

here, is the Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria linaria*), my first specimen for the season being taken on February 3, 1917. After that date Redpolls were seen several times, one flock containing at least a thousand individuals. I examined them carefully with a glass at short range, but could see none that might have belonged to any other varieties of Redpoll.

*Tacoma, Washington, April 5, 1917.*

## OBSERVATIONS ON SOME FRESNO COUNTY BIRDS

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(Contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California)

**D**URING the fall of 1916 the writer, together with Mr. Joseph Dixon and Mr. Halsted G. White, in carrying on field work for the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in the Kings River section of the Sierra Nevada, had occasion to do some bird collecting at a point lying just within the boundary of the territory covered by John G. Tyler in his papers on "Birds of the Fresno Region, California" (Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 9, 1913, and CONDOR, XVIII, 1916, p. 167 and p. 194). In the course of our observations several species were encountered not included in those lists, as well as others whose presence is based upon such scanty data that it seems desirable to place on record statements as to the manner in which we found them.

We stayed at the little hamlet of Minkler, in the southern part of Fresno County, some ten miles east of the town of Sanger. At this point the valley for miles around is largely devoted to vineyards, practically all arable land being under cultivation, and in what would seem to be an unfavorable condition for birds; but the bottomlands of the Kings River, in this section split up into innumerable narrow and tortuous channels, is a wilderness of tangled willows and underbrush that forms a haven of refuge for many species. Many birds, too, did seem to find attraction in the vineyards. About a mile to the eastward the first of the Sierran foothills rises abruptly, barren of trees or underbrush, but well covered with grasses and other forage plants, and evidently used at times for cattle grazing. Scattered over the hills are numerous rock piles of varying extent.

Birds were numerous, and the variety of surroundings and cover found within a relatively small area was productive of many rather striking contrasts among species observed in close proximity. We remained at Minkler ten days, October 4 to 13, and during this time seventy-seven species of birds were listed by our party. Of these, the following sixteen seem worthy of special mention regarding their occurrence at this point.

***Buteo lineatus elegans.*** Red-bellied Hawk. Included in Tyler's supplementary list as occurring sparingly in the Kings River bottoms near Sanger. This is the section we were in, and one or more of these hawks were seen daily, while they could be heard constantly giving their characteristic chattering call as they circled overhead.

***Phalaenoptilus nuttalli californicus.*** Dusky Poor-will. One specimen recorded by Tyler. I saw one in a vineyard at Minkler, October 5, and others were seen or heard at points farther back in the hills. It is undoubtedly of fairly common occurrence in this section.

**Spinus pinus pinus.** Pine Siskin. Abundant, frequenting weed patches and clumps of sunflowers. In large flocks, associated with the several species of goldfinches and the Linnet.

**Poocetes gramineus affinis.** Oregon Vesper Sparrow. In the open pastures and on the hills vesper sparrows were present in numbers. But one specimen was collected, October 7, and this proved to be *affinis*.

**Zonotrichia coronata.** Golden-crowned Sparrow. Listed by Tyler as a "rare winter visitant". We found it present at Minkler in great numbers, often associated with the Intermediate Sparrows, but on the whole showing a preference for denser cover. These sparrows were rather a nuisance, intruding themselves constantly into our small mammal traps and thus forestalling the capture of more desirable specimens.

**Aimophila ruficeps ruficeps.** Rufous-crowned Sparrow. On the foothill slope some half a mile east of Minkler this species was found in fair abundance. As many as ten or twelve might be observed in the course of half an hour. The hills they frequented are devoid of brush or trees of any sort, and the sparrows resorted for shelter to the numerous rock piles and outcroppings. Here, in company with a large Rock Wren population, they seemed to find congenial surroundings despite the lack of vegetation of a size to afford shelter.

**Melospiza lincolni lincolni.** Lincoln Sparrow. Of four specimens of this species collected, one proved to be *M. l. lincolni*, the other three, *M. l. gracilis*. The species, of whichever form, was abundant in the willows.

**Passerella iliaca meruloides.** Yakutat Fox Sparrow. A fox sparrow taken on October 10, the only one seen, is of this subspecies.

**Oreospiza chlorura.** Green-tailed Towhee. A single specimen is recorded by Tyler from Mendota. We secured one, an immature female, in the willows at Minkler, October 6. This species is undoubtedly but a mere straggler to the western base of the Sierras.

**Vermivora celata celata.** Orange-crowned Warbler. A typical example of this subspecies was taken at Minkler, October 12.

**Vermivora celata lutescens.** Lutescent Warbler. It seems curious that this species should be omitted from Tyler's list, for it must be of regular occurrence through the region as a migrant. We observed it at Minkler daily, though in small numbers, in the willow bottoms and also in weed patches and vineyards.

**Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus.** Dotted Canyon Wren. On the rock-strewn hillside east of Minkler this species was found in small numbers. Rock Wrens fairly swarmed over the hills, and were remarkably tame and confiding, but the Canyon Wrens retreated into the deeper crevices of the rocks at the first sign of danger, and were seen but with difficulty at any time. The species probably would have been overlooked had it not been for the resonant call note, audible at a surprisingly long distance.

**Troglodytes aedon parkmani.** Western House Wren. Five or six seen, usually in the willow bottoms.

**Telmatorhynchus palustris plesius.** Western Marsh Wren. Several marsh wrens were seen. The single specimen collected, taken October 12, proved to be of the subspecies *plesius*.

**Hyllocichla guttata guttata.** Alaska Hermit Thrush. But a single hermit thrush was seen at this point, a specimen of the subspecies *guttata*, taken in the willows, October 12.

**Ixoreus naevius meruloides.** Northern Varied Thrush. The unmistakable call note of a Varied Thrush was heard in the river bottom, October 11. This may be taken as the date of arrival, for though none had been seen or heard previously, they were encountered several times during the remainder of our stay.

*Berkeley, California, February 20, 1917.*