

odd-plumage phases of difficult species. Applying these ideas, I believe Betts' record is good. I discussed it with him at the time.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, November 13, 1924.*

The California State Bird List at the End of 1924.—In 1868 the first catalog of the birds of California was published (see Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 11, 1915, p. 5), and in it were given 353 species. In 1892, a total of 445 species and subspecies had been credited to the state. In 1902, 491 were listed; in 1912, 530; in 1915, 541. In 1919, a list of additions (see Condor, XXI, p. 41) brought the total up to 564. A similar chronicle toward the end of 1921 (see Condor, XXIII, p. 195) showed that the total known avifauna of the state then comprised 576 species and subspecies. It is the purpose of the present note to summarize the situation as it was at the end of 1924, taking into account all the proposals, published and of which I am aware, of both eliminations and additions, supplementary to the previous summaries. The following are the names and citations which appear to merit inclusion in the present connection. Of course mere changes in names have no place here; only a proposed subtraction or addition of a "concept" of a species or subspecies is entered.

ELIMINATIONS

1. *Anas rubripes* Brewster. Black Duck. (See Phillips, Nat. Hist. Ducks, II, 1923, p. 72.)
2. *Nettion crecca* (Linnaeus). European Teal. (See Phillips, Nat. Hist. Ducks, II, 1923, p. 217.)
3. *Carpodacus mexicanus clementis* Mearns. San Clemente House Finch. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., I, 1923, p. 213.)
4. *Melospiza melodia phaea* Fisher. Oregon Song Sparrow. (See Swarth, Condor, XXV, 1923, p. 218.)
5. *Salpinctes obsoletus pulverius* Grinnell. San Nicolas Rock Wren. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., II, 1923, p. 683.)
6. *Chamaea fasciata rufula* Ridgway. Ruddy Wren-Tit. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., II, 1923, p. 822.)

ADDITIONS

1. *Larus leucopterus* Faber. Iceland Gull. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Auk, XXXIX, July, 1922, p. 411.)
2. *Anas diazi novimexicana* Huber. New Mexican Duck. (See Phillips, Nat. Hist. Ducks, II, 1923, p. 58.)
3. *Guara alba* (Linnaeus). White Ibis. (See Lincoln, Condor, XXV, September, 1923, p. 181.)
4. *Rallus yumanensis* Dickey. Yuma Clapper Rail. (See Dickey, Auk, XL, January, 1923, p. 90.)
5. *Pisobia aurita* [= *Pisobia acuminata* (Horsfield)]. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. (See Anthony, Auk, XXXIX, January, 1922, p. 106.)
6. *Tringa solitaria solitaria* Wilson. Eastern Solitary Sandpiper. (See Brooks, Condor, XXVI, 1924, p. 38.)
7. *Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieillot). Buff-breasted Sandpiper. (See Brooks, Condor, XXVI, 1924, p. 37.)
8. *Charadrius dubius curonicus* Gmelin. Little Ringed Plover. (See Oberholser, Auk, XXXVI, October, 1919, p. 559.)
9. *Arenaria interpres interpres* (Linnaeus) [in addition to *A. i. morinella*]. Common Turnstone. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., III, 1923, p. 1337.)
10. *Oreortyx picta confinis* Anthony. San Pedro Mountain Quail. (See Oberholser, Auk, XL, January, 1923, p. 84.)
11. *Dendragapus obscurus howardi* Dickey and van Rossem. Mount Pinos Grouse. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Condor, XXV, September, 1923, p. 168.)
12. *Accipiter cooperi mexicanus* Swainson [as separable from *A. c. cooperi*]. Mexican Cooper Hawk. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., IV, 1923, p. 1664.)
13. *Myiarchus magister magister* Ridgway. Arizona Crested Flycatcher. (See Dickey, Condor, XXIV, July, 1922, p. 134.)
14. *Otocoris alpestris enthymia* Oberholser. Saskatchewan Horned Lark. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Condor, XXVI, May, 1924, p. 110.)
15. *Molothrus ater californicus* Dickey and van Rossem. California Cowbird. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Condor, XXIV, November [December 19], 1922, p. 208.)

