

A New Spotted Screech Owl from Guerrero, Mexico.—Study of the Salvin and Godman collections of Mexican birds in the British Museum has resulted in the discovery of an astonishing number of unexpected novelties, even from supposedly fairly well known areas. One of these is here described, based on a pair of Spotted Screech Owls (*Otus trichopsis*) collected in the isolated Sierra Madre del Sur of Guerrero by Mrs. H. H. Smith, who spent some time there in the Salvin-Godman interests. These two specimens are very distinct from *trichopsis* of the Valley of Mexico and northward, and are named as

Otus trichopsis guerrerensis, new subspecies

Type.—Adult female, no. 90.5.16.46, British Museum; Omilteme, Guerrero, Mexico; July, 1888; altitude 8000 feet; collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Otus trichopsis trichopsis*, but coloration very much paler throughout, the white markings everywhere at a maximum, the brown, gray, and black, at a minimum; thighs and tarsi immaculate, the former pale cinnamon, the latter white.

Range.—Known only from the two specimens from the type locality.

Remarks.—Both specimens are fully adult and have completed the annual molt. They are in the gray phase.

The comparative color differences between *trichopsis* and *guerrerensis* are much the same as between *Otus asio cineraceus* and the palest specimens of *Otus asio mccallii*.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, August 2, 1938.*

Birds Observed in the Vicinity of Twenty-nine Palms, California.—In the last volume of the Condor (vol. 39, 1937, p. 210–219) Frances Carter described the ornithological features of the oasis at Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino County, in the southern Mohave Desert. She listed the species observed there during two periods: December 30, 1933, to May 17, 1934; and October 17, 1934, to May 30, 1935. She also tells of some of the birds seen at Barker's Dam, twenty-five miles southwest of Twenty-nine Palms. I have been fortunate enough to make two visits to this region, but for much briefer periods: January 18–22, 1935; and April 22–29, 1937. Certain of the records made in the course of my first stay were mentioned by Miss Carter, but the following few notes selected from those of my second trip, in 1937, were not presented for inclusion in her paper. Of the species mentioned, all but the Tolmie Warbler and Desert Sparrow are absent from her list.

Aquila chrysaetos. Golden Eagle. Two were seen circling over the hills east of the road leading to Forty-nine Palms on April 27.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. One was seen on the edge of a pond on the western half of the oasis close to the Twenty-nine Palms Inn on April 27.

Tringa solitaria. Solitary Sandpiper. Two were seen at Barker's Dam on April 28, first while flying down the outlet stream from the dam, then later perched on the mud at the edge of this stream where they were observed closely.

Chaetura vauxi. Vaux Swift. Two were seen flying over the Twenty-nine Palms Inn and the western part of the oasis on April 27. One also, in the company of many White-throated Swifts, was seen at Barker's Dam on April 28.

Aëronautes saxatilis. White-throated Swift. Twelve or more were seen flying over Barker's Dam on April 28. A pair was observed more than once in what may have been copulation in the air; one mounted the other as they swooped downward.

Heleodytes brunneicapillus. Cactus Wren. One noted both in chollas and in a Joshua tree in Yucca Valley along the highway west of Twenty-nine Palms on April 22. Also one was heard singing among the Joshua trees along the road from Twenty-nine Palms to Split Rock on April 26.

Vermivora ruficapilla. Calaveras Warbler. One was seen at Barker's Dam on April 28.

Oporornis tolmiei. Tolmie Warbler. Observed in a mesquite clump near the Twenty-nine Palms Inn on April 23. Miss Carter did not note this bird before May 11, 1934.

Amphispiza bilineata. Desert Sparrow. An adult seen with food in its bill in the presence of streaked young, along the road from the Twenty-nine Palms Inn to Split Rock on April 26.

