use of the name *albus* for the Hudson Bay ptarmigan, seems to be a point well taken; but the relative ranges and races of the willow ptarmigan of Northwest America will not probably rest with the status suggested by Clark.

In this connection, the author exhibits an attitude altogether unbecoming in the treatment of one worker by another. On page 54, it is implied that Grinnell was decided in his

course to name the ptarmigan, *L. l. alexandrae*, because of coaching received from Clark, who freely vouchsafed his own conclusions in regard to the forms in North America. If Grinnell had felt any gratitude towards Clark for the information advanced, and especially if he had made use of even an iota of such information in his published report, then it would have been incumbent upon him (Grinnell) to have made full acknowledgment in print. But this, Grinnell did not feel and did not do. Hence we opine that the patronizing comment in the paper under consideration is not relished by that author; and it certainly will not fasten any added credit upon Clark.—J. G.

THREE CASES OF SUPERNUMERARY TOE IN THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK BY C. WILLIAM BEEBE (=Zoologica, vol. 1, no. 6, January, 1910; pp. 150-152, figs. 48-50). Three individuals possessing the same malformation are figured and described. Considering the rarity of such deformity among birds, it is curious to find it occurring with such comparative frequency in one species. One of these examples was originally reported by H. K. Coale (*Auk* IV, 1887, pp. 331-333); the other two are here figured for the first time.—H. S. S.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SOME CURRENT LITERATURE RELATING TO WEST COAST BIRDS.—*The Auk*, vol. XXVII, no. 1, January, 1910; pp. 33-35, plates IV and V: *The Palm-leaf Oriole*. By Florence Merriam Bailey. Contains notes on the choice of palm trees as nesting sites of the Arizona Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*). "In eight towns and three country places in the general region between Redlands and San Diego in the summer of 1907 I counted forty nests made of palm fiber and hung in fan palms, and twelve made of palm fiber and hung in other trees."

Ibid., p. 91: *Destruction of Young Water Birds by a Storm*. By Albert B. Reagan, Supervising Warden of the Olympic Bird Reserves. He states that a storm on August 28 and succeeding days destroyed many young birds. The locality is not stated but by implication it must have been some of the rocky islands along the west coast of Washington. "Many Cormorants perished, nearly all the Puffins and all of the California Murres. A half a hundred thousand birds must have perished."

The Auk, no. 2, April, 1910: *New Records for the State of Washington*. By Lee R. Dice. Richardson Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus richardsoni*), lateral canyons of Snake River; Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*), Touchet Valley near Prescott, Walla Walla County; Mountain Junco (*Junco montanus*), Pullman, Whitman County; Rocky Mountain Creeper (*Certhia familiaris montana*), Prescott, Walla Walla County; Long-tailed Chickadee (*Pen-*

² The Birds Collected and Observed during the Cruise of the United States Fisheries Steamer "Albatross" in the North Pacific Ocean, and in the Bering, Okhotsk, Japan, and Eastern Seas, from April to December, 1906 | By Austin Hobart Clark (=Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 38, pp. 25-74. Published April 30, 1910.)

thesles atricapillus septentrionalis), Pullman, Whitman County, and Prescott, Walla Walla County.

University of California Publications in Zoology, vol. 5, pp. 307-309; published Feb. 21, 1910: *Two Heretofore Unnamed Wrens of the Genus Thryomanes*. By Joseph Grinnell. *Thryomanes bewicki marinensis*. Nicasio Wren. Similar to *T. b. spilurus* (Vigors) of the Santa Cruz faunal area south and east of San Francisco Bay, in size, but dorsal coloration brighter brown, of a vandyke tone, and flanks and light intervals in crissum strongly washed with vandyke brown. Similar to *T. b. calophonus* Oberholser of Western Washington and Oregon, but dorsal coloration brighter brown, of a less sooty tone, and size decidedly less. Wing 51.4; tail 50.8; culmen 14.1. Range.—The humid coast belt north of the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay, in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Thryomanes bewicki catalinae. Catalina Island Wren. Closely similar in color and general size to *T. b. charienturus* Oberholser of the adjacent mainland, but averaging darker dorsally (more sepia and not so umber brown) with heavier bill and conspicuously and constantly larger feet (longer toes and heavier tarsus); differs from *T. b. leucophrys* (Anthony) of San Clemente Island, in decidedly darker, less ashy coloration, and in much more heavily barred under tail coverts; differs from *T. b. nesophilus* Oberholser, of Santa Cruz Island, in duller, less rufescent coloration, grayer flanks, longer bill and generally larger size. Wing 54; tail 53.7; culmen 15.7; hind toe with claw 14; middle toe with claw 16.2. Santa Catalina Island, permanent resident.

