

generally gray coloration and dark back and crown (dark gray or blackish but not black), its pointed, dark bill, yellow legs, white forehead, throat and under parts, and its rather short neck, satisfied me beyond any doubt as to its identity. The flight was slow and labored, as one would expect in a heron.

From such literature as I have been able to consult this appears to be an extension northwardly of the reported mid-winter occurrence of this species in California.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, January 28, 1924.*

Notes on Certain Horned Larks in California.—*Otocoris alpestris insularis*: The Island Horned Lark may not be such a casual visitor to the mainland of California as the present single record from the coast of Los Angeles County would indicate (Pac. Coast Avif., no. 11, 1915, p. 96). There are two specimens of this form in the Dickey collection, a male (no. CX 45), taken at Goleta, Santa Barbara County, November 26, 1915, and another male (no. K 534), taken on the sand dunes near Oxnard, Ventura County, August 22, 1922. The possibility of these birds being extreme examples of *Otocoris alpestris actia* has been considered, but they match island specimens of *Otocoris alpestris insularis* so perfectly as to convince the writers that they may safely be referred to that form. In both instances the birds were taken on the sand dunes, just back of the beach. It would be interesting to determine whether the form ever wanders inland, or whether it is confined to the littoral association. On the Santa Barbara Islands, the race is found almost exclusively on upland pasture lands. One would expect the birds to seek a similar habitat on the mainland during their fall and winter wanderings, but present evidence seems to negate this expectation.

Otocoris alpestris merrilli: A male horned lark (no. J 1831), taken at Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, December 31, 1921, is apparently of this race. It is perfectly matched by two birds from western Idaho, and is therefore quite distinct from *Otocoris alpestris sierrae*, examples of which were at one time referred to *Otocoris alpestris merrilli*. There is no topographic barrier to prevent *merrilli* from coming south to Buena Vista Lake through the great interior valley of California. Dr. Grinnell has recently found the race in abundance in the Sacramento Valley (CONDOR, XXV, 1923, p. 172). It will therefore probably be found to winter regularly south to the southern extremity of the San Joaquin Valley.

Otocoris alpestris enthymia: Several horned larks in the recently acquired Howell collection were so at variance with our extensive series of the forms of *alpestris* known to occur in California, that we finally submitted the birds to Dr. Oberholser for identification. He pronounced them *Otocoris alpestris enthymia*. Two more birds have been collected during the past year. These fall so naturally with the specimens examined by him that they are here incorporated under the same name. The data relating to the individual specimens, which are now in the Dickey collection, are as follows, it being noted that all captures were made in the desert area, east of the coastal drainage:

- No. 8628, ♀, Fort Yuma, Imperial Co., Jan. 29, 1913.
- No. 10037, ♂, shore of Salton Sea, Imperial Co., Feb. 1, 1913.
- No. 11931, ♂, Newberry Springs, San Bernardino Co., Dec. 8, 1917.
- No. 12509, ♂, Kane Spring, Imperial Co., Jan. 13, 1923.
- No. 12510, ♂, Kane Spring, Imperial Co., Jan. 13, 1923.

It has been suggested that these birds might be intergrades between certain races inhabiting areas more nearly adjacent to the stations of capture, thus merely paralleling *enthymia*, instead of representing that race. However, the characters exhibited by these birds are such as to apparently preclude the possibility of accepting this hypothesis, and to force, instead, the recording of *Otocoris alpestris enthymia* as a winter visitant to California.—DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, February 4, 1924.*

Unusual Bird Nesting Records for Southwest Saskatchewan.—In a paper that appeared in the May-June, 1923, issue of the CONDOR I was pleased to be able to record the first appearance in this corner of Saskatchewan of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) in July, 1922. At the same time, I ventured to predict that before long we might see this species here again. Mr. Spencer Pearse, a neighboring rancher, tells me that last May (1923) a pair of Bluebirds appeared at his ranch. His natural hope that they would remain to nest in the spot was not fulfilled, as the birds departed after a couple of days' stay.