NOTES

THE ALLEGED OCCURRENCE OF NUTTING'S FLYCATCHER IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

In a recent editorial comment (Calif. Birds 1:80, 1970), I uncritically repeated the Baja California record of a Nutting's Flycatcher Myiarchus nuttingi inquientus from Catavina on 6 October 1930, quoted both by the North American check-list (A.O.U. Check-list of North American birds, 1957) and the Mexican check-list (Miller in Miller et al., A distributional check-list of the birds of Mexico, Part II, 1957). The bird was originally reported by Huey (Auk 48:429-430, 1931).

I have now examined the specimen, San Diego Natural History Museum no. 13652, "male"; it is unquestionably an Ash-throated Flycatcher M. cinerascens. The tail pattern corresponds to the "typical M. cinerascens pattern," category I.A, of Lanyon's key (Condor 63:424-426, 1961). In all other plumage characters, pale underparts, whitish edges of secondaries, nuchal band, and gray color of auriculars, it is typical of cinerascens. The measurements (wing 88, tail 86.7, exposed culmen 13 mm) fall outside the range of male Ash-throated Flycatchers but inside the range of female Ash-throated Flycatchers, as well as of Nutting's Flycatchers. The wing formula is inconclusive.

Dr. Wesley E. Lanyon kindly examined the specimen and confirmed (in litt.) its identification as cinerascens, presumably mis-sexed. This record of Nutting's Flycatcher was the only one for Baja California, and to my knowledge, the only truly extralimital record of M. nuttingi inquientus. Indeed, in my opinion southern Arizona is within a normal area of wandering and/or expansion for Sonoran species, and I do not consider the record from there as extralimital. Pierre Devillers, 11 av. de l'Oiseau bleu, 1150 Bruxelles, Belgium.

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