Ibid., pp. 311-316; published Feb. 21, 1910. *The Savannah Sparrow of the Great Basin*. By Joseph Grinnell. He restricts the name *alaudinus* to "the form summering throughout the vast interior of northwestern North America, from Bering Sea and Kotzebue Sound to the Mackenzie region", and separates the race that breeds in the arid Great Basin region of the United States under the name *Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis*. Nevada Savannah Sparrow. Resembles *Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus* Bonaparte, but is much paler throat in all plumages; white replacing buff, black streaks thus more conspicuously contrasted there being a minimum amount of hazel markings; size slightly less. From *P. s. savanna* (Wilson) the new form differs in coloration in the same ways as above but in greater degree; the bill is proportionally much smaller, tho the wing length is nearly the same. *Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis* differs from its presumably nearest relatives in its extremely pale coloration. This paleness is not due to a less amount of black-streaking,

but to a replacement of buff and clay color by white or whitish and to a restriction, and dilution to clay color, of the hazel areas on each feather. The appearance of white edges on the rectrices is a remarkable feature, showing an incipency of the condition among certain terrestrial birds where the outer rectrix on either side is chiefly white, as in *Poocetes*.

Ibid., 361-428, plates 32-34, 9 text figures; published March 5, 1910. *Birds of the 1908 Alexander Alaska Expedition With a Note on the Avifaunal Relationships of the Prince William Sound District*. By Joseph Grinnell. Under the heading, "General Accounts; Distribution; Biological Notes; Variation", 89 species and subspecies are noted, equally divided between water birds and land birds. More or less extensive notes are given under each species, distribution being particularly noted. The six new subspecies described are all land birds. The most important parts of the descriptions follow:

Canachites canadensis atratus. Valdez Spruce Grouse. Resembles *Canachites canadensis osgoodi* of the interior of Alaska (Yukon and Kowak valleys), but general tone of coloration darker; white markings of less extent; black areas more extended; and grays less ashy, more olivaceous. (A detailed description of each type follows). The indications are that this form is generally distributed in the humid coast belt from the eastern side of the Kenai Peninsula southwestwardly at least as far as Hawkins Island, and probably beyond.

Lagopus rupestris kelloggae. Montague Rock Ptarmigan. Similar to *Lagopus rupestris rupestris* of the interior of Alaska (mountains near Eagle), in comparable stage of plumage, but coloration darker; black markings more extended; brownish shades deeper toned; white tippings reduced and suffused with ochraceous; top of head nearly solid black.

Ceryle alcyon caurina. Northwestern Belted Kingfisher. Similar to the *Ceryle alcyon* of eastern and southern North America, but size throat greater, especially measurements of flight feathers.

Dryobates pubescens glacialis. Valdez Downy Woodpecker. Resembles *Dryobates pubescens nelsoni* of northern and interior Alaska in a general way, but differs from it in slightly smaller size, in having a decided smoky wash over the lower surface, in having the exposed lower surface of "closed" tail completely black barred, in having the flanks and lower tail coverts distinctly mottled with black, and in having the white-spotting of wings less in extent; resembles *D. p. gairdneri* in size, but smokiness of lower surface much less in intensity and not invading the white areas of head, and white-spotting of wings much greater in extent; resembles *D. p. medianus* closely,

except for decided smokiness of lower surface, black mottling of flanks and lower tail coverts, and reduction of spotting on wings.

