

and on the table, has convinced me of exactly the contrary. Previously in this paper I have noted the condition in which the Brant arrives and the estimation in which it is held here. As to its being shy, I have not seen a Goose or Duck during the migrations here which has such a contempt for the "human form divine." Several times I have exhausted my stock of cartridges during a morning's flight and on starting for camp to replenish have been invariably tantalized by numerous flocks passing on each side within range and in several cases within twenty yards. Of course not every flock will do this but at least half that came my way seemed supremely indifferent to my presence; and, in some instances, shouting and waving my hat caused only a slight deflection of their course. No doubt some of my readers will recall, with a smile, instances when they, too, have been caught without ammunition by wild fowl, and with what disregard they were afterwards treated, but this is not a similar case, since I have also walked along the same path at other times with plenty of cartridges which resulted in considerable damage to the Geese.

Mr. Bannister records the arrival of this species at St. Michaels the 12th of May (l. c.). It may occur thus early in exceptionally early seasons but the average dates are from the 18th to 22d of May for its arrival and about the first of June for its departure to the north.

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FIELD NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF SAN JUAN  
COUNTY, COLORADO.

BY FRANK M. DREW.

[Concluded from page 91.]

44. *Spizella pallida*, Bp. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.—Think I saw one in September.

45. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, Sw. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—Common; breeds in bushes. In June one may see the males near their homes, perched on rock, bush, or even on the ground, chanting the homely song until you fairly tire of it. I have never heard here their beautiful spring



song which they used to sing in Illinois. A nest I found in June was placed in a spruce bush, about three feet from the ground, and contained four fresh eggs. After getting the first brood off their bills, the White-crowns become scarce in the Park but numerous among the stunted bushes above timberline, where they raise a second brood; thus making a double migration in the breeding season, and keeping their love-song in fashion until late in the fall. In September they again become plentiful in the Park, and, haunting the roads, linger until October.

46. *Chondestes grammica*, Bp. LARK FINCH.—Common in the Park all summer. Though I found no nests, I am confident it breeds here.

47. *Pipilo maculatus arcticus*, Coues. ARCTIC TOWHEE.—Found in April; very shy; probably breeds.

48. *Pipilo chlorurus*, Bd. GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE.—Common from April to November. A sweet songster in the breeding season, but always very shy. Going up to a clump of bushes one day in May, a Green-tailed Finch fluttered out from the opposite side with wings trailing, feigning injury, at the same time uttering a sweet, complaining cry. The nest I could not find, though I searched every foot of the thicket.

49. *Sturnella magna neglecta*, Allen. WESTERN MEADOW LARK.—Rare. During the warm days of autumn, a few Larks straggle up from the Animas Park, where they are quite common. I can see no cause for their migrating the wrong way—3000 feet up—unless it is a scarcity of food.

50. *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*, Cab. BLUE-HEADED GRACKLE.—In early summer I found Blackbirds rare, but in August and September they suddenly appeared in swarms. I have no idea where they breed, as I could not find a nest. In fall the flocks seem to have no particular place to go, nor even an individual mind. If two or three of a flock fly up, clucking as they go, they will be joined by another and another until the whole flock takes wing, making a racket like *Quiscalus purpureus*. In October they disappear.

51. *Corvus corax*, Linn. RAVEN.—Common in fall and early winter.

52. *Picicorvus columbianus*, Bp. CLARKE'S CROW.—A not uncommon resident. Keep high up until October, when they come around camp in search of food. They occasionally (?) breed as low down as 6500 feet, though I think but rarely, as I have found them most abundant between 12,000 and 13,000 feet in summer and fall. Its characteristic salute is a long, grating "squa-á-á-á," which sounds like the warning protest of a setting hen.

53. *Gymnocitta cyanocephala*, Bp. BLUE CROW; PINON JAY.—Very erratic; found only in flocks. The Piñon Jay ranges fully 6000 feet higher than piñons grow in San Juan. How high up they breed is more than I can say. I found it in large flocks, in cottonwood groves, at 7000 feet, in May; and again, in flocks equally as large, from 10,000 to 13,000 feet, in October.

54. *Pica rustica hudsonica*, Ridg. MAGPIE.—A very rare resident. Probably nests near 11,000 feet.

55. *Cyanocitta stelleri macrolopha*, Allen. LONG-CRESTED JAY.—Very



common; breeds; partially resident. Only to be found at or above timber line in summer; in September they put in an appearance in the valley, and are then a fixture. All is told of them in saying they are as versatile as any of their cousins.

56. *Aphelocoma floridana woodhousei*, Allen. WOODHOUSE'S JAY.—Rare; but one found,—late in October.