Spizella breweri. Brewer Sparrow. A flock was seen and heard singing along the road from Twenty-nine Palms to Barker's Dam at a point just north of the Riverside County line on April 28.—LIDLAW WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California, September 15, 1938.*

Feeding Habits of the Treganza Blue Heron.—During the spring and summer of 1938 an abundance of Treganza Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias treganzai*) has been noted around the shores of Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada. For some time the cause for the great influx of herons was not discovered. However, careful observations around the areas of concentration revealed that an abundance of food was the contributing factor. In several areas where mesquite and low shrubs were

numerous, the rising waters trapped hundreds of small rodents, as extensive necks of land became tiny islands. Here the herons gathered in large numbers and literally patrolled the area. Catching the rodents was a relatively simple matter. The heron would simply wade past a bush with its load of mice and kangaroo rats and leisurely pick them off one by one. The procedure used in catching the rodent was the same each time. There would be a swift strike of the head, the rodent would be tossed into the air and in a second it would disappear head first down the bird's throat. As the waters of Lake Mead continue to rise in the spring of 1939, similar scenes will no doubt be reenacted.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Boulder Dam Recreational Area, Nevada, September 1, 1938.*

Audubon Warbler Nesting in Solano County, California.—On May 29, 1938, J. Duncan Graham and I were searching for gnatcatcher nests in the hills near an artificial lake two miles north of Cordelia, Solano County, California. While we were watching an adult robin which was scolding us vociferously from the close proximity of its nest, we noted another nest in the background in an adjacent tree. Mr. Graham climbed to it and a female Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*) left the nest which held five young birds. These we judged were approximately five days old. The male, in full plumage, came to the nest repeatedly while we watched this interesting family.

The nest tree was a tall slender white oak, and the nest was about twenty-five feet up in a crotch formed by a limb branching from the main trunk. The nest was of very similar construction to those I have taken in the Sierra Nevada. It was composed of weed stems, and was plentifully lined with horse hairs and bird feathers. The young were gone on our next visit (June 5) and the nest was taken and placed in my collection. I believe this is the first record of this species nesting in the San Francisco Bay region.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, August 26, 1938.*

Nesting of an Eastern Kingbird in a Deserted Oriole Nest.—That certain birds appropriate deserted nests of other species is not particularly uncommon. However, the successful occupancy by an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) of a deserted hanging nest of a Bullock Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) is unusual.

Such an occurrence was observed by the writer, in company with E. R. Kalmbach and Clarence Sooter, at the Buena Vista Station, Malheur Migratory Bird Refuge in eastern Oregon on July 15, 1938. It was reported that the oriole had successfully reared its brood in its characteristic hanging nest. The nest was made of string, horsehair, and plant fiber, and was attached about 12 feet above the ground to some terminal and partly drooping branches of a cottonwood tree.

Shortly after the nest had been deserted by the oriole family, it was appropriated by a pair of Eastern Kingbirds. When observed by our party the nest had its full complement of four hungry pin-feathered young. Even though the nestlings were not much more than half grown, they appeared to fill the cup of the nest completely. Although eastern Oregon is just within the western limit of the range of the Eastern Kingbird, this species is rather common at the Malheur Migratory Bird Refuge.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D.C., September 2, 1938.*

Inyo Screech Owl at Fallon, Nevada.—On August 14, 1938, Mrs. Anna Bailey Mills, at her home 4 miles west of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada, showed me two mounted screech owls and consented to my taking them to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology for comparison. Mrs. Mills described these owls as fairly common on her ranch, and particularly in evidence in spring when they most often attract attention to themselves by their calls.

Both specimens were taken 4 miles west of Fallon, the male on December 8, 1937, and the other, judged by its larger size to be a female, at some earlier date. Measurements of these are, respectively, as follows: wing, 163 mm., 173; tail, 84, 88; culmen from cere, 13.4, 15.2. Comparisons with specimens of races from adjoining areas revealed greatest similarity to the type and three other winter-taken specimens of *Otus asio inyoensis* from Owens Valley, California. The birds from near Fallon, so far as I can see, differ importantly only in having more brownish color on the ruff and breast; they have, however, less brownish color than average individuals at hand of *O. a. macfarlanei* and *O. a. quercinus*, and of course much less prominent black markings.

The race *Otus asio inyoensis* seems not before to have been definitely recorded from Nevada, although Oberholser's (Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., vol. 27, 1937, p. 356) statement that "Specimens from Vernon and Jensen, northern Utah . . . referable to *Otus asio inyoensis* . . . indicate that the . . . subspecies extends over Nevada as far north as Fallon and east to northeastern Utah" suggests that he at least knew of the occurrence of screech owls near Fallon.—E. RAYMOND HALL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 25, 1938.*