

Sayornis nigricans salictaria. San Quintin Phoebe. The A. O. U. Check-list (1931, p. 206) includes southern Arizona in the range of this form. The original description by Grinnell (Auk, 44, 1927, p. 68) did not mention Arizona. No reference to such an extension of range has been found in the literature. Dr. Oberholser writes me that all the specimens from the state that he has seen are of the typical form and he doubts that *salictaria* occurs "except as an occasional straggler."

Auriparus flaviceps lamprocephalus. Cape Verdin. One taken, April 18, 1891, by F. T. Pember at Gila Bend (Coale, Auk, 32, 1915, p. 106). The record of an apparently non-migratory subspecies so far from its normal range seems improbable. It should be considered a variant of *flaviceps*.

Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni. Olive-backed Thrush. An adult male taken September 12, 1929, in the Huachuca Mountains, at 5000 feet, by W. W. Brown (Oberholser, Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., 1, 1930, p. 98). Dr. Oberholser says this specimen is "decidedly intermediate," though nearer *swainsoni*. The assignment of migrating intermediates to one camp or the other seems undesirable. *Swainsoni*, however, should occur in the state, but until more typical specimens are obtained I would leave it off the list.

Vermivora celata sordida. Dusky Warbler. One taken, December 20, 1918, near Yuma (Kimball, Condor, 23, 1921, p. 58).

Wilsonia pusilla pusilla. Wilson Warbler. One taken September 11, 1929, at 5000 feet, Huachuca Mountains (Oberholser, Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., 1, 1930, p. 100). This record and the preceding one I would omit from the state list. Since subspecies are so often characterized by average differences, it seems unsafe to admit specimens found so far from their normal range. A good scientific criterion for the assignment of subspecies, collected during migration, would be a band on one leg indicating point of departure. Not until far more intensive banding operations are conducted will we ever be really sure of the movements of closely differentiated subspecies. Some surprising movements of supposedly non-migratory races may be revealed if systematic banding is undertaken.

Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. One seen at Grand Canyon Village, March 23, 1930 (McKee, Preliminary Check-list, Birds, Grand Canyon, U. S. Dept. Int. Bull., 1930, p. 13).

Leucosticte atrata. Black Rosy Finch. Four seen, December 8, 1924, at the Grand Canyon (Townsend, Condor, 27, 1925, p. 178). I would want specimens before admitting this record and the preceding one to the state list.

Poocetes gramineus affinis. The winter range includes Arizona (A. O. U. Check-list, 1931, p. 340). I have found no substantiation of this in the literature available.

SUMMARY

In 1914 Swarth listed 362 species and subspecies from the state of Arizona. Since then 32 new records have been made and 3 new subspecies have been described (Group I). The grand total is now 397. The 9 proposed subspecies in Group II constitute 9 additions and 1 elimination. If these are accepted the total will be 405.

Tucson, Arizona, August 31, 1933.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Cooper Hawk Feeds on Eared Grebe.—On December 17, 1933, an employee at my place shot a Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) that was in the act of devouring an Eared Grebe (*Colymbus nigricollis*). This item of fare seemed to me to be sufficiently unusual to be put on record. My home is on Point Loma, about a mile from San Diego Harbor on the east, and the same distance from the Pacific Ocean on the west. The hawk had been frequenting the neighborhood for some time and on the morning when it was killed was seen to fly, with prey in its talons, from one low bush to another, in front of my house. The hawk proved to be a female in immature plumage. A wing of its victim was taken to the San Diego Natural History Museum,

where the identification was made.—JOSEPH W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, December 27, 1933.*

A Screech Owl Captured by a Snake.—An interesting incident was enacted near our house at the Parker Creek Experiment Station, Tonto National Forest, Arizona, on July 5, 1933. A heavy flapping of wings attracted our attention to an Arizona oak tree (*Quercus arizonica*) about five yards from the house. Approximately 12 feet from the ground, and quite close to the trunk, a snake over three feet long (probably *Pituophis catenifer rutilus*) hung suspended by its tail from a small dead limb. The large part of the snake's body was coiled once around a small owl, judged from its color and size to be a screech owl (*Otus asio cineraceus*). The bird struggled more and more feebly for three or four minutes, and finally was still.

When we shot the snake, its body grew slack, and its tail loosened its hold on the limb and began to slip. The owl freed itself and flew away, seemingly uninjured. The owl had apparently been roosting in the tree, and was "stalked" and caught by the snake. Dr. Walter P. Taylor was kind enough to give us the probable identification of snake and bird.—MRS. C. J. WHITFIELD, *Young Route, Globe, Arizona, December 22, 1933.*

Coots Breeding in the Tucson Region, Arizona.—As there seems to be no published record of the American Coot (*Fulica americana americana*) breeding in southern Arizona, the following may be of interest. At Bingham's pond, about six miles northeast of Tucson, coots were present in small numbers through the winter of 1932-1933. This irrigation pond is about a fifth of a mile long, very narrow, and is divided by dykes into three sections. The middle section was heavily overgrown with bulrushes (*Scirpus occidentalis*). Here the coots found shelter. About a dozen were seen at various times during the winter and spring.

On May 10, 1933, two very small, downy young with the adults were seen in a clear space among the bulrushes. They were noted again on May 20, 21, 22, and 23, somewhat larger in size. Late in the forenoon of May 23, I surprised a pair of adults with five downy young, another brood. I captured two of the young, and after examining them, I turned them loose. They swam at once for the bulrushes and were soon out of sight. Downy young were seen from then on until June 5, usually one to three birds at a time. Sometimes as many as ten adults were seen. I believe at least three pairs nested during the summer.

Several downy young were also seen by Dr. C. T. Vorhies of the University of Arizona. He located one nest of typical coot construction. It contained no eggs.

On July 2 the pond was again visited and five adults with fifteen apparently full grown young, all in one group, were seen in the open area at the east end. Due to the dry weather the pond was being drained frequently and the number of coots gradually diminished. On August 10 only one was seen.

This pond has been in use for quite a number of years, so it seems probable that coots have nested here in previous summers. More extensive field work in southern Arizona in the summer months will no doubt reveal other breeding sites in irrigated districts.—A. H. ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, October 7, 1933.*

An Arizona Nest of the Ferruginous Rough-leg.—*Buteo regalis* was reported as a nesting bird in Arizona by Dr. Alexander Wetmore (*Condor*, 35, 1933, p. 163) upon the evidence of two immature, captive birds at Cañon Diablo. However, I believe the following to be the first record of the eggs actually having been taken within the state.

The nesting tree was located April 15, 1926, in Williamson Valley, at approximately 4700 feet elevation, twenty-five miles north-northwest of Prescott. The nest, a large bulky structure almost four feet in diameter and over five feet high, was situated about thirty-five feet from the ground at the top of a cedar. It was built of dead cedar sticks of which there were three distinct layers. The color and condition of the sticks indicated that the bottom layer was the oldest, and that the other layers had been added during successive years. The nest was well cupped and lined with shredded cedar bark. This was not a case of repairing an old nest as the Red-tails frequently do, but of building new and complete nests, one on top of the other.

The eggs, three in number, and in my collection at the present time, were slightly