

Noteworthy Bird Records from Baja California.—During the course of a bioecological survey of Bahía de San Quintín, Baja California, under the auspices of the Beaudette Foundation for Biological Research, the author collected several birds which are considered to be rare in Baja California and one which is the first record for México.

Ammospiza caudacuta. Sharp-tailed Sparrow. On February 2, 1961, while collecting along the edge of a small, nearly dry marsh, I flushed a small sparrow which took refuge in a clump of bushes near the edge of the marsh. By "squeeking," the bird was brought out into the open and collected. Although the plumage is worn, the measurements and coloration indicate that this specimen is referable to the subspecies *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*. The area where the specimen was obtained, as well as other areas of similar habitat, were checked repeatedly for several days following, but no additional individuals of this sparrow were seen or heard.

The specimen, a male (L.A.C.M. no. 38067) is apparently the first record of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow for México. The species is recorded as occurring only accidentally in California (A.O.U. Check-list, 5th ed., 1957:595).

Stercorarius parasiticus. Parasitic Jaeger. On November 9, 1960, I collected an immature female of this species. It was shot about sixty yards inside the mouth of the bay proper. The bird was being chased and harassed by three medium-sized terns. This specimen (L.A.C.M. no. 36916) lacks the elongated central tail feathers but is definitely of this species; the ulna and radius measure, respectively, 108.2 mm. and 105.1 mm. For the method of determination see Willett and Howard (Condor, 36, 1934:158).

It is noteworthy that this jaeger was collected inside of the bay. The Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico, Part I (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 29, 1950:103) notes only five records for Baja California, "at sea." This specimen weighed 458.2 gms.

Steganopus tricolor. Wilson Phalarope. Three specimens of this phalarope were collected; one, a nonbreeding female (L.A.C.M. no. 36917) was collected on August 13, 1961, from a large flock of Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*) and Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*), feeding on the exposed mudflats at low tide. The second and third individuals (L.A.C.M. no. 36918 and 36919), a nonbreeding male and female, were taken from a group of seventeen phalaropes, consisting of Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*) and Wilson Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*), on the same date. These birds were feeding in a small, fresh water pond about one mile inland from the bay.

The Mexican Check-list (*op. cit.*:102) records the Wilson Phalarope in Baja California as being "rare, three records." The weights of the phalaropes were 36.4, 35.2, and 36.8 gms., respectively.—JAMES R. NORTHERN, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, September 28, 1961.*

Winter Wren Feeds Townsend Solitaire Young.—Skutch (Condor, 63, 1961:198–226) in his survey of the literature on helpers among birds cites several instances where individuals of the Old World population of the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) were observed feeding young of another bird species. This note records similar behavior by a Winter Wren from North America.

On July 2, 1961, along the Congress Trail in Sequoia National Park, Tulare County, California, I found the nest of a Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) containing four young. These young left the nest on July 8 or 9. During four visits to the nest in this 6-day period a Winter Wren was observed feeding the young solitaires. On two of the four occasions more than 40 accompanying park visitors witnessed the behavior.

On July 6 a Winter Wren and a Townsend Solitaire simultaneously fed the young birds from opposite sides of the nest. No aggressive behavior was observed. During all four periods of observation the Winter Wren seemed less reticent to approach the nest than did the solitaire.

Nothing in the behavior of the wren suggested that it had a nest in the area. Consequently, into which of Skutch's categories this bird would fall is unknown.—GERALD G. ROBINSON, *Biological Science, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, October 9, 1961.*

A Recent Record of the Ovenbird for California.—On July 23, 1961, I picked up a dead Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus*) in the vicinity of Sugar Bowl Lodge, Norden, Nevada County, California. On first sight the bird seemed in relatively good condition, but further examination revealed that it had received a severe blow on the back of the head. Judging from the condition

of the body, it had probably been dead about two days. The site where it was discovered was several hundred feet from any travelled dirt road. The specimen was a mature female and is now in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley. Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:408) indicate four prior recordings of this species in California.—WILLIAM N. GOODALL, *National Audubon Society, El Monte, California, August 9, 1961.*

Bird Remains from a Prehistoric Cave Deposit in Grant County, New Mexico.—Two lots of bones were recently submitted to me by Dr. Robert A. Zeller, Jr., of Hachita, New Mexico. In the course of a geological study, Zeller screened the bones from the dry dust of the floor of a cave high on the north side of Howells Ridge, Little Hatchet Mountains, Grant County, New Mexico. I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Zeller, not only for sending the first lot of bones, but, particularly, for returning to the cave to enlarge the collection and accumulate data.

