

October 12, 1885, and October 11 and 13, 1888, but subsequent observers have noted the arrival of the bird as early as October 4, in 1912 and 1913.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C., May 8, 1921.*

**Extension of Breeding Range of Marsh Sparrow and Monterey Hermit Thrush\*.**—

While carrying on some field work for the California Academy of Sciences in Del Norte County, California, during this past spring (1921), with Chase Littlejohn as assistant, I kept special lookout for marsh sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis* subsp.?), as there did not seem to be any good reason for this species limiting its northern range to Humboldt Bay. While it is true that there are but few attractive localities for it along this rockbound coast, at the same time a few small meadows do exist at the mouths of rivers and at the heads of lagoons. One such meadow is at the mouth of the Klamath River, just opposite the little settlement of Requa, Del Norte County, this being an alluvial flat about a mile long and half a mile wide. It is shut off from the ocean by a bar of low sand dunes, and seemed as if it might be a breeding ground for this sparrow, which it proved to be.

A visit to this flat on May 7 resulted in our finding a small number of these birds there, and two males were secured. On May 16 another visit was made to this place and a search carried on for nests, of which none was found. Several birds were seen and another male taken. They were found only at the ocean end of the flat, in land that is more or less of a meadow and has a small stream running through it that is backed up by the tides. Most of the drier parts of the flat are covered with scattered bushes of lupine, and it was perching upon these that the birds were most often seen.

On May 29 another visit was made to this meadow and two or three of the birds were again seen. As we could not find a nest we endeavored to obtain a female, for examination as to breeding status. A pair was finally located, but the female was lost in a thick growth of lupine and grass, most unfortunately. Not wishing to run the chance of exterminating this small colony no further attempt was made to obtain a bird. There can be no doubt, however, as to this species breeding there, to judge from the actions of those seen. A number of dairy cattle daily grazing in this meadow not only kept the grass very short, where unprotected by lupine bushes, but also made the search for nests more difficult by continually getting in our way, or stirring up the birds as they moved about. There was so little grass for concealment in the open that it seems probable that the nests were either in the lupines, or else at the edge of the sand dunes where small drift wood would protect them. As much time as could be spared was devoted to searching for nests, but without result.

Passing through Crescent City, Del Norte County, on a trip into the interior, some good-looking meadow was noted and, upon returning to that town, the morning of May 27 was devoted to settling the question as to the presence there of the marsh sparrow. In a small damp spot just south of the town a pair of this species was located and again a male was taken. The female escaped and disappeared for the moment. A long tramp failed to discover any more, nor did a visit by Littlejohn to another meadow meet with success. This may have been due to the constantly increasing gale that sprang up early that morning and finally drove us indoors for the rest of the day. We arranged to get out at five o'clock next morning for a further search, but a heavy rain set in, with the promise of such bad weather that it was decided to return to Requa, our principal objective, and finish up the work there.

The original idea in looking for marsh sparrows on this field trip was the possibility of finding the Bryant Marsh Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis bryanti*) breeding farther north along the coast than Humboldt Bay. The first bird taken at Requa appeared to prove such a possibility to be a fact, but upon careful study of the other four specimens secured I have concluded to place them all in the category of Dwarf Marsh Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis brooksi* Bishop), not so much on account of measurements as compared with the Bryant Marsh Sparrow, but rather on account of the coloration. As remarked above, the first one obtained is indistinguishable from many specimens of *bryanti* taken in the breeding season in the recognized habitat of the latter form, while the other four of our Del Norte County specimens have the backs

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appreciably paler in coloration than those of almost any *bryanti* that I have examined and, although the individual measurements of the wings and tarsi are easily within the limits of the latter subspecies, the bills average smaller.

In addition to the above species I would like to record the taking of the Monterey Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata slevini*) at Myers' Ranch, Humboldt County, California, on June 5, 1921. On this occasion several individuals were seen, one of these, at least, gathering food for its young, and others were heard, in the woods just back of the ranch house. Two specimens were secured for more positive identification, although the song alone, to one familiar with it, is sufficient proof of the presence of this species.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California, June 18, 1921.*

**The "Pasadena" Thrasher Not a Recognizable Race.**—I now believe Dr. Harry C. Oberholser was absolutely right in his contention that *Toxostoma redivivum pasadenense* is synonymous with *T. r. redivivum* (see Auk, xxxv, 1918, p. 52 *et seq.*). The type locality of *redivivum* was Monterey or near vicinity. When I named *pasadenense* (Auk, xv, 1898, p. 236) I assumed that birds from Monterey would be identical with the northern race, whereas, as first established by Dr. Oberholser on the basis of material in the United States National Museum, they prove to be like those from southern California. The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology has recently acquired a considerable number of thrashers representing a series of localities in Monterey County from Seaside southward; and all of these fall with the southern race, thus corroborating Oberholser's findings. Specimens from Santa Cruz, just north of Monterey Bay, are, according to Oberholser, referable to the northern form, *T. r. sonomae*, as are representatives from many localities in the counties bordering on San Francisco Bay. Here is a case where the type locality of a species happens to lie very nearly on the boundary line between the ranges of two constituent subspecies, and the correct allocation of the name first proposed depends upon the exact determination of topotypical specimens. Shifting of the supposed location of the belt of intergradation a few miles to the northward has necessitated transposition of names, and *pasadenense* is no longer to be recognized—save as a synonym of *redivivum*.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 25, 1921.*

**Cassin Purple Finches Eating Salt.**—While at Chinquapin, Yosemite National Park, on June 8, 1921, I observed four Cassin Purple Finches (*Carpodacus cassini*) eating rock salt that had been spread upon the ground for the deer. When I commented on this feeding to the ranger stationed there, he said that for some time birds had been coming to the salt patches regularly.—JUNEA W. KELLY, *Alameda, California, June 16, 1921.*

**The Buffle-head Breeding in California.**—The writer has been unable to locate any published record of the Buffle-head (*Charitonetta albeola*) breeding within the State of California. For this reason the following observations are here reported. On June 22, 1921, while engaged in fur-bearing mammal investigations at Eagle Lake, Lassen County, the writer, when looking for muskrats in a tule patch, came suddenly upon a female Buffle-head that was accompanied by two young about one-third grown. The small size, chunky build, plain grayish brown back, long white patch on each side of the head behind and below the level of the eye, together with a small white patch, crossed by a narrow black bar, on the wing, all identified with certainty the old bird as a female Buffle-head. The young were darker than their mother but had a conspicuous white patch on each cheek. Two days later, at the same locality, another female, accompanied by eight half-grown young, was seen. Two other females flew by our boat making a total of four adult females and ten young noted in three days. Every duck seen was closely scrutinized with the binoculars, but not one adult male Buffle-head could we detect. From the above it seems likely that the Buffle-head Duck bred in some numbers this season at Eagle Lake.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 27, 1921.*