

American Knots on San Diego Bay, California.—During March, 1939, Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, eminent English ornithologist, was a visitor in San Diego where he collected a number of birds. He was making a particular study of mallophaga, in cooperation with Miss Theresa Clay of the British Museum. Among the birds taken were several American Knots (*Calidris canutus rufus*), two of which, both females, he donated to the San Diego Society of Natural History. One (no. 18053, S.D.S.N.H.), taken on March 3, shows the first suggestion of breeding plumage on breast and back; the other (no. 18056, S.D.S.N.H.), taken on March 5, is in typical winter plumage. The birds were shot near the south end of San Diego Bay, where Colonel Meinertzhagen declared that there were "hundreds" of them, adding that the Knot is a species with which he is very familiar in the Old World. This estimate was supported by J. Elton Green, of the San Diego Society of Natural History, who was acting as field assistant. The twenty-eight Knots recorded from San Diego Bay by Huey (Condor, vol. 40, 1938, p. 90) and the occurrences reported here lead one to question whether the Knot may not be more abundant than is generally supposed; it possibly is overlooked on account of its resemblance to certain other shore birds.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, July 21, 1939.*

Great-tailed Grackle Breeding in New Mexico.—On May 5, 1939, while motoring southward along the Rio Grande with my wife and Mr. Edward Chalif, I was surprised to see several Great-tailed Grackles (*Cassidix mexicanus mexicanus*) at a point about ten miles south of Albuquerque in the central part of the state of New Mexico; both males and females were present and apparently were breeding.

We saw grackles at several other points along the river farther down on our way to Las Cruces. Our casual observations seemed to indicate that they were fairly well distributed in suitable places along the river. We were surprised to see so many individuals at so many scattered points, but were even more surprised the following day, May 6, when we saw several more in the city of Lordsburg in the southwesternmost part of the state. On investigation, we found that they had actually been nesting; a dozen or more unoccupied nests were observed in the wind-swept cottonwood trees near the railroad yards. One young bird just out of the nest was seen.

Upon inquiring about the grackles, we learned from a machinist in the train yard that the birds had put in their appearance in considerable numbers four years before and had been there ever since. He said that most of the young had left the nests about a week before our arrival. Lordsburg is very near the Arizona line and a considerable distance from any large body of water.

In as much as Mrs. Bailey (Birds of New Mexico, 1928, pp. 658-659) gives comparatively few records of this species for the state of New Mexico, and only two nesting records (a colony in the southeastern part of the state on the Pecos River and one pair at La Mesa) it would seem that this bird must be extending its range. We looked for Great-tails in southeastern Arizona but did not see any. The fourth edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (1931, p. 308) does not include New Mexico in the range of this species.—ROGER T. PETERSON, *National Association of Audubon Societies, New York City, July 20, 1939.*

Further Notes on the Feeding Habits of the Treganza Blue Heron.—In a previous issue of the Condor (vol. 40, 1938, p. 258) I reported seeing Treganza Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias treganzai*) feeding on the numerous rodents trapped by the rising waters of Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada. That observation brought letters from interested readers requesting me to watch during the rise of the lake in subsequent seasons to see if similar incidents occurred.

In the spring and early summer of 1939 I again observed blue herons carrying on rodent catching activities along the lake. They were especially active in the Muddy River valley on the Virgin arm of Lake Mead. This year several American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) also were regularly seen in the same locality. Whether or not these white herons were actually catching rodents could not be determined, but their presence throughout the time the lake was rising leads me to suspect that such was the case.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Boulder Dam National Recreational Area, Nevada, August 2, 1939.*

Townsend Solitaires Declare Ownership.—On January 10, 1937, I saw a Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) rout a flock of about twenty-five Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*) from his haw thicket in City Creek Canyon, Salt Lake City, Utah. While on my way up the canyon, I had noted the solitaire. Just as I returned, the waxwings arrived. The solitaire dashed from one to another, moving them from place to place. They finally bunched on the top of an adjacent oak clump and raised their heads and trilled. But, this did not dismay him. He charged at the flock and put them to flight down the canyon.

