

BIRD LISTING AND THE FIELD OBSERVER

birds whether seen at foreign airports, museum gardens abroad, or wherever we happen to be (it is sensible for an ornithologist to see as many kinds of birds as he can, and many ornithologists started their life's work with that as an initial aim!). However, my point is that we should encourage at all times accurate, detailed observations recorded on paper (or on tapes). These should take the place of the unrecorded mental notes usually accompanying simple listing.

American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y. 10024.

NOTES

A RED-FACED WARBLER REACHES CALIFORNIA

On 30 May 1970 Xenia and Pierre Devillers and I found a Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rubrifrons* at the Brock Ranch situated about 20 miles east of Holtville, Imperial County, California. This bird was alone in a cottonwood, and responded to "squeaking", descending from the upper portions of the tree. It moved around rather slowly on the outermost portions of the limbs, remaining motionless, with wings partially extended and bill open, for short periods of time, for the temperature was close to 100°. The following description was obtained:

The forehead, throat, and upper breast were a dirty pink, palest on the breast. The top of the head was black, with the black extending down the sides of the face behind the eye to include the ear coverts. A small dirty white area on the nape separated the black of the black top of the head from the gray back. The back, wings and tail were gray; the wing coverts were edged with dirty white, producing two rather indistinct wing-bars on each wing. The rump was dirty white. The belly and crissum were dirty white, and the flanks were a very pale gray. The bill was black, and looked rather stubby and thick.

NOTES

I collected the bird, and it is now #37494 in the San Diego Natural History Museum. The specimen was prepared by Suzanne I. Bond; it was not possible to sex the bird, but the plumage characters indicate it is a pale, rather worn, female (gives the impression of having faded, but this is how it appeared in the field). The specimen has been compared with the series in the San Diego Natural History Museum and Dr. J. R. Jehl, Jr. agreed with the identification.

The Red-faced Warbler breeds in the mountains from central Arizona (Bradshaw Mountains) (Phillips et al., 1964) and southwestern New Mexico (Magdalena Mountains) (A.O.U., 1957) south through Sonora (Marshall, 1957) and Chihuahua (Stager, 1954) possibly to Sinaloa and Durango (Miller et al., 1957). It winters in the mountains from Sinaloa and Durango to Chiapas (Alvarez del Toro, 1964), Guatemala (Griscom, 1932) and Honduras (Monroe, 1968). There is only one lowland record for Arizona (Phillips et al., 1964), and none for Mexico, which indicates it is most unusual away from the mountains. The record for California is the first for that state, and establishes another lowland record.

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