

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.

Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). About a dozen Duck Hawks were seen during the September flight. On the thirteenth, a flock of Cinnamon Teal whizzed past my head as I stood on the bank of Silvies River. They were traveling at a terrific rate of speed, but not until they had passed did I see the Duck Hawk close behind. Within a few seconds after passing me it struck one of the teal, and made for a nearby cliff with its victim. On August 24, late in the evening, while with a companion trying to secure a yellow-headed blackbird, a Duck Hawk darted viciously into a flock of blackbirds. As it was about to strike, it saw me and swung over my companion who brought it down as it passed overhead. It proved to be a fine adult male.

Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius columbarius*). An immature female bird was secured on September 16, 1919, as it flew over.

Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*). This is very common during September and October; it is less so in May and June, but is in evidence along the roads every day.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Oregon, October 24, 1921.*

The Validity of the Catalina Island Quail.—A series of sixteen quail from Catalina Island, of which thirteen are winter and three are fresh fall specimens, was recently examined by us. These bear out precisely the characters as given by J. Grinnell in his description of the form *Lophortyx [californica] catalinensis*, in *The Auk*, vol. 23, 1906, pp. 262-265. An additional character to which we wish to call attention is the wing formula of *catalinensis* as compared with *vallicola*. In *catalinensis*, the seventh primary is longest in thirteen out of the sixteen (or 81.25 percent), and the seventh and sixth are equal and longest in the remaining three (or 18.75 percent). The eighth primary is equal to or longer than the fifth in exactly the same high proportion. In a series of seventeen *vallicola*, from the San Diegan district, the seventh primary is longest in only three birds (or 17.65 percent), the remaining fourteen having the sixth, sixth and seventh, or fifth, sixth, and seventh longest. The eighth is equal to or longer than the fifth in only four (or 23.53 percent). It will thus be seen that the Island wing is the more pointed of the two. The wing formula of *L. californica californica* seems to be quite similar to that of *catalinensis*; but as most of our birds are moulting, we cannot be positive on this point.

Three birds from the southern San Joaquin Valley agree in some particulars of coloration with those from Catalina, namely, in color of flanks and broad striping on under tail coverts. However, the resemblance ceases here, for they are quite as small as the average *vallicola* from the San Diegan district (see Grinnell, *Auk*, vol. 23, p. 263). The one available quail from Los Coronados Islands (collection of H. Wright) has the small foot and bill of *vallicola*, but is too badly worn to give any comparative color values.

Catalinensis is a perfectly valid race and is quite as well differentiated from *vallicola* as is *vallicola* from *californica* proper. The pronounced characters preclude the possibility of artificial introduction, and it is difficult to understand why it has not been given equal standing with other insular forms, such as the horned larks and song sparrows, not to mention the San Clemente House Finch!—D. R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSEM, *Pasadena, California, November 26, 1921.*

Virginia Rail and Flammulated Screech Owl in the San Bernardino Mountains.—On July 16, 1921, and again on the 17th, a Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) was seen near the mouth of Rathbun Creek, Big Bear Lake. It was feeding in marshy ground beside the road, and when passed in an auto could be closely observed. When we returned on foot, however, we could not find it.

On July 17 and 18, both morning and evening, the peculiar, ventriloquial, notes of the Flammulated Screech Owl (*Otus flammeotus*) were heard in the vicinity of the I S Ranch, Big Bear Lake; and on the 19th and 20th we heard the same notes at the Fish Hatchery at the north base of Sugarloaf Mountain. We did not succeed in seeing any of the producers of these strange calls at either place, repeating our experience with this species at Dry Lake, July, 1920, where we failed on three evenings to catch sight of one.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, December 4, 1921.*