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### **ELEVATION RANGES OF BIRDS ON THE SIERRA NEVADA'S WEST SLOPE**

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**ABSTRACT:** Published estimates of elevation ranges of Sierra Nevada birds are based primarily on anecdotal observations and professional opinion rather than systematic surveys. Continuing climate change is likely to alter the elevation ranges of Sierra bird species, and is perhaps already doing so, but published data are inadequate for describing elevation ranges rigorously. We present elevation ranges of 75 common Sierra Nevada birds based on data from Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks in the southern Sierra Nevada and Yosemite National Park in the central Sierra Nevada. The mean elevation of a species was significantly higher at Sequoia/Kings Canyon than at Yosemite, by an average of 103 m. When we excluded species restricted to low-elevation habitats that are better represented at Sequoia/Kings Canyon than at Yosemite, and species that disperse upslope and we detected well above their likely breeding ranges, the mean difference between the two areas in the mean elevation of the remaining 59 species was even greater, 219 m. These descriptions of elevation ranges will facilitate future assessments of range shifts, and, more immediately, will provide managers of more intensively managed lands in the Sierra Nevada outside the parks with reference information from the relatively pristine parks.

### **AN OUTPOST FOR DESERT BIRDS ON THE COASTAL SLOPE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

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**ABSTRACT:** Aguanga, California, is located on the Pacific slope of Riverside County and has no direct connection to the Colorado Desert. However, isolated populations of birds associated with the desert occur in the arid shrublands surrounding this small community. Even more unexpectedly, three of these desert species coexist with closely related counterparts on the coastal slope: Gambel's Quail (*Callipepla gambelii*) occurs with the California Quail (*C. californica*), the Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*) occurs with Nuttall's Woodpecker (*P. nuttallii*), and the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*) occurs with the California Gnatcatcher (*P. californica*). My observations near Aguanga document range extensions for a number of species in an area that has received little ornithological attention.

## NOTES

### **FIRST RECORD OF THE BRIDLED MORPH OF THE COMMON MURRE IN THE PACIFIC**

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### **MERLIN CHASES PASSERINES FLUSHED BY NORTHERN HARRIER**

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**Molt in North American Birds**, by Steve N.G. Howell. 2010. Houghton  
Mifflin, New York. 280 pages, 271 photographs. Hardcover, \$35.00. ISBN-13:  
978-0-547-15235-6.

**Feather-Watching: An Interactive CD Guide for Studying Birds in the  
Field**, by Lisa Hug. 2009. 80 minutes. [www.Lisahugnorthbaybirds.com](http://www.Lisahugnorthbaybirds.com). \$24.75.

**Effects of Climate Change on Birds**, edited by Anders Pape Møller, Wolfgang Fiedler,  
and Peter Berthold. 2010. Oxford University Press, Oxford, England. 321 pages,  
71 figures (black and white, with 9 also as color plates), 20 tables. Hardback, \$117.00.  
ISBN 978-0-19-956974-8. Softback, \$62.95, ISBN 978-0-19-956975-5.

## FEATURED PHOTO

### **HYBRID TOWNSEND'S × YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS FROM OREGON AND ARIZONA**

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