

Abundance of Richardson and Franklin Grouse in Idaho in 1948.—The following comments are based on field notes and specimens taken in the period of August 12 to September 3, 1948, in two counties in central Idaho. At Loon Creek Ranger Station and Indian Springs, in Custer County, and at Perkins Lake and Prairie Creek, in Blaine County, Richardson Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus richardsonii*) were noticeably abundant, the birds being much more numerous than when observed by me in 1938-1944. It was impossible to travel far along a stream without observing one or more family groups of this species. At Loon Creek, the size of the groups and the different-sized young found together in a group indicated that at least two broods had become combined. As is usual at this time of the year, the males were higher in the mountains than were the females and young, although a few males were observed at low elevations where they came down to a stream for water in early morning or late evening. The average number of young in seven broods was four (extremes, 2-7), and the majority of the young birds were well grown, some being indistinguishable from the adults in size.

At Loon Creek Ranger Station, and at Perkins Lake, the Franklin Grouse (*Canachites franklinii*) was observed daily. There were several small springs, near Loon Creek, at which the birds drank, and at Perkins Lake there was a grove of conifers that served as a roost for these birds. Around a spring near our camp at Loon Creek, the birds were often seen in early morning and in late afternoon where they may have come to drink. No vocal sounds were heard at any time, and the birds were so tame as to allow the approach of a person to within less than an arm's length. The impression gained there was that the birds were abundant, but that because of their retiring habits, especially during the day, only a fraction of the total population was detected. For example, none was observed unless it was dislodged from immediately under a person's feet. Some birds thus disturbed flew into the trees, and others merely moved a few steps away.

A male Franklin Grouse was observed "strutting" in a road on August 17, three miles north of Loon Creek Ranger Station, followed by a female thought at the time to be of the same species. The two birds walked down the road ahead of me for some hundred yards, the male bird leading the way with wings depressed and tail held horizontally. Suddenly, the male flew for a short distance, at which time the other bird crouched motionless in the road. The female was shot and proved to be not a Franklin Grouse but a young of the year of the Richardson Grouse. This association is the first of its kind I have known.

At Perkins Lake, a roost was discovered that was utilized by Franklin Grouse. One night the birds were counted as they arrived to roost, and at least fifteen roosted in the grove of conifers roughly 100 feet by 100 feet. Again no sound was heard that was made vocally by the birds; and the count was made by hearing the beat of wings as the birds flew upward through the thick trees. No daytime groupings, or young birds, were seen at this locality. The families evidently disband early, and the birds occur singly as far as was observed during the day.—M. DALE ARVEY, *Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, November 27, 1948.*

Second Record of the Sabine Gull from Utah.—On September 26, 1948, Mr. Charles W. Lockerbie and a party were observing birds at Decker's Lake on the southwestern outskirts of Salt Lake City when through field glasses they detected a medium-sized shorebird lying out in the shallow water. The specimen was retrieved and its identity determined as an immature Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*). It had been freshly shot by some boys. Subsequently that afternoon five Sabine Gulls were seen at the lake. As corroborative evidence, it came to the writer's attention that Mr. Floyd A. Thompson of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while investigating shooting at Decker's Lake, observed a small flock of Sabine Gulls there on the same date. Very likely these were the same birds seen by Lockerbie and party.

The specimen picked up was given to the writer for the University collection and was prepared as a study skin by Robert Selander. The only previous record for Utah to the writer's knowledge is that of Allen (*Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 3, 1872:173) who secured a specimen at Ogden on September 28, 1871.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 6, 1948.*

Black-throated Blue Warbler at Santa Barbara, California.—On October 20, 1948, while working on the wire roof of the aviary of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, I was startled to see a Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). It was a beautiful male specimen, and so intent on trying to get through the wire to the water that

it paid little attention to me. It was an exciting few minutes before it departed, as I had never seen one alive before.

As it moved about on the pen, it passed in and out of strong sunlight shining through an oak tree. When in one of these lighted areas, one could see the beautiful bluish color on the back and head. However, the most predominating and most noticeable markings of the bird were the contrast of the black throat patch and white belly. The whole head appears to be black when not in good light. Another striking mark is the white patch on the center of the primaries. This patch is quite large and very conspicuous even when the wings are closed. The tail in flight resembles that of the Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*), showing many white patches.

The bird returned the next day, October 21, 1948, about the same time, but its actions were very different. It was feeding in oaks in typical warbler fashion, and was trailing in the company of several Townsend Warblers (*Dendroica townsendi*). I have been watching constantly since in the hope of seeing it again, but to no avail.

There is no doubt in my mind as to the identification of this bird as my view was unobstructed and there was ample time for observation. After the bird first appeared, careful notes were made, the museum study skins consulted and compared, and identification confirmed the following day when the bird returned.

According to Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avifauna No. 27, 1944:401), a female was found on the Farallon Islands in November, 1886. It was observed for three weeks and was found dead on November 17, 1886. It is now in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. This is the only previous record of *Dendroica caerulescens* in the state of California.—WALDO G. ABBOTT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, November 2, 1948.*

Possible Nesting of Blue-winged Teal in the Willamette Valley, Oregon.—On May 13, 1947, I observed a female Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) or Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) with two young at McFadden's Swamp, Benton County, Oregon. This swamp is in the west-central portion of the Willamette Valley, thirteen miles south of Corvallis and one mile west of Highway 99W. The young were several weeks old, as they already had their juvenal plumage.

Earlier that spring, David B. Marshall, Fred G. Evenden, and I saw two male Blue-winged Teal in company with a female on two occasions. When a male Blue-winged Teal came winging in low and alighted near the female and her young, this strongly suggested a new nesting record for western Oregon. However, the male is supposed to desert the female at the time of incubation, and we have seen males of both Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal in this area during the spring. Upon spotting me, the male Blue-winged Teal sprang into the air and coursed swiftly around in a low arc, while the female dashed to a thicket with the young, and then took off and joined the male, all the while quacking in low anxious tones to her young. Shortly afterwards, Dr. Kenneth L. Gordon, professor of zoology at Oregon State College, joined me in observing the male as he flew over the area.

Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon, 1940) state that the Blue-winged Teal breeds regularly in small numbers through the lake basins of southeastern Oregon, but mention only a few records of its occurrence in the western part of the state.

Again, on August 13, 1947, Evenden flushed four juveniles with three adults in eclipse plumage, on one of which a developing cheek patch was evident. Also, through April and May, 1948, Marshall and Evenden saw male Blue-winged Teal in company with female teal at McFadden's Swamp.

We hope that future observations will verify this nesting record. But until a female Blue-winged Teal with eggs or young is taken, a record such as this must remain doubtful, for it is only by detailed examination in the hand that females of the Blue-winged and Cinnamon teals can be separated.—THOMAS H. McALLISTER, JR., *Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, October 25, 1948.*

A Record of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher from the Colorado Desert.—On October 25, 1948, on the Cavanaugh Ranch about eight miles west of Indio on the Palm Springs highway, the writer saw a long-tailed, large, gray flycatcher sitting on a telephone wire by the edge of a date palm orchard. The location was some 200 yards away from a highway and on the south side of the orchard with open desert on the south and west. The writer first saw the pale-colored flycatcher from a travelling jeep and instantly recognized it as something unusual. A second or two later, as the jeep approached nearer, the bird flew off. The long forked tail was spread wide open in the take-off, and there was no question