

this was an indication of intergradation with the form *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus*, the nearest range of which is far to the eastward, in Arizona. Swarth (Condor, vol. 20, 1918, p. 120) attributed the pallor of Kern River specimens chiefly to geographic variation in fading; so he referred all his Kern County material to *carolae*. Grinnell and Swarth (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 21, 1926, p. 429) indicated on their map this same disposition of their Kern County representations. That there can be no significant approach of any of these Californian populations to *mesoleucus* was shown by van Rossem who stated (*op. cit.*, p. 70) that the tendencies in his *eremophilus* are actually away from *mesoleucus*.

The one outstanding feature in the series of *kernensis* viewed as a whole is the presence of the light hind-neck areas, although the character is present in different skins in different degrees of intensity. Only one of the examples in fresh fall plumage does not show this character, an immature male, no. 63280, in molt. The character seems to be entirely lacking in long series of *crissalis* and *carolae*, except in those from the west base of the Sierra Nevada in Fresno County, where intergradation between *carolae* and *kernensis* thus evidently takes place. A few of the Argus Mountains birds possess but faint indications of these patches.

Van Rossem stated (*op. cit.*, p. 69) that the Argus Mountains colony is isolated from the geographically nearest race of brown towhee, *P. f. carolae* as he applied this name, by the Sierra Nevada as well as by intervening deserts. Specimens at hand show that brown towhees occur practically continuously across the faunal divides separating the Kern basin from the Mohave Desert. The general trend observable, toward increasing grayness of the brown towhees of the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, southeastward from the Yosemite region, accentuated in *kernensis* and then culminating in *eremophilus*, points to the probability that the Argus Mountains population itself originated from that of the southern San Joaquin Valley. The series of *eremophilus* at hand shows more uniformity in characters than does the series from the Walker Basin region, perhaps an indication of the effects of the sharper isolation, by the desert interval, in the former case.

On the west side of the San Joaquin Valley (though also in Fresno County) we find geographic variation to involve the race *crissalis*. December-taken examples from Priest Valley, in the San Benito Mountain region, have a dorsal coloration that is somewhat intermediate between the characteristic color tone of *crissalis* and that of *kernensis*. There is also shown, very weakly developed, the gray neck patches. Thus we have *kernensis* apparently intergrading with *crissalis* in the extreme southwestern part of the Great Valley.

Incidentally, some recently received material shows that the range of the Oregon race, *Pipilo fuscus bullatus*, extends south into California. A female, no. 67880 Mus. Vert. Zool., taken by David H. Johnson and Fletcher G. Palmer on the Klamath River at 2100 feet, two miles south of Hornbrook, Siskiyou County, May 29, 1935, is fairly typical of *bullatus*, as is male no. 67879, from the south base of Table Rock, 3400 feet, ten miles east of Montague, Siskiyou County, taken by the same collectors May 21, 1935.—JOSEPH GRINNELL and WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 13, 1937*.

Western Tanager Nesting near Cordelia, Solano County, California.—A set of four eggs of the Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) was taken by J. Duncan Graham and myself along Green Valley Creek, five miles northwest of Cordelia, in western Solano County, California, on May 23, 1936. The nest was thirty feet from the ground near the top of a maple tree on the edge of the creek. It was not easily discernible from the ground and was located only by the fact that I had thrown a stick against a tall, dead stub adjoining the maple, causing the female tanager to flush and the male to join her. The nest was on the end of a slender limb and required considerable planning and maneuvering with ropes in order to obtain it. It was rather loosely constructed of dry fruit stems of wild grapes, a few dry grasses and weed stems, and tendrils from grape vines; it was lined with a few rootlets. Incubation in the eggs was three to five days advanced.

This is the second record of the breeding of this species in Solano County, the previous record being from the same vicinity by H. W. Carriger and myself (Condor, vol. 34, 1932, pp. 259-260). —EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, September 13, 1936*.