Passerella iliaca sinuosa. Valdez Fox Sparrow. Perhaps nearest to *Passerella iliaca unalaschensis*, but differs from that form in smaller and especially slenderer bill, in larger and heavier spotting beneath and in a much slatier tone of coloration thruout; differs from *P. i. insularis* in the same ways but, except in spotting, to a greater degree, especially in coloration, because of the warm hazel brown tone of the Kadiak race; differs from *P. i. meruloides* (= *P. i. annectens* Ridgway) from the Yakutat Bay region, in slatier, much less ruddy tone of coloration. The type may be described as follows: whole pileum and dorsum dark sepia, closely approaching clove brown; sides of head and hind neck pervaded with slate gray; rump and edgings of wings and tail Prout brown; ground color below pure white, with spotting of same color as dorsum; flanks and lower tail coverts broadly streak with clove brown, the narrow light edgings of the crissum being faintly cream buff.

Penthestes rufescens vivax. Valdez Chestnut-sided Chickadee. Like *Penthestes rufescens rufescens* in coloration, but larger, tail proportionally longer and bill bulkier.

In "Composition of the Prince William Sound Avifauna; Discussion of its Origin", are tables of groupings of birds of the Prince William Sound District as compared with adjoining districts, with remarks on each. "Melanism in the Endemic Species" is a four-page discussion of the darkening of colors of birds in general of this region and of the causes generally assigned for such change of color. No particular theory is endorsed.

U. C. Publications in Zoology, vol. 7, no. 1, pages 1-8; published May 26, 1910. *Two New Owls from Arizona with Description of the Juvenal Plumage of Strix occidentalis (Xantus)*. By Harry S. Swarth. *Otus asio gilmani*. Sahuara Screech Owl. Most like *Otus asio cineraceus* (Ridgway), from which it differs chiefly in slightly smaller size, paler coloration and greater restriction of dark markings. Above pale ashy, darkest on crown, each feather faintly vermiculated with dusky, and with a narrow dark medium stripe. Underparts somewhat darker, but still with dark markings much restricted. Legs and toes white, sparsely marked with dusky. The distribution appears to be lower Sonoran zone principally in Arizona.

Strix occidentalis huachucae. Arizona Spotted Owl. Similar to *Strix occidentalis occidentalis* (Xantus), but slightly smaller, and conspicuously paler; white markings more extensive and dark areas less deep toned. Possibly quite extensively distributed thru the mountains of Arizona.—F. S.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The March meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club was held on Thursday evening, March 31, 1910, at the home of Mr. H. J. Lelande, 1320 East 15th St., Los Angeles. In the absence of President Morcom, the meeting was called to order by Vice-President Lelande, with the following members present:

Messrs. Willett, Chambers, Judson, Davis, Holt, Antonin Jay, Alphonse Jay, Blaine, Law.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Alphonse Jay, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present, electing to active membership Messrs. Bradford Torrey, H. C. Burt and John C. Fortiner, Jr.

Application for membership of H. B. Weber Simi, California, proposed by J. S. Appleton, was presented.

An interesting paper on Tahoe birds by M. S. Ray was then read, after which the members present indulged in very enjoyable refreshments, over which many ornithological tales were swapped. Adjourned.—J. E. LAW, *Secretary*.

Directory of Members of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

Revised to June 1, 1910.

(Residence in California unless otherwise stated. Year following address indicates date of election.)

HONORARY MEMBERS

- Allen, Dr. J. A., Am. Museum of Nat. History, New York, N. Y. 1910.
Belding, Lyman, Stockton. 1896.
Merriam, Dr. C. Hart, 1919 16th St., Washington, D. C. 1909.
Ridgway, Robert, 3413 13th St., N. E., Brookland, D. C. 1905.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Adams, Ernest, Box 21, Clipper Gap, Placer Co. 1896.
Alexander, Annie M., 1006 16th St., Oakland. 1908.
Anderson, Malcolm P., Menlo Park. 1901.
Appleton, J. S., Simi, Ventura Co. 1901.