

particular attention came to be paid to a series from Walker Basin, Kern County, collected in the fall of 1933, which has remained unsatisfactorily identified. In conclusion, we now think it advisable to name this Kern County population, as follows:

Baeolophus inornatus kernensis, new subspecies. Kern Basin Plain Titmouse.

Type.—Adult male, no. 63801, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Rankin Ranch, 3300 feet, Walker Basin, Kern County, California; November 19, 1933; collected by R. M. Gilmore, orig. no. 3235.

Diagnosis.—Compared as to coloration with *B. i. inornatus*, dorsum grayer, less brownish, and flanks and underparts generally slightly less buffy, clearer whitish; compared with *B. i. transpositus*, less olivaceous dorsally, and paler gray below; less clearly gray dorsally, but paler below, than in *zaleptus*. In size characters, closest to *inornatus*; bill decidedly shorter, less massive, than in *zaleptus*, and less massive even than in *transpositus*.

Measurements.—Of type: Wing, 68.6 mm.; tail, 58.4; tarsus, 20.3; hind toe with claw, 13.4; culmen, 9.8; bill from nostril, 8.0; depth of bill at base, 4.9.

Geographic Range.—Drainage basin of Kern River, within southeastern rim of San Joaquin Valley, in Kern County and extreme southern Tulare County, California. Thirty-seven specimens examined, from the following localities. In Kern County: Rankin Ranch, 3300–3700 feet, Walker Basin; Thompson Canyon, 3900 feet, Walker Basin; east end Walker Basin, 3500 feet; French Gulch, 6700 feet, Piute Mountains; Kern River at Bodfish, 2400 feet; Greenhorn Mountains, 5500 feet, 8 mi. W. Isabella; Isabella, 2500 feet; Fay Creek, 4100 feet; Weldon, 2650 feet; Onyx, 2750 feet; west slope Walker Pass, 4600 feet. In Tulare County: Trout Creek at 6000 feet.

Remarks.—As in the case of the brown towhee (*Pipilo fuscus kernensis*), we find in the Kern drainage basin of the southern Sierra Nevada a center of differentiation for titmouses. The population from this region presents in color tone a more grayish appearance than populations from southwestern and central California; yet there is not the extreme grayness as seen in titmouses from the Great Basin. Although intermediate in color between Pacific-slope forms and those of the Great Basin, it is doubtful whether direct intergradation with any of the latter races actually exists because of the great disparity in bill size, unbridged by any specimen seen. It is doubtful now that true *griseus* occurs at all in California, even at the extreme south; specimens heretofore referred to that race we now think all belong to *zaleptus*. According to this belief, the latter race occurs south along the eastern border of California at least as far as Waucoba Pass, Inyo County. Specimens from there in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, obtained in June, 1937, are like topotypes of *zaleptus*.

Examples in fresh fall plumage from the vicinity of Miramonte, Fresno County, in the oak belt on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, are somewhat paler than examples from farther north and from the San Francisco Bay region, being thus interpretable as intermediates approaching *kernensis*. This influence even seems to extend as far north as the Yosemite area. We may infer that the race *kernensis* has its closest affinities with *inornatus*, with which it thus does definitely intergrade northward along the west-Sierran foothills. We have here, then, another of the long trends so common in geographically variable birds over that general part of the state.

Titmouses at hand in unworn plumage from Waltham Creek, 4½ miles southeast of Priest Valley, Fresno County, a locality on the opposite, western side of the Great Valley, also are paler than typical *inornatus* and thus show an approach toward *kernensis*. In this respect as well as in the southward tendency toward paler tones along the Sierra Nevada, the titmouses show a remarkable parallel to conditions in the brown towhees as previously noted (Grinnell and Behle, Condor, vol. 39, 1937, p. 177).—JOSEPH GRINNELL and WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 29, 1937.*

Off-shore Bird Notes.—Recently, through the kindness of J. R. Pemberton, I was privileged to make a trip to the Cortez and Tanner bank region, off extreme southern California. On the morning of June 26, 1937, we left San Pedro on Mr. Pemberton's yacht "Kinkajou", and, laying a course between Catalina and San Clemente islands to the vicinity of Cortez Bank, we hove to near Bishop Rock shortly after dark. During the day's trip, deep water birds were not very common, but we saw several shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus* and *P. creatopus*), one or two Black Petrels (*Oceanodroma melania*), and a few Black-footed Albatrosses (*Diomedea nigripes*).

On the following morning, June 27, three specimens of Black-footed Albatross were secured near Cortez Bank; then we started north in the direction of Santa Barbara Island. At latitude 32° 50' N, longitude 119° W, about thirty miles west of San Clemente Island, a Red-billed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon aethereus*) flew by the ship. By waving a handkerchief I succeeded in bringing the bird within range and shot it. It proved to be an immature male, and is now number 18778, collection of the Los Angeles Museum. While we were maneuvering to pick the bird up, a Black-footed Albatross came to investigate it and was collected.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, July 6, 1937.*