

**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1921:118) write concerning the Blue Grosbeak: "Known to nest along the Missouri River as far north as Pierre," but they do not cite any particular records.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)

reported several summer records of the American Rough-leg in Lincoln County, Montana, gathered over a nine-year observation period. He also reported seeing two young in flight in Flathead County on August 8, 1922. Lincoln County is adjacent to northern Idaho. Although more conclusive evidence may be desirable, the indications are that the American Rough-leg breeds in western Montana. It is quite likely that it also breeds in northern Idaho.

In the past two years I observed the American Rough-leg to be a winter resident in the south-central portion of Idaho. In this period the following sight records were accumulated from southern Cassia County, Idaho, and northern Boxelder County, Utah: At Standrod on the Utah-Idaho border, 3 on October 30, 1949, and 1 on December 27, 1950; 2 miles south of Elmo, Idaho, 2 on December 4, 1950, 1 on December 26, 1950, and 2 on January 28, 1951; three were found dead along the highway 2 miles east of Strevell (near the Utah-Idaho line) on December 3, 1950; Park Valley, Utah, 8 on January 8, 1950, 1 on December 5, 1950, and 1 on January 30, 1951.

The Ferruginous Rough-leg is considered by Arvey (*loc. cit.*) to be an uncommon migrant. In its range it is confined primarily to western North America and breeds from southern Canada to the southern United States (see Hellmayr and Conover, *op. cit.*: 93). On May 27, 1950, a nest of this species was shown to me by Mr. Robert J. Erwin in Cassia County, Idaho, about 12 miles west of Strevell and 2 miles west of Standrod. The nest was located about 12 feet from the ground in a juniper tree (*Juniperus utahensis*) and contained two downy young and an infertile egg. The sparse juniper stand in which the nest was found is situated between the Raft River Mountains of Utah and the Albion range of Idaho. These two mountain ranges are separated by approximately 10 miles of sage brush (*Artemisia*). Stands of juniper extend from each mountain range down into the sage brush areas, thinning out as they do so. Ranches and farms are located on the choicer foothill areas where hayfields supply the hawks with an abundance of small rodents. Much of southern Idaho has conditions such as these which provide an excellent habitat for this bird. In my field work in Idaho during the past two years I have made numerous other summer observations of the Ferruginous Rough-leg in this type of habitat, which is so abundant in southern Idaho.

From the evidence presented, it would therefore appear that while the American Rough-leg may possibly be a summer resident in northern Idaho, it is certainly a common winter visitant to sections of southern Idaho. The Ferruginous Rough-leg in Idaho is a common summer resident, at least in the southern portion, instead of an uncommon migrant.—RICHARD D. PORTER, *Department of Vertebrate Zoology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 7, 1951.*

**Mourning Doves Raise Triplets.**—A study of table 19 in Grinnell, Bryant and Storer's, *Game Birds of California* (1918:594) shows one set of three eggs laid by Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) out of sixty-six definite nest records from the state of California. Tyler (*Pac. Coast Avif. No. 9, 1913:36*) states that "after examining hundreds of nests" he can only recall two in which the complement deviated from two in number. A. K. Fisher (*N. Amer. Fauna No. 7, 1893:33*) states that at Lone Pine, Inyo County, a nest was found during the first part of June which contained three young. The paucity of records of Mourning Doves successfully raising three young in a nest seems to make the following account of interest.

For several years a pair of Mourning Doves has nested in a Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria excelsa*) in our front yard in Hollywood, California. The tree is about 40 feet high. Cold weather causes the needles to turn brown and subsequently to drop to the ground when the wind blows. Many of these dry brown needles lodge on the foliage near the junction of the limb with the trunk of the tree. This makes a satisfactory platform for the doves' loosely constructed nest. The early nests have been successful. Those later in the summer are usually destroyed by Scrub Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). The favorite nesting site has been on the side of the tree toward the house and it can easily be observed from an upstairs window.

This year in the middle of April it seemed to us that the nest was quite full of doves but we thought nothing of it until three young doves walked out on a limb and flew to the ground under the dining room window where they had a protected area with a border of ferns. We watched them through the window from a distance of about three feet being fed by the parents, one parent feeding all three in order at a feeding. After each feeding the three would snuggle up together as they sat on the ground. Oftentimes before the adult arrived to feed them they would walk around the small area picking at the dirt. When they were frightened, they would fly up to one of the lower limbs