

similar appearance was being used by a Black-eared Nuthatch, and five feet still lower was another occupied by a Red-shafted Flicker.

On April 28, a Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens lepida*) was seen by Mr. A. T. Sevey flitting about among willows and arrowweeds in Lower Pipe Creek Canyon near the Bright Angel Trail. It was observed for about twenty minutes at close range. This species, which is common in the Lower Sonoran Zone in some parts of Arizona, has not heretofore been recorded from the Grand Canyon.

The fourth species new to Grand Canyon is the Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*), first seen by rangers A. L. Brown and Perry Brown on June 2 near Hearst Tank, at the National Park boundary about three miles south and east of Grandview Point. At this time four young birds, barely able to fly and with tails still undeveloped, were found near together, one on the ground and three about ten feet up in a ponderosa pine. On several subsequent days these young owls were revisited. Not all of them could be located on any one of these days, but at least two were always in the vicinity. Although they would usually fight one another when placed close together, they could be handled easily and were photographed many times at close range. Only two previous state records of this species are known, one from the San Francisco Mountains (Mearns, Auk, vol. 7, 1890, p. 54) and the other from the Chiricahua Mountains (Miller, Condor, vol. 39, 1937, p. 130).—EDWIN D. MCKEE, *Grand Canyon, Arizona, June 15, 1939.*

Killdeer Nest Sites.—On June 16, 1938, I found the nest of a Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) with four eggs, in the middle of the main-line tracks of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway west of Centerville, Utah. I again visited it on the 18th, taking a friend to photograph it. On my next visit, nineteen days later, the nest was empty, but there was no indication of destruction of either eggs or birds.

In front of the New State Gun Club's house, Davis County, Utah, is a cinder fill through which some stubby salt grass struggles for existence. A roadway to the porch circles this area, which is twenty feet in diameter. Dogs, cats, children, and autos are ever present, but this spot has served as home for a pair of Killdeers for eight seasons according to the custodian's son, Bill Bader. I have noted the nest myself for several seasons, and on May 18, 1938, the first egg had just hatched. In the middle of the one-way road to the clubhouse were several nest excavations, two of which held one and four eggs, respectively.

On another part of the club property I found a full clutch of Killdeer that had been laid in a slight excavation in wet mud. Only a few salicornia stems lined the nest. Twenty feet away in contrast, and possibly with a show of better judgment, an Avocet had erected a platform fully six inches high on which to lay her eggs.—C. W. LOCKERBIE, *Salt Lake City, Utah, April 15, 1939.*

Migration Records at Sea.—Information on coastwise or oceanic movements of land birds is sufficiently scarce to justify recording a few observations on birds seen on their autumn passage when I was a passenger on the *Aorangi*, Australia-bound from Vancouver, B. C., in September, 1938. The vessel left Vancouver on September 28 and we passed through the Strait of Juan de Fuca that night. On the following day numbers of land birds alighted on the ship, with lesser numbers thereafter, and near the Hawaiian Islands flocks of migrating Golden Plover were encountered. The following log gives details of the occurrences.

September 29. Position at noon, latitude 46° 18' N, longitude 129° 02' W; 278 miles from Victoria and 2067 miles from Honolulu. At 8 p.m. the ship was 411 miles from Victoria. The ship began to roll moderately after midnight, but conditions were fair all day. The sky was overcast. In the morning a party of Black-footed Albatrosses (*Diomedea nigripes*) was following the ship; they remained in evidence the whole day, though there were fewer in the afternoon. The main feature of interest, however, was the number of land birds resting on the vessel's decks. The most numerous was the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). Several birds were seen flying over the water like storm petrels and a number rested for quite a while on the boat deck, aft. Several were tame, evidently because of exhaustion, and I was able to catch one and handle it. The superciliary stripe, lores and medial crown stripe were quite yellow. The coloration was distinctly brighter than that of the form nesting in the Seattle region (*P. s. brooksi*) and I felt that the birds belonged to the Aleutian breeding race, *P. s. sandwichensis*. The birds were seen up till noon but there was none in the afternoon. At 5 p.m. a small sparrow alighted on deck, but I could not get near enough to identify it before it disappeared.

With the Savannah Sparrows, at 11 a.m., were two large sparrows which apparently were Golden-crowns (*Zonotrichia coronata*).

Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) were prominent. In the morning they were seen in pairs and singly, flying to the ship and perching on the deck, until noon. One approached the ship's side shortly before

5 p.m. and a little later it, or another, made a further approach, and though it overhauled the vessel, made apparently no effort to alight.

