

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Singing Female Oven-bird.—The scarcity of museum specimens of the Gray Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus cinereus*), newly named subspecies (Miller, Condor, 44, 1942:185-186) with type locality in the Custer National Forest, Powder River County, Montana, indicated the desirability of collecting members of this race whenever the opportunity might arise. On June 22, 1942, I had occasion to be in the Custer National Forest eight miles south of Ekalaka, Carter County, Montana. This region is a few miles east of the type locality mentioned above. Oven-birds were in full song, enabling an observer to locate them with ease. One bird, singing the familiar notes, was stalked while it walked among the fallen leaves and branches on a side hill clothed with yellow pine and an undergrowth of alder. The bird was subsequently collected and prepared as a study skin. The specimen, collector's number 32 (1942), was found to be a female containing a normal ovary in which several follicles in a late stage of development were present. The apparent lack of published records of female warblers in song, coupled with the fact that the singing of a female Oven-bird is heretofore unknown, makes this incident worthy of recording.—ROBERT W. HIATT, *Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana, May 10, 1943.*

Cooper Tanager at Santa Barbara, California.—On March 7, 1943, Father Severin Baumann captured in one of his banding traps at the Santa Barbara Mission, an immature male Cooper Tanager (*Piranga rubra cooperi*). As he removed it from the trap, it uttered a couple of harsh calls and another bird answered from a tree a short distance away.

I mounted the specimen for the bird hall of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.—EGMONT Z. RETT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, April 13, 1943.*

Description of a Race of Goldfinch from the Pacific Northwest.—Several years ago a single specimen of the goldfinch from western Oregon had attracted interest because of its dark, rich coloration, but the matter was not further pursued at the time and until recently had been forgotten. The Dickey Collection now contains a series of twenty-three goldfinches from western Washington and western Oregon, and there are also available four from Vancouver Island and one from western Oregon in the Bishop Collection. These differ in several respects from typical *Spinus tristis salicamans* of southern California; in fact on the basis of the material at hand it seems odd that the existence of a northwestern race has previously escaped formal notice. In slight recognition of the fine work accomplished in the Pacific northwest by Stanley Jewett, and also because of a pleasant acquaintance-ship extending over many years, I propose as a name

Spinus tristis jewetti, new subspecies
Northwestern Goldfinch

Type.—Female, apparently fully adult, in fresh fall plumage, number 19823 Dickey Collection; Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon, October 19, 1923; collected by William Sherwood.

Subspecific characters.—A small race of *Spinus tristis*, similar in this respect to *salicamans* Grinnell of southern California (wings of 17 males average 69.4 mm., of 9 females 67.2). Both sexes in winter plumage everywhere darker and browner than in *salicamans*; back Saccardo Umber instead of Tawny-Olive; flanks Tawny-Olive to Sayal Brown instead of grayish Tawny-Olive; under tail coverts and edging of inner secondaries more strongly suffused with brown. The characters are most evident in newly acquired fall plumage but are observable up to the time of the prenuptial molt.

Range.—Coastal slope of western North America from southern British Columbia south to southwestern Oregon, and probably to northwestern California.

Remarks.—*Salicamans* from southern California differs markedly from other races of *Spinus tristis* in the partial, sometimes nearly complete, suppression of the prenuptial body molt of both males and females. It occurs gradually and in an irregular, patchy manner over a period of several months from about mid-January to late in May and the vast majority of individuals apparently never attain the full summer plumage. Egg laying begins in early April, in the midst of the molting process, and it has been suggested to me that breeding activity at this time might be in part responsible for the partial suppression. However, I have personally observed simultaneous breeding and molting in a considerable number of birds in the tropics where no such suppression was evident, and I am inclined, therefore, to consider it in the present case a racial characteristic. My own collecting has produced only one individual of each sex which wore a complete summer livery, but there is a rough portion of one in ten according to the total number (147) examined. What the proportion is in other races I do not know, but an incomplete prenuptial molt is obviously a relatively rare condition. One summer

(June) male of *jewetti* has retained the winter plumage on the entire abdominal area; the other nine summer males and all four summer females show a complete prenuptial molt.

