

viii, p. 610). There seems to be a contradiction in the latter work, for on page 582 in the key to the genus *Larus* I find "legs and feet flesh color in life . . . *Larus occidentalis*." Either this is a contradiction or else the Western Gull has been found with feet both colors.

When Ridgway's Bulletin appeared, in 1919, I noticed the statement first quoted above and, not daring to dispute it, set out to find a Western Gull with yellow feet. My field of observation did not cover much territory, being mostly from the Alameda Pier to the Ferry Building at San Francisco, but I have made daily round trips between these two points, and during the winter months and many days in summer two round trips daily, making a total of about 575 round trips or 1150 single trips in a year. There were 365 of these trips made at night which leaves a total of 785 daylight trips a year looking for a yellow-footed Western Gull. I have counted from 50 to 300 birds of this species on a trip for nearly four years and while it is certain that I saw the same birds again and again, it is safe to assume that I have seen a good many thousand individuals and I have yet to find a Western Gull with yellow feet. All had flesh-colored feet.—F. N. BASSETT, *Alameda, California, January 11, 1924.*

The Subspecific Status of the Hermit Thrushes Breeding in the Humboldt Bay District.—It has long been known that some form of *Hylocichla guttata* breeds, though sparingly, in parts of the densely vegetated humid coast belt of Humboldt County, California. For instance, W. K. Fisher (Condor, III, 1901, p. 91) includes the species (under the name *aonalaschkae* then current) as among the distinctly boreal types of birds found by him there.

Apparently the first specimens of breeding Hermit Thrushes to be examined from Humboldt County critically are the two recorded by J. Mailliard (Condor, XXIII, 1921, p. 165) from Myers' Ranch, on the South Fork of the Eel River, under the name *Hylocichla guttata slevini*. These two specimens (nos. 23975-76, coll. Calif. Acad. Sci.), taken in Douglas firs, are before me as I write these paragraphs, and I agree with Mailliard as to their determination, though they are not quite as small as *slevini* from the coast counties south of Mendocino County.

In the latter part of July, 1923, I did some field work in the vicinity of Carlotta, Humboldt County, with headquarters at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Wilder. Penetration of the dense redwood forest on the benches within two miles north of Carlotta quickly disclosed to me the presence of Hermit Thrushes there. Their wonderful songs swelled and waned among the otherwise dead-silent groves. The birds must have been fairly common, for on several occasions I was within hearing of two of them from one listening point. But, owing to the twilight dimness beneath the close-growing and lofty redwoods, intensified by the continuous high fogs, it proved a difficult matter to obtain specimens. While singing mainly from perches overhead, the birds did most of their foraging on the ground, over which they moved intermittently and with no commotion. The ground which they were searching was so shaded that there was scarcely a green thing to relieve the dominant brownness of the view, and in the gloom nothing at all could be seen of them until or unless they hopped up above the near horizon line from some uphill point of observation.

On July 20, I obtained two adult males (now nos. 43986-87, Mus. Vert. Zool.). These prove distinctly different from *slevini*, as also from *sequoiensis* of the Sierras. They are darker toned and larger than *slevini*, darker toned and smaller than *sequoiensis*. Furthermore, they cannot be referred to *nanus*, as might have been predicted on fairly reasonable argument, for their darkness of tone does not lead towards the warm brown of *nanus*. The astonishing thing is that, after much comparing, I am forced to call them *Hylocichla guttata guttata*. In other words, I am unable to find differences between them and birds from southwestern Alaska. Exact duplicates are to be found among this Museum's series of Hermit Thrushes from the Prince William Sound region (see Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 5, 1910, p. 417). Of course, this is another case where with no probable immediate genetic affinities, representations of a variable species in two separated breeding areas have come to have, incidentally, identical characters. In the present instance, the Sitkan race *nanus* occupies territory intervening between the two areas, remote from one another, occupied by *guttata*. The Humboldt Bay district *guttata* might be interpreted as an intergrade between *nanus* and *slevini*, I suppose, though it may be remarked that breeding Hermit Thrushes seem to be rare or altogether wanting in the humid coast belt between Humboldt County and the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia.

