

*Remarks.*—The differences in coloration between this new form and *plumbeus* have already been noted by van Rossem (*op. cit.*). To review these characters, *plumbeus* possesses an olivaceous back which contrasts with the ashy gray pileum, whereas in *providentialis* the dorsum and pileum are concolor. The vinaceous wash seen on the flanks of *plumbeus* is, in fresh-plumaged birds, not seen in *providentialis* to any great extent. Two characters not previously noted are the lighter throat in *plumbeus* and the darker auricular feathers in *providentialis*.

In comparison with *cecaumenorum*, *providentialis* is a larger bird in all measurable characters. The true coloration of *cecaumenorum* is subject to doubt, as no winter-taken individuals are available. The head and auriculars of the topotypes of *cecaumenorum*, even though worn, seem too light to be equivalent to *providentialis*.

The following are the average measurements (in millimeters) of the three races of bush-tits in question. Males and females are combined, as no significant differences in the averages of the sexes has been found.

	Number	Wing	Tail	Bill length from nostril
<i>plumbeus</i>	42	50.3 $\sigma$ 1.01	56.5 $\sigma$ 2.78	6.12 $\sigma$ .24
<i>cecaumenorum</i>	9	48.9 $\sigma$ 1.30	54.7 $\sigma$ 1.32	5.90 $\sigma$ .28
<i>providentialis</i>	44	51.3 $\sigma$ 1.42	59.0 $\sigma$ 2.28	6.43 $\sigma$ .24

In a series of skins from Inyo and Mono counties, California, contained in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, coloration on the back is similar to *providentialis* and the flanks lack the vinaceous wash; but the throat is lighter than the belly and in this they are similar to *plumbeus*. The auriculars are intermediate between the two forms. On the whole, however, these birds are closer to the new form than they are to *plumbeus*. The birds from the Charleston Mountains are similar to those of the Providence Mountains (see van Rossem, *op. cit.*)—M. DALE ARVEY, *Boise Junior College, Boise, Idaho, November 29, 1940.*

**Unusual Behavior of the Florida Gallinule.**—At Lindo Lake, Lakeside, San Diego County, California, I was fortunate in observing some peculiar actions of the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*). On April 6, 1940, one was noticed paddling among the tules. It was frightened and hid in the thick growth, when I tried to show it to my companion. Soon after we moved away it showed itself on the other side of the narrow neck of water.

A Dr. Beale and his party from San Diego arrived and we searched the area for the bird, without locating it. When we returned to the car, the gallinule appeared on the shore and, as we watched, proceeded to climb a willow tree to a height of about twenty feet. The wings were used only slightly to assist in balancing as the bird walked up the sloping trunk. The gallinule stayed on the trunk or large branches. Another bird came out of the tules and followed the first up the tree. Both gallinules remained in the tree about five minutes, apparently feeding on the willow catkins. An effort was made to photograph them, but the tree was too dense. One bird flew down into the reeds, and the other was flushed by throwing a stick. Both hid again and were seen no more. No notes were heard during the entire episode.—JAMES G. PETERSON, *Descanso, California, November 1, 1940.*

**The Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse in Lake County, Oregon.**—Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon, 1940, pp. 216-217*) mention the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus columbianus*) as now being scarce and apparently in danger of early extinction in Oregon. Since Jewett does not record it from the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge (U. S. D. A. Misc. Publ. no. 355, 1939) as late as 1939, the following note may be worthwhile.

While with a paleontological field party from the California Institute of Technology in 1940, the author spent several days at Beatty Butte, Lake County, Oregon. Here, on July 29, a band of four Sharp-tailed Grouse was flushed on the western side of the Butte, high up among dry lava rocks and grasses. The birds were seen in the evening, just before sunset. In flight they moved more rapidly and were noticeably smaller than Sage Hens, which were numerous in this region. Uttering sharp cries, they passed up and over the brow of a small hill, to rise again and disappear at our approach.—JOHN E. CUSHING, JR., *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, October 9, 1940.*

**Creepers and Sequoias.**—I was much interested by the Rankins' recent paper (*British Birds, 34, 1940:56-60*) on the roosting habits of the Tree Creeper (*Certhia familiaris britannica*) in sequoias introduced to Great Britain. Of 17 *Sequoia gigantea* and 12 *S. sempervirens* under observation, 12 and 4 held creeper roosting holes, totalling 139 and 6 in number, respectively. Kennedy (*British Birds, 30, 1936:2-13*) also discusses this matter and on page 2 advises that some of the trees were probably