

that different releasing and directing stimuli are controlling these motions and that they therefore differ in biological function.

The observations of perch-scratching in emberizines further complicates our understanding of the distribution of head-scratching methods among birds, for now three, instead of two, variables must be investigated. Perhaps perch-scratching does not occur outside the Emberizinae, in which case it becomes a special instead of a general problem. Are these three scratching methods exactly equivalent, or does a different complex of stimuli release and direct each type? It is not within the scope of this paper to consider fully the biological function and motivation of head-scratching motions, but I suggest that this will need to be done before a complete understanding of the distribution of motions can be gained.

Because perch-scratching has added new problems and because a much higher variability than first expected (Simmons, *op. cit.*) has been found in the method of head-scratching used, taxonomic conclusions based on the type of scratching utilized should be considered tentative until all such behavior is better understood.

My sincere thanks go to Mrs. Margaret Nice for her many suggestions concerning the manuscript of this article and about the subject of head-scratching.—JACK P. HAILMAN, *Bethesda, Maryland, June 23, 1959.*

Some Additional Records of the Skua from California.—Prior to 1944 there were but four specimens and a single sight observation of the Skua (*Catharacta skua*) for California (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:160). Between 1944 and 1959 there have been more observations of this species off California than the total to 1944. In view of the comparative rarity of this bird and the vagaries of its appearances here, it might be well to outline some of the known records since the publication of *Avifauna* No. 27. Increased interest by amateur and professional ornithologists in searching for and observing pelagic birds has probably accounted in part for some of the following records. However, some years (1945, 1947–50, 1952–53, 1955) passed without any observations of this species although numerous pelagic trips were made in the late summer and early fall of these years. Notable flight years were 1956 and 1957, the latter being nothing short of remarkable. Some explanation might be found in examination of oceanographic conditions in late 1956 and in 1957. The year of 1957 was known as the year of warm water and southern fish, during which ocean temperatures were raised 2°F. to 5.5°F. along the Pacific coast from Crescent City, California, to Baja California and some tropical species of fish were taken off the coast of Washington.

A single Skua was observed at Santa Monica Beach on February 10 and 20, 1946, by Alma Stultz, Alan Morgan, and others (Pyle, *Annotated Field List of the Birds of Southern California*, 1953:23); another was seen at almost the identical place on April 4, 1951, by Lasky (*Condor*, 54, 1952:175); one specimen was collected (the fifth from California waters) on October 3, 1954, by Howard Cogswell several miles northeast of southeast Farallon Island (*Audubon Field Notes*, 9, 1955:52); a single bird was seen in the San Pedro Channel on March 21, 1955, by Vivian Ross and Ruth P. Emery (*Audubon Field Notes*, 9, 1955:284); two were seen on September 29, 1956, by Dean B. Fisher, 27 miles southwest of Point Conception (MS); at least eight were seen (some within 20 feet) on September 30, 1956, by Dean B. Fisher in the area from 5 miles northwest to 3 miles south of southeast Farallon Island (*Audubon Field Notes*, 11, 1957:55); one was seen 6 miles southeast of Pyramid Cove, southeast end of San Clemente Island on August 13, 1957, by me and one was seen on August 29, 1957, by John Bishop south of the southeast end of San Clemente Island (*Audubon Field Notes*, 11, 1957:428); one was seen on September 22, 1957, by some members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society southwest of Santa Cruz Island (*Audubon Field Notes*, 11, 1957:429); at least six (with a total of ten separate sightings, including three in view at once and photographed sitting on the water) were seen on October 5, 1957, by me at points from 7 to 12 miles west of Monterey; and one bird was seen on October 4, 1958, northeast of Catalina Island by G. S. Suffel (MS).—ARNOLD SMALL, *Los Angeles, California, February 11, 1959.*

Another Record of the Orchard Oriole in California.—Several times in the month of March, 1958, a black and chestnut-colored oriole was seen in a large rattlebox shrub (*Crotalaria capensis*) which is in my yard in San Diego, California. The bird was taking nectar from the canary-colored