

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar to *Euthlypis lachrymosa lachrymosa* Cabanis, but dorsally clearer, purer slate color, particularly on rump and upper tail coverts; remiges and rectrices darker slate, sometimes slate-black; under parts with yellow of throat and abdomen more extensive and brighter (more lemon, less tawny) yellow, and in much more decided contrast to tawny of breast.

*Range.*—Pacific coast of Central America from Chiapas (?) south to Salvador and probably to Ometepe, Nicaragua.

*Remarks.*—*Schistacea* is the clear slaty extreme of the species, with contrasted under parts; *lachrymosa* occupies an intermediate position in characters as well as geographically; while *tephra* is the palest, most olivaceous race, with under parts least contrasted. The supposed slight differences in size between *lachrymosa* and *tephra* seem to be too intangible to have any diagnostic value in the series examined. The Guererro specimen is not typical of any race, but seems nearest to *lachrymosa*.

*Specimens examined.*—*Euthlypis lachrymosa lachrymosa*: Mexico: Vera Cruz: Motzorango, 1; Orizaba, 1; Mirador, 1; Oaxaca: Pluma, 1; Guerrero: Acahuizotla, 1; Tamaulipas: Santa Leonor, 1. *Euthlypis lachrymosa tephra*: Sinaloa: Mazatlan, 1; Rio Mazatlan, 1; Chihuahua: Hacienda San Rafael, 7; Jalisco: Barranca Ibarra, 2. *Euthlypis lachrymosa schistacea*: Salvador: Volcan Conchagua, 4; Volcan San Miguel, 2; Colinas de Jucuaran, 5; Lake Olomega, 5; Volcan Sociedad, 4; Mt. Cacaguatique, 7; Guatemala: Barranco Hondo, 1; Mexico: Chiapas: Tuxtla, 2 (not typical).

We are indebted to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Field Museum, the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, and to the United States National Museum, for the loan of necessary comparison material.—DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, Pasadena, California, August 28, 1926.

**Observations in the San Francisco Bay Region.**—During the past spring for the first time I had an opportunity to study and collect birds about San Francisco Bay. On April 28, 1926, while on the tide flats at Albany, Alameda County, I collected a Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*), and the next day, about a mile north of this point, I secured another. Both of these birds were males and they were in company with Bonaparte Gulls. Although many trips were made to these tide flats these were the only Sabine Gulls seen. Dr. Grinnell advises me that this gull is of uncommon occurrence in this region.

On April 29, I secured a male Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), this being the only bird of this species observed. Shore-birds, especially Western Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers, were fairly numerous during the latter half of April. Hudsonian Curlews, Red-backed Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plover were common also. The birds appeared to be at the height of their migration between the 20th and 25th of April. After that their numbers diminished rapidly, and by the end of the first week of May only a few were to be seen on the tide flats.

April 17 to 20 was spent at the ocean beach a short distance north of Point Reyes, Marin County. The beach at this place is very sandy, the sand extending far back from the shore. Here the first shore bird I met with was the Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*). Flocks of them were feeding along the beach close to the water. As each wave receded they would run in close pursuit of it, hurriedly picking here and there at the food particles that it left on the sand. As the next wave advanced they ran up the beach just ahead of it, lingering as long as possible without being engulfed by it.

I also found the Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) here, and on April 19 was so fortunate as to find a nest of this species containing three eggs. The eggs were deposited in a slight depression in the sand, close to a small piece of driftwood and about 200 yards from the water. I am reliably informed that this is the first nesting record of the Snowy Plover for this vicinity.

About a mile from my camp here I found a colony of Tri-colored Blackbirds (*Agelaius tricolor*) building their nests in a dense growth of raspberry brush. None of the nests was completed at that time.—E. J. BOOTH, Bellingham, Washington, September 1, 1926.

**Weasel and Birds.**—Recently, while walking along a foothill road within the city limits of Riverside, my path was suddenly crossed by a California Weasel (*Mustela xanthogenys*) running at a rapid pace. Closely pursuing it in the air were a female

Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica vallicola*) and an English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The birds, seemingly in close coöperation, chased the weasel across a weed-covered city lot, across a street and up to a garden wall, where they were frightened by the sight of a negro beating rugs on a lawn. It certainly seemed strange to see birds of such different type and temperament combining their efforts against their mustelid foe. The quail may have had a clutch of eggs on the ground or young to protect, but why was the English Sparrow interested?—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside Junior College, Riverside, California, August 26, 1926.*

**A Three-cornered Fight.**—I was camping in a pine forest not many miles from Reserve, New Mexico, accompanied by a small English terrier. In front of my tent stood a large dead pine, near the top of which there were a number of holes, evidently the homes of four pairs of Ant-eating Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora aculeata*). A gray, tassel-eared squirrel came scampering along, and was at once spied by the dog, which gave chase. The squirrel ran up the dead tree mentioned above, to be instantly assailed by the Woodpeckers. Their constant cries and their sharp bills made things so uncomfortable for the squirrel that it ran down the tree to within a few feet of the dog, who sent him scampering to the top again with his eight antagonists constantly flaying him.

About this time there was a swish of wings, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) darted like a streak among the Woodpeckers. For an instant it seemed that one of them was doomed, but by a small margin it managed to escape, and in an instant they had all darted to cover among the green boughs of surrounding trees. All was quiet for a few brief seconds, when the Woodpeckers returned to the attack, except one which perched on the topmost bough of a near-by tree, as guard or lookout, watching for the hawk. The other seven took up the fight with the squirrel.

In a few minutes the hawk again appeared on the scene, the guard gave a shrill call of warning, and all the Woodpeckers were under cover before their enemy could reach them. The hawk, then, finding the birds on their guard, left and did not return. The terrier soon abandoned the tree, and the squirrel hurried down and scampered away; the Woodpeckers quickly quieted down and went peacefully about their home affairs. I believe that the birds recognized in the squirrel a danger to their eggs or young.—ED. S. STEELE, *Reserve, New Mexico, August 28, 1926.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

**THE OTTAWA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.**—The first meeting of the A. O. U. ever held outside of the United States convened October 12-14 in Ottawa. Despite its being held on "foreign" soil, this meeting proved to be almost the best ever held, in point of total attendance as well as in general interest manifested. This development showed the extreme cordiality of feeling which obtains between the two countries, as evidenced in part by the wonderfully warm reception accorded by the Canadians, in part by the large measure of attendance from all parts of the United States.

The Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa served as headquarters for the meeting. Here thoroughly comfortable rooms were available for the daily sessions; and the elegant Chateau Laurier provided for

the social features. The thoroughness with which local arrangements had been worked out set a new standard. And for this success the local committee in charge, Mr. Hoyes Lloyd as secretary, should be accorded full credit.

The upwards of 200 in attendance included more far-westerners by double than heretofore in the history of the Union. Evidently westerners thought of Ottawa as really a western point of meeting, as compared with the usual Atlantic coast cities. One of the original founders of the Union was present, Mr. Chas. F. Batchelder of Cambridge. An Antipodean delegate it was a pleasure to meet was Mr. W. B. Alexander, until lately Editor of the Australian *Emu*. There were naturally many others in attendance for the first time, from the various Canadian provinces.