Grinnell, in connection with his original description of *salicamans* (Auk, 14, 1897:397), has previously emphasized the molt of southern California birds as compared with *tristis* of the East; significantly, also, he noted the browner coloration of an unstated number of Oregon and Washington specimens, although in accord with the recognition standards of a half-century ago he did not name them.

Specimens of *jewetti* have been examined from Vancouver Island, 4 (Comox); Washington, 10 (Seattle, Tacoma, Gray's Harbor, Clallam County); Oregon, 14 (Eagle Point, Ashland, Salem, Tillamook, Eddyville, Gold Beach). A midsummer, full-plumaged male from Humboldt County, California (Bishop coll.), is placed here on a presumptive basis. One hundred forty-seven specimens of *salicamans* have been examined from San Diego north to Fresno and Palo Alto in California. Evidence of an approach to *jewetti* is seen in the Palo Alto series of six specimens in the Los Angeles Museum.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. Bishop and Mr. George Willett for unrestricted use of the collections at the Los Angeles Museum.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, March 12, 1943.*

White-tailed Kites in Santa Barbara County, California.—On the afternoon of November 15, 1942, I had the pleasure of seeing eighteen White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus*). Most of them were in the lower Lompoc Valley within five miles of the ocean. All birds were counted from the main highway between Lompoc and Surf. Had time allowed, I have no doubt that several more could have been observed. With hardly an exception the birds were in pairs; in one instance four pairs were found in an area of not more than twenty acres which was surrounded by approximately 200 acres which were identical in topography and cover to the area of concentration. At least one other observation indicated a gregarious tendency apparently unassociated with any economic expediency.

The chief concentration was on level land on the floor of the valley one-half mile to two miles south of the Santa Ynez river. Formerly this region was cultivated, but at present it is a part of Camp Cooke, and the fields are covered with dry grass and occasional tall, dry weeds.

I also saw and had reported to me a few individual kites from the area two or three miles east of Lompoc. In eight years residence here I have previously seen only one or two pairs of White-tailed Kites in the lower valley, where they apparently nested.—DALE T. WOOD, *Lompoc, California, March 29, 1943.*

The Starling in Eastern Washington.—On March 20, 1943, four students in my ornithology class (Stanton Jamison, George Klemz, Warren Bischoff, and Stanley Smith) and I saw a group of five Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) along the road in Spring Flat, eight miles north of Pullman, Washington. The birds were feeding on the ground and were observed from a distance of forty feet. The identification, therefore, is accurate.—LEONARD WING, *Department of Zoology, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington, April 16, 1943.*

A Partly White Red-winged Blackbird From the Willamette Valley of Oregon.—On January 17, 1943, I observed a mixed flock of Brewer and Red-winged blackbirds perched on a watering trough a few miles south of Corvallis, Oregon. One of the Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) had just a tinge of buff at the bend of the wing, the rest of the body being black with the exception of a broad white strip down the center of the tail and white primaries. These snowy white areas showed up in contrast to the black body and buff patch on the wing. This is the first "partial albino" Red-wing known from this area.—FRED G. EVENDEN, JR., *Oregon State College, February 15, 1943.*

Some Birds Not Commonly Observed in Utah.—Because of the scarcity of authentic published records of the following species of birds in Utah, it seems appropriate to record their recent occurrence at or near the Bear River marshes in northern Salt Lake Valley, Box Elder County.

Anas rubripes. Black Duck. A male bird was collected on December 8, 1942, by Mr. W. M. Bransford of Salt Lake City who gave the bird to Mr. Vanez T. Wilson, Superintendent of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. A study skin was prepared by Dr. E. R. Quortrup. Close examination of this bird shows a trace of mallard ancestry, as evidenced by the slight amount of greenish coloration on the head. Dr. J. W. Aldrich, who also examined the bird, states that the speckled head and distinctly reddish feet suggest the northern race, *A. r. rubripes*.

Clangula hyemalis. Old-squaw. A male was observed at close range and later was seen flying over Unit 5 of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge near Perry, Utah, in December, 1942. One or