On July 25, 1923, I shot a pair of Hermit Thrushes in eastern Humboldt County, at the forks of the Van Duzen River, 8 miles east of Bridgeport and many more miles east of the eastern limits of the redwood growth. The birds were among Douglas firs in a north-facing shaded ravine. Even so, the light-intensity to my senses was far greater there than it was in the redwood forest where I had gotten the other thrushes five days previously. These upper Van Duzen River thrushes (nos. 43988-89, Mus. Vert. Zool.) are, like Mailliard's Eel River examples, *slevini*, showing the racial characters of small size and pale coloration. This pallor consists in not only less deeply and dully brown upper surface but in paler toned and more restricted dusky spotting on chest and in paler shading along sides. This distributional state of affairs with regard to the race *slevini* was rather to be expected from the fact that this subspecies had already been recorded from two points not far east of the Humboldt County line by Miss Louise Kellogg (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 12, 1916, p. 388).

The point that should come out clearly from the above statements is that the breeding Hermit Thrushes of the dense redwood forests near the seacoast in Humboldt County are subspecifically different from those of places farther inland in the same and other counties and in the coast counties to the southward. The subspecies of the Humboldt redwoods is by appearance to be referred to *Hylocichla guttata guttata*, even though separated from the metropolis of that race by the intervening *H. g. nanus*.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, October 22, 1923.*

Notes from Southern and Lower California.—*Sula brewsteri*. Brewster Booby. A female specimen of this species was recently presented to the Natural History Museum, San Diego, by Dr. Van Wort, who collected the bird on August 7, one mile off the east shore of East San Benito Island, Lower California, Mexico. This constitutes the northernmost record of the species on the west coast of the Peninsula.

Lophodytes cucullatus. Hooded Merganser. Records of this bird from San Diego County are few and the following occurrence may be of interest. An adult female was collected by Charles Gordon at Warner's Hot Springs, November 15, 1922, and is now mounted in the Museum.

Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis. Rough-legged Hawk. On January 26, 1921, a male specimen of this species was collected by the writer at the Fanita Ranch, three miles west of Santee, San Diego County. On November 15, 1922, a Rough-legged Hawk was collected near the road in the eastern arm of Warner's Valley, San Diego County. Upon preparing the specimen the crop and stomach were found to contain an adult female pocket gopher (*Thomomys*) and six grasshoppers, recently captured. The after parts of the gopher, from the thorax back, with the six grasshoppers were found in the stomach, while the head and shoulders of the gopher remained in the crop. The victim had apparently been torn in two and swallowed in two gulps. Both hawks are in the collection of Laurence M. Huey.

Near the southern end of Warner's Valley, at the junction of the Palomar Road, another Rough-legged Hawk was seen on November 15, 1922, perched in the top of a dead tree. I pursued the bird, but was unsuccessful in approaching, as there was not sufficient cover for concealment. The bird flushed at about a hundred yards and the following excerpt from my notebook gives a description of the flight: "On taking wing the hawk gave a wonderful exhibition of flight, standing still high in the air, with quivering pinions, like a boy's kite, for minutes at a time; then, swooping toward the ground at some imaginary prey, it would ascend again for a minute or so to peer about."

A Rough-legged Hawk was observed and positively identified near Santee on December 24, 1922, by a party composed of C. G. Abbott, A. W. Anthony and the writer. This individual was recorded in Bird-Lore's Twenty-third Christmas Census. Otherwise this species has not before been recorded south of Ventura County.

Archibuteo ferrugineus. Ferruginous Rough-leg. Recent records of this species visiting southern California seem lacking, so the following occurrences in San Diego County seem worthy of note. A male taken by the writer at Jamacha, December 27, 1917. In the Huey Collection. A specimen taken by John R. Burnham, one mile north of Warner's Hot Springs, November 27, 1921. In collection of Natural History Museum, San Diego. A specimen taken by S. C. Sandford, in Viejas Valley, January 4, 1923. In collection of Natural History Museum, San Diego. An individual