

In commenting on the peculiarities of this bird, Mr. Hartley says that it was utterly indifferent to man and apparently had no fear of anyone. Its system of fishing was to fly low over the water and as soon as it located its meal to fall head first after it into the water. Frequently it lit on the levees within a few feet of him, and on several occasions he was able to pick the bird up and carry it about. But if not in the mood for such demonstrations of affection, it did not hesitate to prod him with its long, sharp bill.

The residents of the vicinity developed quite an affection and admiration for their strange visitor because of its independence and indifference, and it was with regret that they noted its disappearance ten days later. With the opening of the hunting season at this time, either it was frightened away or was killed. The latter fate is suspected as the remains of a bird similar in appearance were found on the shore some weeks later.—MRS. BEN L. CLARY, *Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella, California, March 6, 1930.*

**The Dotterel and other Birds from Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska.**—The last collection of birds made by the representative of The Chicago Academy of Sciences at Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, A. Nagozruk, during the summer of 1929, included several interesting specimens. Nagozruk was the field assistant of the undersigned during the spring of 1922, and since that time he has made valuable collections each season. The skins are first salted, and then are made into study material in the laboratory.

The present collection includes two specimens of the European Dotterel (*Eudromias morinellus*), which are the first records for continental North America. The Dotterel is included in the A. O. U. check-list on the basis of a single specimen taken on King Island, Bering Sea, July 23, 1897. Two other specimens for which I can find no Alaskan records are the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus*) and the Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*). These birds were far from their beaten paths, and their occurrence at Wales seems more strange than that of the Dotterel. Swarth records a single Northern Red-wing from Kispiox Valley, northern British Columbia (Birds and Mammals of the Skeena River Region of Northern British Columbia, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 24, 1924, p. 348) which was, until the taking of the Wales specimen, "an extreme northwestern point of record for the species." If one cares to glance at a map, he will see that it is a long flight from Kispiox Valley to Cape Prince of Wales.

In addition to the above, there were three Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominicus dominicus*), all others I have seen from Cape Prince of Wales being *Pluvialis dominicus fulvus*. There were a Pallid Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris arctica*), a second record from Wales, a Scaup Duck (*Nyroca marila nearctica*), and an exceptionally fine plumaged Green-throated Loon (*Gavia viridigularis*). In years past, I have received several of the latter. The specimens, with their Chicago Academy of Sciences catalogue numbers, are as follows:

2228	Green-throated Loon	June 18, 1929
2237	Dotterel	June 15, 1929
2238	Dotterel	June 19, 1929
2239	Northern Red-wing	June 6, 1929
2240	Purple Martin	June 3, 1929
2241	Pallid Horned Lark	June 6, 1929
2245	Golden Plover	June 1, 1929
2246	Golden Plover	June 1, 1929
2247	Golden Plover	June 3, 1929
2289	Scaup Duck	June 25, 1929

I am indebted to Mr. Outram Bangs and Mr. James L. Peters for examining the above specimens and comparing them with specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. In addition to the specimens listed, there were several Pintail Ducks and a Golden-eye which are being studied by Dr. H. C. Oberholser.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois, February 1, 1930.*

**New Records of Horned Larks from Southern California.**—On December 21, 1927, Granville P. Ashcroft collected an adult female specimen of Merrill Horned Lark

(*Otocoris alpestris merrilli*), at Kane Springs, Imperial County, California; orig. no. 135, now no. 42004, collection of Louis B. Bishop.

On November 12, 1928, I secured, with a single shot, an adult male Merrill Horned Lark, orig. no. 281, now no. 43772, collection of Louis B. Bishop, and an adult male Saskatchewan Horned Lark (*Otocoris a. enthymia*), orig. no. 282, now no. 43771, collection of Louis B. Bishop; four miles southeast of Rosamond, Los Angeles County, California. I am indebted to Dr. Louis B. Bishop for the identifications of the specimens.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California, February 10, 1930.*

**A New Race of Red-winged Blackbird from Costa Rica.**—The identity of the red-winged blackbirds breeding in northwestern Costa Rica has always been a matter of uncertainty. Carriker (*Birds of Costa Rica*, 1910, p. 826) tentatively assigned them to *sonoriensis*, but only provisionally, for no females were then available. During the past year Mr. Austin Smith, the well known collector of Costa Rica birds, made a special effort to secure a representative lot of red-wings and as a result he sent to the Dickey collection at the California Institute of Technology a series of 15 skins consisting of 7 males, 6 females and 2 juveniles. In addition, the authorities of the Carnegie Museum courteously sent for examination the 7 males collected by Carriker in 1906. As might have been expected, these all prove to belong to an undescribed race, the most southerly of the forms of *Agelaius phoeniceus*. I therefore propose the name of

*Agelaius phoeniceus costaricensis* subsp. nov.

*Type*.—Female adult, no. 28893, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Bebedero, Guanacaste, Costa Rica; June 16, 1929; collected by Austin Smith.

*Subspecific characters*.—Most like *Agelaius phoeniceus grinnelli* A. B. Howell, of El Salvador, but wing and tail shorter; coloration of females darker brown above and more sooty (less grayish) on lower abdominal region and under tail coverts.

*Range*.—Fresh and tide water marshes about Bebedero near the head of the Gulf of Nicoya, northwestern Costa Rica.

*Remarks*.—Although in the coloration of the underparts there is very close similarity among the females of *sonoriensis*, *megapotamus*, *grinnelli* and *costaricensis*, they may easily be segregated into two groups by the relative darkness of the upper parts. The paler-backed forms, *sonoriensis* and *megapotamus*, are in turn readily separable one from the other by size, *sonoriensis* being decidedly the larger as well as slightly the paler of the two. The two members of the darker-backed group, *grinnelli* and *costaricensis*, are separable on the same basis, *grinnelli* being larger and slightly paler than *costaricensis*.

The differences between *grinnelli* and *costaricensis*, although obvious, are relatively slight, and were the distribution continuous there would be little point in recognizing two races. However, the two permanently resident colonies are separated from each other by some 300 miles and furthermore by the interposition of a third form having no very close resemblance to either.

		Breeding adult males				
	Wing	Tail	Culmen from base	Depth at base	Tarsus	Middle toe minus claw
8	<i>grinnelli</i> 120.0-126.0 (123.6)	90.0-96.5 (92.7)	24.0-27.5 (25.4)	11.7-12.5 (12.2)	29.4-32.0 (31.0)	22.2-24.3 (23.2)
14	<i>costaricensis</i> 114.0-122.5 (118.2)	85.0-94.5 (90.3)	23.0-26.3 (24.3)	11.6-12.7 (12.4)	30.1-31.8 (30.6)	21.1-23.0 (22.1)
		Breeding adult females				
7	<i>grinnelli</i> 94.0-99.0 (95.6)	68.0-78.5 (71.5)	19.6-22.3 (21.3)	10.0-10.7 (10.3)	26.5-28.0 (27.5)	19.1-20.4 (19.5)
5	<i>costaricensis</i> 90.0-92.5 (91.4)	62.0-70.0 (66.3)	19.8-21.0 (20.5)	9.8-10.5 (10.1)	25.6-26.9 (26.1)	18.4-20.0 (18.8)

—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, January 28, 1930.*