

found no behavior of this sort in flocks of migratory White-crowned Sparrows prior to departure but had no data on behavior during migration.—HENRY E. CHILDS, JR., *University of California, Berkeley, California, February 22, 1949.*

**The Name for the Wryneck Recorded from Alaska.**—The first record of the Wryneck for the North American continent is that of A. M. Bailey (Birds of Arctic Alaska, Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., pop. ser. no. 8, 1948:270) who reported one found dead on September 8, 1945, near the village of Wales at the end of the Seward Peninsula, Alaska. The specimen was sent to the United States National Museum for determination, was identified as *Jynx torquilla harterti* (Poliakov, Mess. Orn., 6, 1915:135), and was so recorded.

Several geographic races in the species *Jynx torquilla* have been proposed recently, the form *harterti* being only one of half a dozen, and there has been uncertainty as to the number that merited recognition. In view of this we have taken opportunity to revise the fairly extensive series (65 specimens) in the National Museum with results of interest. It may be observed that our results, reached independently, coincide except in some details of range with those registered recently by J. L. Peters (Check-list of Birds of the World, 6, 1948:86-87). It must be noted that the forms that can be recognized at best are only slightly differentiated and that there is a considerable range of individual variation that obscures their characters.

Briefly, there are two main groups of populations, a pale colored, larger one in the west, extending from the western countries of Europe east to Lake Baikal, Tian Shan, and Pamir, including thus Poliakov's supposed race *harterti*. This name, therefore, is to be listed as a synonym of *Jynx torquilla torquilla* as has been stated by Steinbacher (Vög. pal. Fauna, Ergänzungsband, Heft 4, January, 1935: 377). To the east is a darker group of smaller size that divides into two races. One of these, *japonica* (Bonaparte), breeding on Hokkaido and found in migration to southern Japan, is of smaller size (wing 77.5-79.1 mm.), and warmer brown color. The other, *chinensis* Hesse (Ornith. Monatsb., 6, 1911:181), breeds over a wide area from northern Manchuria, Amur and Sakhalin south to Kashmir and western and central China, in migration reaching Siam and Indochina. This is somewhat duller than *japonica* and is larger (wing 79.2-88.6 mm.). Parenthetically it is interesting to note that the resident race of Italy, *tschusii*, belongs also in the smaller, darker group, differing from the distant *chinensis*, to which it is similar in size, only in slightly warmer brown color.

The specimen from Wales, Alaska, agrees both in color and size with *chinensis*, the wing measuring 83.5 mm., and is identified now as a vagrant of that race.—ALEXANDER WETMORE and HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., December 23, 1948.*

**A Hummingbird Casualty.**—On April 13, 1947, I was observing the display antics of several male Allen Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus sasin*) in Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa County, California. Directly above my point of observation was a series of telephone wires which at that point were about 20 feet above the road. Every few minutes one of the males would pass between the wires on a power dive downward. As I watched one bird, it dove straight at one of the wires and, never wavering perceptibly, struck it with an audible impact, bounced off, and fell to the road about eight feet from where I stood. Apparently death had been instantaneous.

Upon examination, the bird's left eye was found to be partially collapsed and exuding fluid. Whether this should be considered a contributory cause of the accident or a result of the impact was not clear. It seems hard to believe that a bird recently so blinded would be engaged in apparently normal courtship behavior, yet it is just as hard to visualize such tremendous concentration on the object of its diving as to cause it to fly full force straight into the relatively large wire without seeing it in time to swerve out of harm's way.—JOHN R. HENDRICKSON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, November 22, 1948.*