A juvenal Lutescent Warbler (*Vermivora celata lutescens*) was found about 10:30 a.m. huddled on a hatch on the deck. It was asleep with its head tucked under the wing and made no effort to resist being handled. It was so exhausted that it slept in my hand. It was replaced in a sheltered spot and an hour later was still there, and apparently weaker. It was collected and proved to be a male.

September 30. Position at noon, latitude 41° 58' N, longitude 136° 24' W; day's run 410 miles, 688 miles from Victoria and 1657 from Honolulu. At 8 p.m. the ship was 821 miles from Victoria. Weather rougher this morning with white horses. Slight rain falling. As the day wore on the swell increased but the white horses subsided.

At 8:30 a.m. a pair of Savannah Sparrows was noted on the deck. They looked wet and rather bedraggled. Later I saw three about, in bright plumage, and these haunted the deck all the morning. At 1 p.m. an obviously tired bird was seen on deck and another was seen in the late afternoon. Passengers at deck sports disturbed the birds no doubt, but their greatest concern was the ship's cat which was reported to have taken several birds. I recovered a sparrow from the cat in the evening and turned it into a skin. The specimen was later forwarded to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley (no. 74942), where Dr. Grinnell and Dr. Miller confirmed its identification as *P. s. sandwichensis*.

One Robin was seen during the morning.

October 1. Position at noon, latitude 37° 03' N, longitude 142° 29' W; 1096 miles from Victoria and 1249 from Honolulu. At 8 p.m. the ship was 1231 miles from Victoria. Weather mild.

At 8:30 a. m. two Savannah Sparrows were seen alighting on the ship and they began searching the deck for food. They were rather active. One bird was seen again at 10 a.m. No Robins were seen this day.

October 2. Position at noon, latitude 32° 01' N, longitude 148° 05' W; 1505 miles from Victoria and 840 from Honolulu. No passerine migrants were noted.

October 3. Position at noon, latitude 26° 27' N, longitude 153° 00' W; 1911 miles from Victoria and 434 from Honolulu. At 8 p.m. the ship was 300 miles from Honolulu.

At 9 a.m. a sparrow was seen flying alongside and at 1 p.m. a very richly-coloured Savannah Sparrow was noted on the promenade deck, aft. It had a distinctly rufous back. The bird was active and wandered into the ship's laundry on one occasion. This was the last time the species was seen on the voyage.

The first Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) were seen at 4 p.m., after which several parties, ranging from twelve to twenty birds, were noted. They were flying very rapidly and in various directions. Some were heading northwest, others southeast, and still others changed directions.

October 4. Tied up at Honolulu at 2:30 p.m.; Oahu was sighted from the deck about 10:45 a.m. At 9 a.m. a flock of Golden Plover, twelve to twenty strong, passed us going in the same direction. At 10:50 a.m. another party also overhauled us.

It appears that the ship passed through a fairly thick migratory flight of Savannah Sparrows that was following the coastwise migration route (Lincoln, U. S. Dept. Agric. Circ. No. 363, 1935, map. 21, p. 40) and that outlying birds may fly or become blown off this course for hundreds of miles out into the Pacific. It is conceivable that odd individuals might occasionally get as far out as the Hawaiian Islands, but as far as I know there are no records of this. At first sight the specific name of the birds gives color to this suggestion, but Coues (Key to North American Birds, 5th ed., vol. 1, 1903, p. 405) explains the name *sandwichensis*, as "of the Sandwich, one of the Aleutian Islands."

Lincoln, in the publication just referred to, gives the transpacific migration route of the Pacific Golden Plover as trending southeast toward the Hawaiian group, but the *Aorangi* encountered flocks about 370 miles northeast of the islands. That the (occasional?) deflection to the eastward may be even greater at times is indicated by the California-taken specimen reported by Grinnell (Condor, vol. 38, 1936, p. 219).—D. L. SERVENTY, *Marine Biological Laboratory, Cronulla, New South Wales, June 5, 1939.*

Chipping Sparrow in the Rancho La Brea.—In a recent issue of the Condor (vol. 41, 1939, pp. 126-127) appeared an article by the present writer giving the identity of several fringillid maxillae from the Rancho La Brea Pleistocene. A specimen of the genus *Spizella* was tentatively referred to *S. passerina*. Certain identification at that time was impossible because skeletons of *S. atrogularis* were not available for comparison with the fossil. Recently, however, five complete skeletons of *S. atrogularis* have been added to the collections of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Study of these reveals that the maxilla of *S. passerina* differs from that of *S. atrogularis* in being more slender and acuminate with tomia slightly concave when viewed dorsally; it is narrower in the