

titles covering the subject, as nearly complete as possible. I hereby invite assistance: clues as regards references in rare publications; information as to the basis of records, old or recent, where these are open to query, such as from known or suspected misidentification; and new information (localities, dates, and accurate determinations) based upon specimens or collections never published upon.

In this latter connection, there has been much collecting in Lower California and subsequent wide distribution of bird-skins, some of them very likely to furnish valuable facts of seasonal or local occurrence. All such facts should be at hand in order to make the proposed list as thoroughly inclusive as is possible at this stage in the growth of the ornithology of that interesting peninsula. I take this opportunity to thank certain students who already have furnished valuable information along one or another of the above lines, as follows: Messrs. O. Bangs, L. B. Bishop, D. R. Dickey, J. H. Fleming, C. W. Richmond, H. S. Swarth, J. E. Thayer, and A. J. van Rossem.

It may be of interest to some of my readers to know that, up to the present time (November 15, 1926), the Lower California bird list numbers 498 species and subspecies, though almost certainly a number of these will eventually have to be dropped into a "hypothetical list" (as being based on misidentification or upon mis-statement of locality). The number of titles in my Lower California bibliography now totals no less than 334.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, November 15, 1926.*

The Painted Redstart as a California Bird.—On October 28, 1926, Mr. Russell Hubricht described to me a bird that he had seen in Los Angeles that he could identify only as the Painted Redstart (*Setophaga picta*). At Mr. Hubricht's invitation, I visited the locality with him and had an excellent opportunity to study the bird at close range for some time.

I see no chance for doubt as to its identity and am ready to endorse unreservedly Mr. Hubricht's identification. I met this species in Arizona some years ago and have studied its more northern relative, the American Redstart, in the east and middle west. The actions, the size, the pattern, and the tones of coloration all check perfectly with the bird as seen in the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona. Especially fortunate were we in seeing the "fan-tail" act of the redstart, as it spread the tail and drooped the wings, while the body feathers were slightly elevated. This act is most advantageous in showing the white patches of wing, tail and shoulders, while the deep blood red of the ventral surface becomes evident as the bird turns about.

This individual seems to have taken station in a particular group of trees in one of the city parks, and it has been seen in this spot for five or six days passed. The Arizona range of the species is separated by a considerable barrier of desert from this California station, and the lines of migration along which it travels cannot pass very near. This appears to be a case of straggling that is more pronounced than that of the desert-inhabiting Vermilion Flycatcher or of the more northward ranging Eastern Kingbird, both of which species have been recorded from the San Diego region.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California, Southern Branch, Los Angeles, November 1, 1926.*

Some Incidents in the Life of a Screech Owl.—In previous issues of THE CONDOR (XXIII, 1921, pp. 97-98, XXVII, 1925, pp. 35-36) I have recorded my observations upon *Otus asio quercinus* as a breeding bird in this locality, and I told of the banding of one adult and four young on May 18, 1924. The adult received band number 226,191, and it is now possible to trace this bird through two more nesting seasons.

About March 1, 1925, I made a nest box, about 4"x4"x12" in size, with a circular entrance near the top, and a sloping, hinged lid, and I put it about fifteen feet from the ground in a tree about one hundred feet from the tree where the owls had nested the two previous seasons. On March 29, number 226,191 was in this box, and on April 5 she was there again, with two eggs. Fearing that she would leave if disturbed too often, I have only the following observations to offer: April 8, there were three eggs; April 12, four eggs; and April 19, five eggs; indicating a rather long period of laying, at least eight days being required to lay the last three eggs. On May 8, two of the eggs had hatched, indicating an incubation period of thirty days or more. On May 24, I banded four young, giving them numbers 226,196 to 226,199, inclusive. I do not know what became of the fifth egg; no trace of it was in the nest when the young were banded. By June 21, all of these young were out of the nest, but they were still being fed by the adults.

