

A New Chipping Sparrow from Central America.—Study of a series of Chipping Sparrows obtained in El Salvador in 1927, shows that the birds from the Pacific slope are distinct not only from those of the Atlantic side, but from those of southern Mexico as well. This new race we name and characterize as follows.

Spizella passerina cicada, subsp. nov. Salvador Chipping Sparrow.

Type.—Male adult; no. 18,618, collection of Donald R. Dickey; San José del Sacare, Dept. Chalatenango, El Salvador; altitude 3,600 feet; March 16, 1927; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original no. 11,484.

Subspecific characters.—Of the comparatively large-billed *mexicana-pinetorum* series. Very much darker than *Spizella passerina mexicana* Nelson. In general, of the same relative darkness as *Spizella passerina pinetorum* Salvin, but gray of rump and hindneck slightly paler and with the conspicuous blackish nuchal markings of that form represented only by short broken streaks on lateral parts of hindneck; reddish crown cap slightly paler ("burnt sienna" instead of dark chestnut) and extending backwards onto occipital region and nape instead of being confined to pileum; gray of underparts slightly darker; back, scapulars and edging of wing feathers more richly colored than in any known form of *Spizella passerina*, with comparatively broad rufous or "cinnamon-rufous" areas between the black shaft streaks and the paler edgings.

Range.—Pine regions along the Pacific slope of the Cordillera in El Salvador.

Remarks.—The new race marks the southern limit attained by the species, and furthermore constitutes an apparently isolated colony; for *pinetorum* is known only from the Atlantic slope of British Honduras, Guatemala and Honduras, and *mexicana* has not been detected south of north-central Guatemala.

At San José del Sacare, the only station where it was found, the species was common, and in certain favored pine woods areas the chirring of the males was one of the most frequent sounds during the hotter hours of the day.

Specimens examined.—*Spizella passerina mexicana*: Series from southern Mexico, including the type, in Biological Survey collection, U. S. National Museum. *Spizella passerina pinetorum*: British Honduras: Sittee River, 3; Manatee District, 1 (Bangs collection). *Spizella pinetorum cicada*: El Salvador: Los Eses miles, 13.—DONALD R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, July 31, 1928.*

Banded Pintail Recovered in British Honduras.—The occurrence of the Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*) in the regions contiguous to the Caribbean Sea is sufficiently unusual to warrant special record, while the capture in this region of a banded individual is of exceptional interest and importance. It should be borne in mind that the normal winter range of this duck rarely extends south of the Valley of Mexico, although the species has been taken or observed as far south as Jamaica and Panama.

During September, 1927, Mr. Charles C. Sperry, of the Biological Survey, while investigating duck sickness in the vicinity of Klamath Lake, Oregon, banded about seventy Pintails, several returns from which were reported before the close of the shooting season. With one exception, the points of recovery were in Oregon and California, the most southern being a bird killed at Buena Vista Lake, California, on November 22.

At least one, however, made a remarkable flight, as number 227609, a drake, banded on September 5, near Keno, Oregon, was killed on December 23, 1927, near Belize, British Honduras, by Mr. Percy Dyer, who reported the capture to the Biological Survey. The record is of peculiar interest since the bird was banded within a relatively short distance of the Pacific coast and was retaken three months and seventeen days later, on the Atlantic coast. The direct air-line distance between the two points, is between 2,800 and 2,900 miles, while the distance actually covered in flight by this duck must have been considerably greater.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., August 28, 1928.*

A Bush-tit's Nest on a Pedestal.—The accompanying illustration shows a corner of the grounds between the Steinhart Aquarium and the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences. The enclosure at the right surrounds a tank occupied by living

¹Colors in quotation marks are those of Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912.

fur seals. On the corner post will be noticed a small potted shrub, one of many that from time to time have been placed upon these supports. During spring of the present year (1928) a pair of Bush-tits (*Psaltriparus minimus minimus*) built a nest in the center of this little bush between the upright stalks, and they successfully reared a brood of young therein. The young were in the nest at the time that the photograph here shown was taken. The nest was known to the Aquarium attendants, and when the time came for removal of this lot of plants, for replacement by others, the bush-tit's shrub was left untouched and alone, as shown in the picture, until the young had flown.

It is hard to understand in what respect this peculiar nesting site had any advantage whatever over such as would be provided by the numerous trees and bushes to be found on all sides near by; and the disadvantageous publicity of the site might be thought to be an overwhelming detriment. The nest was well hidden, and, despite its



Fig. 96. THE EXPOSED SHRUB ON THE CORNER POST CONCEALS AN OCCUPIED BUSH-TITS' NEST. PHOTO TAKEN AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 26, 1928.

exposed position, it may be doubted whether it was seen by a single one of the hundreds of visitors that crowded about it daily, engrossed as was their attention by the seals in the water below.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, September 11, 1928.*

Record Sets of Eggs of California Raptores.—In the CONDOR (xxx, 1928, p. 250) Milton S. Ray describes several record sets of eggs of this order. I submit herewith further data along this line, surpassing even the records submitted by Mr. Ray.

Under date of March 17, 1928, Mr. H. W. Carriger, Mr. L. Stevens and the writer took what is believed to be the world's record set of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), a beautifully marked clutch of five eggs. They were deposited in a nest which had been built the year previous and in which two young had been raised. The bird covered the eggs until we were within a very few feet of the nest which was placed in an absurdly small white oak not over twenty feet from the ground.

Upon blowing the set, one egg was found to be badly addled while the other four were fairly evenly incubated, probably less than a week along. The most sparingly