16. *Junco hyemalis connectens* Coues. Cassiar Junco. (See Grinnell, Condor, xxv, September, 1923, p. 175.)
17. *Junco oreganus shufeldti* Coale. Shufeldt Junco. (See Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., I, 1901, p. 286; Grinnell, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, xiii, 1923, p. 91.)
18. *Aimophila ruficeps canescens* Todd. Ashy Rufous-crowned Sparrow. (See Todd, Condor, xxiv, July, 1922, p. 126.)
19. *Aimophila obscura* Dickey and van Rossem. Santa Cruz Island Rufous-crowned Sparrow. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Condor, xxv, July, 1923, p. 128.)
20. *Melospiza georgiana* (Latham). Swamp Sparrow. (See Dickey, Condor, xxiv, July, 1922, p. 136.)
21. *Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi* Ridgway. San Clemente Island Shrike. (See Oberholser, Auk, xxxix, January, 1922, p. 76.)
22. *Dendroica auduboni memorabilis* Oberholser. Rocky Mountain Audubon Warbler. (See Oberholser, Ohio Journ. Sci., xxi, May [June 6], 1921, p. 243.)
23. *Corthylio* [that is, *Regulus*] *calendula calendula* (Linnaeus). Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., II, 1923, p. 801.)
24. *Planesticus migratorius caurinus* Grinnell. Northwestern Robin. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., II, 1923, p. 760.)

Figuring in the six eliminations and 24 additions listed above, on the basis of the total of 576 which was the summarized figure in 1921, we have 594 as the grand total on the California state list of birds at the end of 1924. And still we are at least 10 behind Texas! (See Oberholser, Condor, xix, 1917, p. 68.)

I wish it understood clearly that no approval or sanction is hereby implied of all of the above, or of the previously listed, proposals. Indeed, in a number of the cases it is my private belief that the grounds of the proposal were inadequate. My personal opinion or "hunch", however, nor that of anyone else, should never be seriously offered in substantiation or refutation of any formal proposal, *unless backed up by a thorough-going review of the case* and a setting forth of the facts and inferences in clear, published form so that they can be reviewed and separately appraised by anyone else.

We badly need a great deal of conscientious revisionary work, both systematic and faunistic. We need numerous concise studies, based upon careful, leisurely scrutiny of adequate material, before the status of many of the birds now ascribed to California can be safely considered final. As recent good examples of the revisionary type of work now needed I would cite van Rossem's "Survey of the Song Sparrows of the Santa Barbara Islands" (Condor, xxvi, p. 217) and Swarth's "Systematic Status of some Northwestern Song Sparrows" (Condor, xxv, p. 214). The fact that these two examples relate to song sparrows has no special significance! Species and races in many other groups require similar looking into, such as the juncos, marsh sparrows, red-winged blackbirds, wren-tits, ruby-crowned kinglets, robins, poor-wills, mountain quail, pigeon hawks, and certain gulls.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 31, 1925.*

Macgillivray Warbler in Southern California in Winter.—On December 15, 1924, at Sycamore Grove Park, in Los Angeles, I had an individual of this species (*Oporornis tolmiei*) under observation, through 8-power glasses, for several minutes. It was flitting in and out of the shrubbery that lines a ditch and our party were on a little bridge just above. I noted the beautiful lemon yellow of the underparts contrasted sharply with the gray neck and head. The broken, white eye-ring was noted, too. Other members of our bird club report seeing one at the same place later in the day and again on January 8, 1925.—HELEN P. EVERHART, *Pasadena, California, January 23, 1925.*

A Pigeon-catching Red-tail.—Late in December last, a deputy from the Los Angeles County Game Warden's office reported that a large dark hawk had frequently been seen chasing pigeons about the Court House, in one of the busiest parts of Los Angeles; that several people had seen it actually catch pigeons in the air, and that it ate its victims while perched on the tower of the building or on the head of the Goddess of Justice, one of the ornamental statues. It had also been noted while evidently trying to catch something, probably a young pigeon or a cornered adult, that had found refuge, out of reach but not out of sight, in a recess beside the roof gutter of the building. Finally, on January 13, after considerable newspaper publicity, the hawk