

tory statement of the status of the Green-tailed Towhee in northern Arizona. Swarth considers this bird as "a common migrant, occurring indifferently on boreal mountain tops or on the semi-arid desert plains," but mentions no summer records for Arizona (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 10, 1914, p. 59). Dr. Merriam, however, suggested its possible breeding near San Francisco Mountain, "where an immature bird was shot in the pines August 5" (North American Fauna, no. 3, 1890, p. 97).

During the past six summers, the Green-tailed Towhee has been observed as a fairly common summer resident in the Canadian and the Hudsonian zones on the San Francisco Mountains. These birds inhabit the mountain willow and wild gooseberry thickets on the borders of alpine meadows, from altitudes of 8300 up to 10,500 feet. The writer has seen these birds in the mountains from April 3 until late in September. They may have arrived earlier and departed later, however, because the higher altitudes of the San Francisco Mountains were not studied before or after the given dates. Parent birds have been observed carrying food for young as late as August 11. There are numerous breeding records of the Green-tailed Towhee from the mountains of New Mexico, chiefly above 7800 feet, especially in the northern part of that state (F. M. Bailey, Birds of New Mexico, 1928, pp. 708-709).—RANDOLPH JENKS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona, September 15, 1933.*

**A Second Record of the Black Merlin in Southern California.**—In the collection of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris there is a specimen of *Falco columbarius suckleyi*, taken at Santa Barbara on October 28, 1878, by a collector named de Cessac. It is numbered 1880—1251 of the old catalogue and is not marked as to sex. However, it appears to be a fully adult female.

In an effort to locate other California specimens of note I spent some time in going over portions of the catalogue but discovered little beyond evidence that de Cessac and Pinart had collected extensively in central and southern California in the late seventies, and had sent to the Paris Museum nearly 3000 skins. Unfortunately, what was probably a valuable collection has been rendered virtually worthless through the removal, in almost all instances, of the original tags and the substitution of others which seldom bear more than a very unsatisfactory "Californie". In a few cases the original labels were still attached to the skins, some of the localities being "Vallee Tujo", Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and several points in the San Francisco Bay region.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, February 21, 1934.*

**Apparent Promiscuity in the Violet-green Swallow.**—In June, 1933, Violet-green Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina lepida*) were abundant in the vicinity of Laguna Hanson, Sierra Juarez, Baja California, Mexico. On the morning of the tenth, the following incident was observed. A single bird alighted upon a small pine branch on the ground, and was quickly surrounded by four others. These later arrivals engaged in a general melee of quarreling and fighting among themselves, from which the bird on the branch remained aloof. In the midst of the flurry, a sixth bird arrived, alighted upon the back of the first bird and completed the act of copulation. All six swallows then took wing and, ascending above the pines, were soon lost to sight. Literature examined gives no record of the marital relations of these birds and so implies monogamy. The above would suggest that at times Violet-green Swallows may be promiscuous in their sexual activities.—FRANK F. GANDER, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, April 7, 1934.*

**Notes on Food Habits of Juncos.**—In a study of seedling survival at the Priest River Forest Experiment Station in northern Idaho, the seeds of six coniferous species were sown in the fall of 1932. Soon after the seedbeds were uncovered, early in May, 1933, juncos (thought to be *Junco hyemalis connectens*) were observed to be active about them. The following observations were made:

In order of preference, the seeds were: Western white pine, *Pinus monticola*; Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*; western larch, *Larix occidentalis*; lowland white fir, *Abies grandis*; western hemlock, *Tsuga heterophylla*; western red cedar, *Thuja plicata*. Apparently the birds did not disturb the seeds of the last three species, which might be attributed to the smallness of the cedar and hemlock and to the bitter, resinous flavor of the white fir, although the white fir was the largest of