On March 14, 1926, number 226,191 was in the box again and was taken out so the number could be read. Then the box was visited several times without finding her there, and I had about decided that she had nested elsewhere when, on April 28, I found that she was in the box with five eggs. On May 8 there were six eggs; May 24, four of them had hatched; and on June 8, six young were banded, receiving numbers 367341-42-43-45-46-47. Two of these young left the nest June 20, two were still there June 23, and one was still in the nest June 28. After leaving the nest they remained in the locality for a while as a family group, being fed by the adults. But before long they drifted away to unknown hunting grounds. On September 7, 1926, number 226,191 was found dead, about one hundred feet from the nest box. She had been dead so long that there was no clew to the cause of death.

I have no data as yet on what has become of the fourteen young of number 226,191, banded during the three seasons. There are Screech Owls here, as they have been heard at night lately, and very probably another one will fill the place of number 226,191 when nesting time comes again. Will it be one of her children?—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, Buena Park, California, October 18, 1926.

The Meeting Place of the California and White-rumped Shrikes.—Intergradation is part of the definition of subspecies, and it has been generally assumed that in the region between the habitats of two subspecies of the same species the birds breeding must be intergrades, possessing to a greater or less degree the characters of each, and that this is true wherever two races come together in the breeding season. Doubtless this is true of some races everywhere and doubtless equally true of all at certain points where their summer ranges intersect; but it assuredly is not true of all species at all points of their juxtaposition. Thus Mr. Ridgway has recently shown in a very interesting paper, in *Bird-Lore* for September, 1925 (xxvii, p. 305), that in several species two races occupy the same territory near his home in Mount Carmel, Illinois; and I have found the same to obtain with certain species in North Dakota.

But very few studies seem to have been made by collecting birds breeding in a region where two subspecies closely approach, so I was especially anxious to learn how the two common shrikes of California, the White-rumped (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*) of the Imperial and Coachella valleys and the California (*L. l. gambeli*) of the coast belt and most of the rest of the state, acted where their habitats approached. So, as opportunity offered, I have collected birds from this twilight zone, where intermediates would be expected. But such I have failed to find; either the ranges of the two were separated by territory apparently destitute of shrikes, or both occurred in typical form breeding in the same region, except in one locality, and even there breeding birds could easily be allocated to one race or the other.

The White-rumped Shrike, breeding abundantly in the low and hot Imperial Valley, I have found breeding as far west as Dixieland, thirteen miles west of El Centro, taking a female that had laid, and small young, on April 4, 1922 (nos. 34287-9); and I have no doubt this race occurs for a few miles farther west to where the escarpment rises rapidly to the San Diego mountains. In the forty miles between there and Potrero in the uplands I have seen no shrikes, but collected at Potrero a typical male breeding California on April 4, 1922 (no. 34305), a few hours after I had taken the White-rumped at Dixieland. Still farther west, both races may be found in winter, as the late Mr. Henry W. Marsden collected typical examples of both for me at Witch Creek in the winters of 1903, 1904 and 1907 (nos. 10234-5, 17259, 17261).

Northward from the Imperial through the Coachella Valley the White-rumped breeds commonly to Palm Springs, Riverside County, where I collected a breeding male and set of eggs on March 16, 1917 (no. 29833). Through the coast country, west of the divide, the California also breeds commonly, and at San Gorgonio Pass extends some miles to the desert side, where at Cabezon and Fingal I collected breeding males on April 7, 1919 (no. 31926) and March 21, 1921 (no. 34298). In the twenty miles

¹ By "typical" I refer in this paper in the case of the California Shrike to the bird of the coast region of California from Monterey southward to the Mexican border, without entering into the question whether this is the true *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* of Ridgway; and with the White-rumped, to the bird of the vast territory from North Dakota south to southern Texas and northern Mexico and west to eastern California, though my two specimens of the species from Alberta and Manitoba so closely resemble the race known as *L. l. migrans* as to raise a doubt whether the subspecific appellations of these races are properly applied.