

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.

In hunting for rosy finches, I was guided by the statement (p. 124) that, "At an altitude of 10,000 to 11,000 feet . . . , Vernon Bailey saw half a dozen leucostictes August 17, and again the next day . . . feeding among the rocks and on the glacier which occupies the deep cross gulch just below Konwokitan glacier." In this gulch, and on the east rim of it, at the head of Mud Creek, I found rosy finches on July 15, 1939. Three were noted, and two collected, at 10,000 feet. One of the birds, a female (Mus. Vert. Zool. 76205) was carrying a large supply of insects in her mouth, and she had a brood patch. Evidently leucostictes were nesting sparingly and scattering in the crumbling cliffs about the glaciers. The gulch was exceedingly barren of life. Rock Wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) were the only other birds seen at 10,000 feet. Clark Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) and Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia currucoides*), sub-alpine types, stayed lower, not venturing far above the highest thickets of timberline scrub at 9000 feet. A Townsend Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) was found dead in the snow at 11,000 feet, evidently a bird lost in the preceding spring migration.

The leucostictes proved to be *L. t. littoralis*, the Hepburn Rosy Finch. Thus the breeding range of this distinctive form is extended southward into California from the Three Sisters region of central Oregon. Rosy finches breed at Crater Lake, Oregon, 100 miles north of Shasta, but to my knowledge none has been collected there for racial determination. There is little doubt now that they also would be *littoralis*. Between Mount Shasta and the northern end of the breeding range of the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch (*L. t. dawsoni*) is a gap of somewhat over 150 miles.

The Shasta specimens show gray checks and a broad gray nuchal area that are typical of summer specimens of *littoralis*. On some of the auricular feathers there are cinnamon brown areas, but such may be seen occasionally in worn July-taken skins of *littoralis* from coastal British Columbia. Although there is no decisive evidence of intermediacy between *littoralis* and *dawsoni* in the color pattern of the head, the color of the body is somewhat intermediate. The back is dark as in *littoralis*, but the cinnamon brown under parts are of a lighter tone than in *littoralis*. This tone is as light as in *dawsoni*, but the color is not so gray or neutral as in that form. *Littoralis* and *dawsoni* do not differ significantly in dimensions. The two birds from Shasta are small, near the minimum for most measurements of *littoralis* and *dawsoni*.

The sparse population of rosy finches on Mount Shasta, when it is further sampled, may yet prove to be consistently different from neighboring races to the north and south. From data we now have, however, we can but view the slight departure from *littoralis* as intergradation toward *dawsoni*. This conclusion should not obscure the fact that the fundamental relationship of the Shasta birds is with *littoralis*.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 5, 1939.*

The Glaucous Gull at Santa Barbara, California.—On April 4, 1939, I noticed among a flock of Western, Glaucous-winged, and Ring-billed gulls, a large, very whitish gull. This was at the Santa Barbara city dump where there is always a great number of gulls of various species feeding on the refuse. I saw immediately that this bird was much larger and lighter in color than the Glaucous-winged Gulls which were standing near it.

The bird was collected and is now no. 3613 in the collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. It proved to be a female Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) in the light plumage of the second year.

This species of gull has been reported in this region several times, but as far as I can learn this is the first specimen that has been collected here.—EGMONT Z. RETT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, April 27, 1939.*

Shrikes, Red-wings, and the Cowbird.—The White-rumped Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*) is one of the few smaller passerines that is not known to be parasitized by the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). On June 8, 1938, at Eastend, Saskatchewan, the writer found a shrike's nest with six eggs, and later, the nest of a Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) containing five eggs and one of a cowbird. The cowbird egg I took and placed in the shrike's nest, removing one of the six to make the number as before.

On June 15 the cowbird's egg was found to be hatched. On June 18 the young cowbird was still in the nest and apparently well cared for; the shrike's eggs still were unhatched. On June 22 the cowbird was in the nest, but on my close approach it took flight to a willow bush some sixty yards away. All five shrike eggs were now hatched, but the nestlings were scarcely able to hold up their heads and were evidently *in extremis*. On the following day the nestling shrikes had disappeared. The parent birds were close by, looking somewhat disconsolate, but they still appeared to be feeding the cowbird, which was very wild.