

**A Record of the Snowy Owl in Southern California.**—Mr. William G. Ritter, of Palmdale, California, has in his collection a mounted specimen of the Snowy Owl (fig. 34), of which he writes me on May 2, 1945, as follows: "I was on a fishing trip back of Mt. Baldy in May of 1913 when a fellow sportsman told me of the different Owl he had seen in an old abandoned mine shack near Baldy. He said it was ill or hurt, but was so ferocious he wasn't able to touch it. I hiked up and found the bird with a mutilated wing. I brought it home but couldn't do anything with it so chloroformed and mounted it." The exact location, as nearly as Mr. Ritter can now place it, is at



Fig. 34. Specimen of Snowy Owl taken near Mount San Antonio, Los Angeles County, California.

an elevation of approximately 7000 feet, about eight miles northwest of Mount San Antonio, at a place shown on the U.S.G.S. San Antonio quadrangle as "Big Horn Mine." The site is therefore in Los Angeles County. The southernmost California records for this species admitted by Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:198) are Santa Cruz County along the coast and Butte County in the interior. They characterize the San Diego County record cited by Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull.* 170, 1938:374) as "unsubstantiated."—R. M. BOND, *Soil Conservation Service, Portland, Oregon, June 15, 1945.*

**Further Records of Birds from Central California.**—The ornithological collection of the late O. P. Silliman contains several specimens of birds that constitute records of distributional significance and which previously have not been made known. Most of these have come to notice in the course of checking identifications preparatory to cataloguing the collection in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The specimens here mentioned were not taken into consideration in "The Distribution of the Birds of California" (*Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944), which was in process of publication when the Silliman Collection was received. All comments which follow regarding ranges are made in reference to the accounts contained in this recent publication.

*Puffinus tenuirostris.* Slender-billed Shearwater. One (Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 91142) taken on April 1, 1915, at Santa Cruz, California, by A. G. Vrooman is the first authentic record of this species in the spring in California waters; previously it had been reported from mid-September to the end of Janu-

ary. An earlier report for April 10, on Monterey Bay (Grinnell, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 11, 1915:27) is an error.

*Oceanodroma homochroa*. Ashy Petrel. It has been suspected that this species occurs along the California coast throughout the year, but winter records between November 16 and April 8 have been lacking. One such is now at hand—a waif (no. 91163) taken at Salinas, Monterey County, on February 2, 1937, by R. L. Rudd.

*Butorides virescens anthonyi*. Green Heron. Winter records for central California are few. To these may be added one from Santa Cruz on December 15, 1895, a bird of the year (no. 91172) taken by A. G. Vrooman.

*Dendrocygna bicolor fulva*. Fulvous Tree-duck. Winter records for this duck are particularly unexpected in coastal central California. A male (no. 91192) was taken on February 24, 1899, in the vicinity of Santa Cruz, apparently by Vrooman.

*Mergus merganser americanus*. Common Merganser. A group of four immature birds (nos. 91255-91258) of this species was taken on July 11, 1937, at the De Tracey Ranch, 900 feet, Nacimiento River, San Luis Obispo County, by Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr., and R. L. Rudd. All possess stubby-ended rectrix shafts typical of immature ducks, and all were flightless due to the incomplete growth of the remiges. It seems certain that these ducks were hatched near by in the Nacimiento River system, a circumstance of which the collectors were fully aware. There is no other record of the breeding of this merganser in the coast ranges south of San Francisco Bay. The southernmost coastal breeding station heretofore recorded is the Navarro River, Mendocino County.

*Sphyrapicus thyroideus nataliae*. Williamson Sapsucker. The occurrence of the Williamson Sapsucker in winter at low elevations toward the seacoast is unusual. Even more unexpected is the presence there of the Rocky Mountain race *nataliae*, a subspecies which has been but recently added to the California state list. In the Vrooman material is a male (no. 91905) that is thoroughly typical of the race *nataliae*; it has an extremely small, slender bill. The bird was taken on November 29, 1896, in Santa Cruz County, probably near the town of Santa Cruz. This specimen is apparently the basis for McGregor's report (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 2, 1901:8) of the Williamson Sapsucker at Santa Cruz. At the time, races of this species were not recognized, and the record has subsequently been assumed, incorrectly, to pertain to *S. t. thyroideus*.

*Guiraca caerulea salicarius*. Blue Grosbeak. The coastal region of California between Ventura County and San Francisco Bay is sparsely visited by Blue Grosbeaks and none is certainly known to have bred in this area. That the species does breed scatteringly or sporadically in this section is made seem more likely by records of birds (nos. 92505, 92506) taken by R. L. Rudd  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest of Soledad Mission, Monterey County, in the Salinas Valley, on June 20, 1938, and May 7, 1939.

*Loxia curvirostra*. Red Crossbill. Few verifiable occurrences of the race *L. c. siskensis* south of the San Francisco Bay region in California are on record. Two small birds (nos. 92652, 92653), typical of this race, were taken on February 19, 1899, at Seabright, Santa Cruz County; the male is yellow colored. Much less to be expected in the Santa Cruz region are members of the race *L. c. bentii*. A male and a female (nos. 92654, 92655) taken at Glenwood, Santa Cruz County, on December 27, 1891, by C. B. Badger, show characteristic size and bill shape of this race; the male is typically light rosy red. No records of this race have heretofore been noted in the coastal sections of California. The breeding range lies to the eastward in the Rocky Mountains.

*Amphispiza belli nevadensis*. Bell Sparrow. An example (no. 92767) of the race *nevadensis* taken at Los Baños, Merced County, on February 5, 1936, by R. H. Beck, extends northwestward from Fresno County the known winter range of this race in the San Joaquin Valley.

*Junco oreganus pinosus*. Oregon Junco. Two juncos (nos. 92810, 92811) taken on July 7 and 8, 1937, at San Ardo, 450 feet, Monterey County, seem to indicate a breeding station for the race *pinosus* in the floor of the middle section of the Salinas Valley; one of the birds was molting. This is an unexpected local extension of the breeding range of this race which nests commonly at higher elevations in the mountains on either side of the valley.

*Spizella atrogularis cana*. Black-chinned Sparrow. A male (no. 92825) taken on October 9, 1937, at Priest Valley, Monterey County, by Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr., belongs to the race *cana* rather than to the form *caurina* which nests in the mountains of San Benito County a few miles to the northward. Probably this example of *cana* was a vagrant from the south or east. Autumnal records for any race of this species in California are scarce.

*Zonotrichia querula*. Harris Sparrow. An additional record of this rare winter visitant in California is that of a bird (no. 92826) taken near Davenport, Santa Cruz County, on November 23, 1902.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 15, 1945.*