Most of the bones are of rodents; a few are of larger mammals, such as horse and camel. Well over two hundred represent nineteen species of birds. Dr. Zeller's test excavation was about 5 feet in diameter and reached a depth of 3 feet. He believes that the bedrock floor of the cave lies several feet farther down. He states that the dust of the cave floor is not in clearly defined strata, but that most of the bones were found about 1 foot below the surface. No articulated skeletons were found; bones were scattered. Dr. Zeller considers the cave deposits to be Quaternary, the skeletal remains possibly representing a mixture of late Pleistocene and Recent forms. He notes the presence of a few flint chips and pieces of charcoal that suggest human association.

Condors, genus *Gymnogyps*, are represented by approximately 100 fairly well preserved bones, including nearly all skeletal elements, as well as by many fragments of shafts. Incompletely ossified bones are noted among the tibiotarsi, tarsometatarsi, coracoids, radii and fibulae. The tibiotarsi and tarsometatarsi, particularly, reflect three growth stages: the very young, in which the tarsus is not yet connected with the tibia or the metatarsals, and the texture of the bone is quite spongy (at least three individuals); an immature stage in which the tarsus is united, but the texture of the bone is still rough and slightly spongy (two or more individuals); and the adult with fully ossified bones (three or more individuals).

Measurements are possible on 33 of the condor limb bones. All appear to be of the large size of the Pleistocene form from Rancho La Brea, which Fisher (Condor, 46, 1944:290) recognized as *G. amplus*. Comparing measurements with those of *G. amplus* and *G. californianus* given by Fisher (Pacific Science, 1, 1947:227-236), all but nine of the 33 measurable bones are larger than the maximum for *G. californianus*. The nine fall in a middle zone in which the size ranges of *G. amplus* and *G. californianus* overlap. The carpometacarpi appear exceptionally heavy of shaft. Unfortunately Fisher did not give measurements of girth for this element; on a small sample measured in the course of the present study, the fossil and Recent forms differed very slightly in breadth of shaft and fell considerably below the cave specimens.

Two condor rostra are present, one fairly complete (though lacking the tip and part of the tomial edge), the other a fragment. The better specimen measures 27.8 mm. in breadth, which is 0.2 mm. broader than the maximum Rancho La Brea specimen recorded by Fisher (Condor, 46, 1944:277). On the other hand, it appears to be relatively more shallow dorsoventrally; the incomplete tomial edge prevents exact measurement of depth. Fisher notes (*op. cit.*:291) that "relative bill depth is less in *amplus* than in *californianus*." One characteristic of the cave rostra, best observed in the more complete specimen, is the presence of a pair of markedly swelled ridges, one on either side and extending along the median line of the ventral surface of the nasal process of the premaxilla. In the fragmentary rostrum the nasal process is split longitudinally along the midline, providing a longitudinal section that suggests, by its relatively great dorsoventral depth, the presence of the same ridges. Only a faint suggestion of such ridges can be found in one or two specimens of over 60 rostra in the Rancho La Brea collection at the Los Angeles County Museum. Neither of the two available Recent specimens of *G. californianus* shows the slightest indication of these ridges. Before ascribing taxonomic significance to this character of the rostrum, I should like to attempt to procure still more material from the site in the Little Hatchet Mountains. It is hoped, also, that some readers of this note may know of condor rostra taken from other prehistoric sites, which might be made available for scrutiny. Through the courtesy of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, and the United States National Museum, I have