On January 9, 1938, I again found the waxwings near the same place, but in this instance they were sunning themselves in tall cottonwoods along the creek and frequently descended to drink. While watching them, three of the birds flew to a nearby haw thicket. Almost instantly a solitaire came flying down the hill, but, seeing me, lit some fifty feet from where the waxwings were feeding and in no position to see them. I expected the solitaire to chase them out again, but either from fear of me or because he could not see the feeding waxwings, he came no closer.

On February 6, 1939, I noticed another instance of ownership in a downtown district where a solitaire scolded a flock of fifteen Bohemian Waxwings that had come to his pyracantha bushes. A janitor came to his service by throwing a snowball at the flock in an effort to save the berries. However, the next time I passed, the bushes were bare.—C. W. LOCKERBIE, *Salt Lake City, Utah, April 15, 1939.*

The Baird Sandpiper in Central California.—To date, so far as known, there are only two records for the Baird Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdii*) in central California (see Mailliard, *Auk*, vol. 15, 1898, p. 51, and Martin, *Condor*, vol. 41, 1939, p. 125). The species has been observed and collected a number of times from the Santa Barbara region and southward, and Davis (*Condor*, vol. 41, 1939, p. 124) lists a number of occurrences in the Humboldt Bay area.

It seems worthwhile, therefore, to make mention of seven additional specimens from central California in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. Four of these were secured by E. W. Gifford at Carmel, Monterey County, in 1911. Two of these, a male and a female, were taken on August 23, and the other two, both females, on September 1 and 4, respectively. On August 10, 1938, the writer observed seven sandpipers of this species in the course of the afternoon on the beach immediately south of the mouth of Waddell Creek, Santa Cruz County. Three of these were secured, one a male weighing 37.7 grams and the other two females, weighing 48.2 grams and 53.7 grams.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, June 30, 1939.*

A New Bird for the Texas List.—Included in a lot of specimens recently submitted to Dr. H. C. Oberholser for determination was a Winter Wren collected on January 8, 1939, by W. A. Mayer, twenty miles east of Dallas, Texas. Dr. Oberholser on returning the specimen has informed me that it represents the southern Allegheny form, *Nannus troglodytes pullus*, and, as such, constitutes an addition to the known avifauna of Texas. The specimen in question, a male, is number 533, Dallas Museum of Natural History.—F. W. MILLER, *Dallas Museum of Natural History, Dallas, Texas, June 8, 1939.*

Birds of the Alpine Zone of Mount Shasta, California.—C. Hart Merriam in 1899 (*N. Amer. Fauna No. 16*) reported the results of a biological survey of Mount Shasta which was carried on by his party in the summer and early fall of 1898. This report has merited a prominent place in our literature on zonal distribution in the West. Complete and accurate as Merriam's survey has proved to be, questions inevitably are left concerning the status and occurrence of a few species. Recently I became aware of the fact that no one had yet established the identity of the rosy finch that breeds on the mountain. Merriam was unable to do so because of lack of specimens. This led me to visit some of the alpine areas on the peak in the course of the past summer.

The only species of birds which Merriam lists (*op. cit.*, p. 68) as restricted to the Alpine Zone on Mount Shasta are the Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) and the Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*). The sole basis for considering the Pipit to be a summer resident, and hence an alpine indicator, is given in the following annotation (p. 130): "In a barren rocky basin above timberline, near the head of Panther Creek, on July 17 I heard titlarks and saw Arctic bluebirds."

From July 13 to 18, 1939, I camped on Panther Creek, and on the 14th, 15th, and 17th carefully searched the basins and slopes from timberline (8000 feet) to about 10,000 feet at the headwaters of the creek. No pipits could be found, and although the country would be suitable for transients of this species, it was so lacking in alpine turf and in surface moisture that it seemed to me most unlikely as a breeding area. The region does not afford habitat like that in which pipits breed in the Cascade Mountains of Washington and in the Willowa Mountains of eastern Oregon. East of Panther Creek at the head of Squaw Creek, a tract of streamside turf extends upward between arid pumice and lava slopes to about 9000 feet. Of all areas on the south and southeast sides of the peak, this most nearly resembles adequate breeding habitat; but no pipits could be found here on July 17. Negative evidence is not conclusive, yet I feel that the information now at hand does not warrant the assumption that pipits nest as far south as Shasta. We need not doubt that Merriam heard pipits in summer on the mountain. They may well have been strays that were not breeding.