

in the days of Vigors.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 5, 1921.*

The White Gyrfalcon in Montana.—A bird as rare in the United States as the White Gyrfalcon (*Falco islandus*) seems worthy of recording whenever found and correctly identified. The specimen under consideration I believe has not been put on record up to the present date. It was sent to Mr. Oscar Gard, of Seattle, Washington, by Mr. Geo. B. Daniels, of Fort Benton, Montana. Mr. Benton writes that he shot the bird on November 18, 1917, on Shonkin Creek, just east of the town of Shonkin and about twenty miles from Fort Benton, Montana. When shot it was sitting on a post of a wire fence in very open country. The bird was in an advanced condition of decay by the time it reached Mr. Gard, who nevertheless made it into a very handsome specimen and it is now in my collection. Unfortunately the sex was not taken, but the extremely large size leaves practically no doubt that it is a female. It is very white and must have been fully adult, and is unquestionably one of the most beautiful birds that I have ever seen.—J. HOOPER BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington, November 7, 1921.*

A Specimen of the Markham Petrel.—Mr. Chas. Fagan, chief wireless operator on the SS. "Santa Elisa," W. R. Grace and Co., has forwarded to the Biological Survey a petrel that proves to be the Markham Petrel, *Oceanodroma markhami* (Salvin). The bird was captured July 6, 1921, at sea off the coast of Peru at a point approximately thirty-five miles north of the port of Callao. *Oceanodroma markhami*, very close allied to *tristrami*, is distinguished from that bird by shorter tarsus, smaller foot, and somewhat more ashy tinge of the back and head. It differs from *O. melania* in more slender bill and in the grayish cast of the dorsal surface. Measurements of the present specimen are as follows: wing 175.5 mm.; tail 95 mm.; chord of exposed culmen 18 mm.; tarsus 23.3 mm.; middle toe with claw 23.5 mm.; outer toe with claw 22.5 mm.

The Markham Petrel was described by Salvin (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1883, p. 430) from a female specimen taken by Captain Markham in December, 1881, near the coast of Peru at lat. 19° 40' S., long. 75° W. (given incorrectly in the Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., xxv, 1896, p. 354, as lat. 10° 40' S.). A second specimen, also a female, was secured in the same region at lat. 23° S., long. 73° W. Loomis (Proc. California Acad. Sci., 4th ser., II, pt. II, p. 174) records two taken by R. H. Beck, one on August 1, 1905, in lat. 13° 28' N., long. 108° 52' W., and another September 1, 1905, near lat. 5° N., long. 87° W., about thirty miles south of Cocos Island. Captain R. Paefslser (Journ. Ornith., 1913, p. 49; 1914, p. 277) has published notes on the occurrence of this species on the west coast of South America but apparently merely from sight observation (no mention is made of specimens) so that his notes must be considered as open to doubt. The specimen secured by Mr. Fagan is of great interest as it is the first Markham Petrel that has come to the United States National Museum, and seems to constitute the fifth example of the species that has been recorded.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, November 21, 1921.*

Possible Occurrence of the Blue-footed Booby in Southern California.—A *Sula* of this type was seen by Mr. Edward J. Brown and the writer, between Anaheim Landing and Sunset Beach, Orange County, California, on October 25, 1921. It came from the ocean and made a complete circle around us at a distance of about a hundred yards. While ordinarily opposed to the publication of sight records, it seems to me permissible in this case; for a bird exhibiting such striking coloration and flight could hardly be mistaken for anything else. No claim is made for admission to the state list of the above species as we, of course, cannot say further than that it was a black and white *Sula*. As *S. nebouxi*, according to the A. O. U. Check-list, breeds in the Gulf of Lower California, the bird probably belonged to that form.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Los Angeles, California, November 5, 1921.*

Summer Record of Blue-winged Teal in California, and Notes on Other Birds.—On May 21, 1921, at Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, California, I saw a pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) the male of which I secured. On sexing it I found

the testes fully enlarged, indicating, though not conclusively, that the pair might have been breeding in the vicinity. Winter records of this duck are not common and I can find no previous summer record.

A pair of San Diego Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia cooperi*) was seen on February 8, 1920, carrying nesting materials into the center of a clump of honeysuckle vines growing on our side fence in the city of Los Angeles. The next day I examined the clump and found a nest nearly completed. The first egg was laid February 15. I did not look at the nest again until February 22, when I found the one egg and the broken empty shell of another. Soon after this, heavy rains came on and the nest was deserted. Nor did the sparrows attempt to use the nest again or the nesting site that year.

During a trip of two weeks, October 16 to November 2, 1921, down the coast from San Francisco to Los Angeles, I made stops of a few days each at Moss Landing, Monterey County, Pismo, San Luis Obispo County, Goleta, Santa Barbara County, and Point Mugu, Ventura County. It was interesting to note the great abundance of Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), but the unusual fact was the large numbers of sick, dead and dying birds. I shot birds of this species that appeared strong and active but, in most cases, they were as much emaciated as the dead ones I picked up on the beach.

At Ludlow, San Bernardino County, April 17, 1921, I observed in the course of an afternoon at a corral where there were a water trough and two or three small cottonwood trees, sixteen species of birds, among which were two pairs of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), one pair of which I collected. This place is located deep in the Mohave Desert, but the water and a few shade trees seem to attract quite a number of birds.—CHESTER C. LAMB, *Los Angeles, November 22, 1921.*

Corrections of Errors in Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 14.—*Asio wilsonianus*. Long-eared Owl. On page 68, for "Stevensville, Ravalli County, April 14, 1912, 2 eggs," read Corvallis, instead of Stevensville.

Junco hyemalis mearnsi. Pink-sided Junco. "It has also been found . . . in the Bitterroot Valley in migration"; and "Corvallis, March 22, 1913" (page 128). This specimen was taken May 22 instead of March 22, which would bring it in the breeding season instead of in migration. The exact locality was eight miles east of Corvallis at 4500 feet elevation, in heavy yellow pine and Douglas fir forest.—BERNARD BAILEY, *Elk River, Minnesota, October 10, 1921.*

An Inland Occurrence of the Common Tern.—A male of the year of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) was taken by van Rossem at Victorville, San Bernardino County, California, on September 22, 1921. When shot, it was on a sandbar in the Mohave River, in company with a few Killdeers. No other terns were observed during the eight days spent in that vicinity.—D. R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, November 25, 1921.*

Burrowing Owl off the Virginia Coast.—While on depth-charge watch at night just out of Hampton Roads enroute to New York, October 22, 1918, I observed a small owl which for four hours flew about the quarter-deck of the vessel but eluded capture. The next morning a marine caught the bird perched on one of the depth-charges, and on examination it proved to be a Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*). It was very docile and eagerly gulped down pieces of raw beef fed by hand. As the marine wished to take it ashore as a pet I was unable to secure it, and though I positively identified it as a Burrowing Owl I could not determine its subspecific characters. One would, however, presuppose the Florida bird (*Speotyto cunicularia floridana*), rather than our western representative. At all events its appearance so far from its known range seems worthy of record even at this late date.—WM. DUNCAN STRONG, *Berkeley, California, November 30, 1921.*

Rare Birds in Arizona and New Mexico.—Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*). While on an auto trip through Arizona I took an adult male on the Superior Highway about fifteen miles east of Mesa, Arizona, on March 15, 1921. Three were seen together in the giant cactus association. I have never been able to find this species in southwestern New Mexico.