

Possibly owls usually bathe at night when no one would be likely to see them, which may account for our lack of knowledge on this point.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, December 5, 1921.*

The California Brown Pelican in the State of Washington.—The status of the California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus californicus*) in the state of Washington seems, hitherto, to be founded altogether upon sight records and one or two mounted specimens that are supposed to have been collected in the state. The sight records were made by Suckley and other old time observers, while the mounted birds are even more uncertain, if possible, for proper scientific work.

It is with pleasure, therefore, that I am able to place on record a fine example of this bird that was turned over to me in the flesh a few days ago. It was collected on October 30, 1921, by Mr. Roger Evans, of Kapowsin, Washington. The locality was Lake Kapowsin, which is situated among the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains, and about one hundred and twenty miles from the Pacific Ocean. It was alone and no more were seen; neither have I had any other reported from elsewhere. The appearance of the bird so far from salt water may be accounted for by the fact that an unusually severe storm of several days duration took place just prior to its capture. Mr. Evans very kindly turned the bird over to us for the use of science, and it is now in the collection of Mr. D. E. Brown, in Seattle, Washington. It is an immature male, and presumably a bird of the present year.—J. HOOPER BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington, November 7, 1921.*

The "Anthony Vireo" Not a Tenable Subspecies.—*Vireo huttoni obscurus* Anthony has held its place as a valid subspecies in both the second (1895) and the third (1910) editions of the A. O. U. Check-List. Also Ridgway recognized it in Part III (1904) of his Birds of North and Middle America.

In April, 1921, I had the chance of examining the type skin of this supposed race in the ornithological collection of the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh. This type, apparently not hitherto recorded, is now no. 16981, Carnegie Mus.; female; Beaverton, Oregon; March 20, 1890; orig. no. 2671, A. W. Anthony. I compared it with the other material in the Carnegie collection, and came to the conclusion that the name *obscurus* does not apply to a tenable race.

It happens that this same conclusion had been come to by Rhoads years ago (see Auk, x, July, 1893, pp. 238-241). And it seems, according to Rhoads, that Anthony himself had come to doubt the validity of *obscurus*. It is curious that these circumstances did not seem to weigh against the acceptance of the name in the 1895 A. O. U. Check-List.

Anthony, in his original description of *obscurus* (Zoe, 1, December, 1890, pp. 307-308), was, I think, misled by the seasonal conditions of coloration. The "rich suffusion of olive and yellowish tints" emphasized as the main character of *obscurus* is common to birds in fresh, or at least unfaded, plumage from throughout the range of *Vireo huttoni huttoni*. Those vivid tints are fugitive, and they go fastest and most completely in sunny as compared with cloudy climates; there is geographic variation in rate of fading (see Grinnell, Auk, xix, April, 1902, pp. 128-131). Southern California birds lose the "blush" of the new plumage sooner and more completely than birds of western Oregon. But as far as I can now see, from a repeated examination of the extensive material in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the intrinsic color tone is very nearly the same all the way from Washington (a bird at hand from Tacoma) to San Diego County, California. I was misled in precisely the same way Anthony was, when I described the supposed form *maillardorum* from Santa Cruz Island (see Condor, v, November, 1903, p. 157), and evidently Bishop was similarly confused when he named *oberholseri* (Condor, vii, September, 1905, pp. 142-143) from San Diego County!

Now, Rhoads (loco citato) did not stop with showing that *obscurus* was untenable; he described a new race of his own, *insularis*, from the southern end of Vancouver Island. He had but three specimens, two of which he made the "types". These, as compared with *huttoni*, he describes as showing "over the whole plumage" a "sooty suffusion". I am tempted to suggest that these may have been town-smoked birds. Hutton Vireos from Vancouver Island are notably rare in collections. In the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology there are but two, both from Victoria. Both are dark as compared with

Monterey *huttoni*; but both look to me to be smoked. I wouldn't care to rest the case for or against *insularis* on this scanty material. But before this name is given formal recognition by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature, perfectly fresh, unfaded material should be available in fair quantity.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 5, 1921.*

Some Hawks of Harney Valley, Oregon.—My work in the United States Biological Survey has taken me into Harney County, Oregon, several times during the last two years. On every visit I have been impressed by the abundance and variety of hawks in this district, and I have kept rough notes regarding these birds. A few of these notes are presented. In 1919, for a week beginning September 12, there was an amazing mixed flight of hawks in which Cooper Hawks, Prairie Falcons, and Duck Hawks were conspicuous. During this week, I saw at least a dozen Duck Hawks, more than equal to all of my other records. The following notes were made during these trips.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). Turkey Vultures were common in the valley, but my attention was particularly drawn to them during August, 1919, when trying summer poisons on jack rabbits. Such numbers of vultures, ravens, crows, and magpies descended on the fields where the poisoning operations were carried on as to make it necessary to reach there before daylight in order to count the poisoned rabbits. From fifty to one hundred each of ravens and vultures usually arrived by daylight, accompanied by several times that number of crows and magpies.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*). Marsh Hawks have been common and even abundant on each of my visits to the valley. I have often seen them worrying the jack rabbits but have yet to see them catch one.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*). A few of these little hawks were included in the flight of September, 1919.

Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). This species was one of the most conspicuous in numbers in the September flight mentioned above. Most of those observed were not yet in adult plumage. They were astonishingly tame, sitting on fence posts and telephone poles while we drove by in a car. While the larger hawks frequently do this, my previous experience with this species has been entirely to the contrary.

Western Red-tail (*Buteo borealis calurus*). This is a common species, found on every visit to the valley.

Swainson Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). This is the most common species in the valley. On May 24, 1920, twenty-seven Swainson Hawks were counted sitting on the posts along one side of a small alfalfa field near Burns. Several had Oregon ground squirrels in their talons and most of them seemed to be resting after a hearty meal. The field was swarming with squirrels, and catching all that was necessary for food was apparently an easy task for these hawks.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*). A few of these hawks were seen on October 24-30, 1920. Judging from the number observed in adjoining districts during the winter they probably increased considerably later in the season.

Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Archibuteo ferrugineus*). On May 24, 1920, Stanley G. Jewett and myself saw at close range an adult hawk of this species, the only one noted in the valley at any time.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Golden Eagles are common in Harney Valley, and abundant compared to their number in any other district with which I am familiar. I have had as many as five in sight at one time. On September 13, 1919, I watched two in pursuit of five Canada Geese. The eagles were considerably behind and high above the geese, which were making frantic efforts to reach a pond known as Potter Swamp. The eagles were gaining rapidly, but all disappeared over a ridge before the chase was finished. A few days after this, three were seen harrying a jack rabbit which they caught and killed; all three were near the dead rabbit when we passed along the road in a car. On October 26, 1920, two eagles and a number of magpies were found feeding on poisoned rabbits.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). This hawk is common in the valley and was particularly so during September, 1919. One female followed our car along the road for some distance until finally killed by a well-directed shot. Apparently, she was after the birds flushed by the car from the sage brush along the road.