

**Blue Grosbeak in the Badlands of South Dakota.**—In the Badlands National Monument in South Dakota on the morning of July 20, 1950, a male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) was seen feeding on a tiny level stretch of nearly barren ground between two peaks high above Cedar Pass Lodge. The bird was quite unconcerned and allowed us to observe him closely for several minutes. The location was along the road in the eastern end of the Badlands nearly on the line between Pennington and Jackson counties, probably in the latter county.

Although the 1931 A. O. U. Check-list does not list South Dakota in the range of the Blue Grosbeak, Pettingill and Dana (Auk, 60, 1943:441-444) have recently reported three males observed along the White River near Stamford on June 3, 1942, and have summarized other published records. These are chiefly along the Missouri River or in the counties just west of this river along the Nebraska border of South Dakota. The records that can be accurately located are: The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Shannon County (Tullsen, Condor, 13, 1911:89-104); Yankton County (Youngworth, Wilson Bull., 44, 1932:43); and Tripp County, also in the Pine Ridge country (Visher, Auk, 30, 1913:280). Over and Thoms (Birds of South Dakota, 1921:118) write concerning the Blue Grosbeak: "Known to nest along the Missouri River as far north as Pierre," but they do not cite any particular records. The present record for the Badlands is in line with the other records, although it is slightly more northwestern. It is of particular interest because the bird was in an area relatively destitute of plant and animal life. We had no way of ascertaining whether the bird was breeding nearby or had wandered into the area.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, *Biology Department, University of Louisville, Kentucky, April 18, 1951.*

**On the Supposed Identity of *Emberiza hyperborea* Pallas with *Pipilo fuscus* Swainson.**—In a recent paper written by the well-known Russian ornithologist, L. A. Portenko (Doklady Acad. Nauk USSR, 76, no. 1, 1951:145-147; in Russian) it has been proposed to replace the scientific name of the Brown Towhee, *Pipilo fuscus* Swainson 1827, by *Pipilo hyperboreus* (Pallas "1811"), on account of a sketch, which once formed the basis of Pallas' description of his *Emberiza hyperborea* and which recently has been examined by Portenko in the Archives of the Academy of Sciences at Leningrad. A reproduction of this decisive figure is inserted in Portenko's article, to which my attention has been drawn by Professor Hans Johansen of Copenhagen.

In my opinion, neither the description nor the figure do agree with *Pipilo fuscus*. Both apply clearly to an Aleutian race of the Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*, either to *Melospiza melodia sanaka* McGregor (formerly called *cinerea* Gmelin), or to *M. m. insignis* Baird.

According to Pallas (Zoographia Rosso-Asiatica, II, 1827:35) the type of his *Emberiza hyperborea* had been collected "in terris Tschuktschicis a DD. Merk," but as I have already shown (Zool. Jahrb. (Syst.), 78, 1948:97-132) the localities attributed by Pallas to specimens of the Billings-Merck expedition are quite unreliable. In this case, too, a mistake has occurred. *Emberiza hyperborea* must have been collected by Merck (and drawn by Woronin) either at Unalaska in June, 1790, or in June-July, 1791, or else at Kodiak in July, 1790. A clear reference to this specimen is lacking in Merck's unpublished diary.

The nomenclatorial difficulty thus existing could well be overcome by arbitrarily fixing the terra typica on one of the two Aleutian islands in question. In that case either *M. m. sanaka* or *M. m. insignis* would become a synonym of *M. m. hyperborea* (Pallas). Instead of doing so, I prefer to propose that the name *Emberiza hyperborea* Pallas should be relegated to the rank of obligatory synonym.—ERWIN STRESEMANN, *Zoologisches Museum der Universität Berlin, Germany, April 25, 1951.*

**The Status of Rough-legged Hawks in Idaho.**—Arvey in his check-list of the birds of Idaho (Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1, 1947:199) has indicated a questionable status for the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) and the American Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus s. johannis*). Since no mention was made of these hawks in his recent corrections of this list (Arvey, Condor, 52, 1950:275) the matter is reviewed here and a definite nesting record given for *Buteo regalis* in Idaho.

Arvey reports that the American Rough-legged Hawk is a common migrant and a possible resident. The breeding range of the American Rough-leg, as given by most authors, extends from arctic North America to central British Columbia (see Friedmann, Birds N. M. Amer., pt. 11, 1950:328 and Hellmayr and Conover, Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 1, no. 4, 1949:112). Weydemeyer (Condor, 35, 1933:121)