57. *Perisoreus canadensis capitalis*, Bd. ROCKY MOUNTAIN JAY.—Resident. Quite abundant; in summer ranging from 10,000 feet to timberline. In autumn, when on his first tour of inspection around the house, he hops along in a curious sidling manner just like a school girl in a slow hurry. White-headed, grave and sedate, he seems a very paragon of propriety, and if you appear a suitable personage, he will be apt to give you a bit of advice. Becoming confidential, he sputters out a lot of nonsense in a manner which causes you to think him a veritable "Whiskey Jack." Yet, whenever he is disposed, a more bland, mind-his-own-business appearing bird will be hard to find, as also many small articles around camp after one of his visits, for his whimsical brain has a great fancy for anything which may be valuable to you, but perfectly useless to himself.

58. *Contopus borealis*, Bd. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—Not very common; breeds.

59. *Contopus richardsoni*, Bd. WESTERN WOODPEWEE.—Common; breeds. Its unmusical notes can be heard from almost any aspen cove in summer.

60. *Empidonax trailli pusillus*, Coues. LITTLE WESTERN FLYCATCHER.—A nest of young and its owners were all I found.

61. *Empidonax flaviventris difficilis*, Allen. WESTERN YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—Quite common; breeds at 10,000 feet. The nests of *flaviventris* reported in 1878 quite upset differences of nesting etc. on which to base specific rank, yet there are differences between the two "races," quite noticeable even in *Empidonaccs*.

62. *Chordeiles popetue henryi*, Allen. WESTERN NIGHT HAWK.—Straggles up from below in September.

63. *Nephocetes niger borealis*, Coues. BLACK SWIFT.—Very common; breeds; hunts in large flocks. Remains until late in September, a young male of the year being taken in that month.

64. *Selasphorus platycercus*, Bp. BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD.—Exceedingly abundant; breeds, and "screeches" clear through the love season. Ranges to the summit, where in countless basins watered by melting snow, primula, castilleia, caltha and other plants, form the flower gardens of the world.

65. *Selasphorus rufus*, Sw. RUFOUS-BACKED HUMMINGBIRD.—Rare; breeds.

66. *Hylotomu pileatus*, Bd. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—I have been told of "a great big Woodpecker" and from the description, think it to be this bird.

67. *Picus villosus harrisi*, Allen. HARRIS'S WOODPECKER.—Very abundant; much more so than the next; breeds. Ranges to timberline.



68. *Picus pubescens gairdneri*, Coues. GAIRDNER'S WOODPECKER.—Common; resident.
69. *Picoides americanus dorsalis*, Bd. STRIPED-BACKED WOODPECKER.—Formerly rare, but has become a not uncommon resident in the past two years.
70. *Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*, Bd. NUCHAL WOODPECKER.—Rare, and very shy; breeds. Its taps cause a peculiar, rattling sound, quite different from the ordinary "rat-tap-tap" and several times led me long chases after a "rare bird" which I only knew by its supposed notes.
71. *Colaptes mexicanus*, Sw. RED-SHAFTED FLICKER.—Common from April to November; breeds.
72. *Otus vulgaris wilsonius*, Allen. LONG-EARED OWL.—But one found.
73. *Syrnium cinereum*, Aud. GREAT GRAY OWL.—One evening in February, just at dark, I saw a pair of large, gray, tuftless Owls which I think were of this species. Its "hoots" were different from those of *Bubo virginianus*.
74. *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*, Schl. MARSH HAWK.—A pair was found in September, at 14,000 feet.
75. *Accipiter fuscus*, Gray. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—Occasionally found; breeds?
76. *Accipter cooperi*, Gray. COOPER'S HAWK.—Occasionally met with.
77. *Astur atricapillus*, Fard. GOSHAWK.—A rare resident.
78. *Falco sparverius*, Linn. SPARROW HAWK.—Common. Abundant in fall near the summit, where they live on mice and grasshoppers. Breeds.
79. *Buteo borealis*, Vieill. RED-TAILED HAWK.—Breeds. Was very common in September, in the grassy parks above timberline.
80. *Buteo borealis calurus*, Ridg. WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK.—Breeds; resident?
81. *Aquila chrysaëtus*, Linn. GOLDEN EAGLE.—Not uncommon; resident.
82. *Cathartes aura*, Ill. TURKEY BUZZARD.—Seen in fall in considerable numbers.
83. *Zenaidura carolinensis*, Bp. CAROLINA DOVE.—Rare; breeds.
84. *Lagopus leucurus*, Sw. WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN.—Very common; breeds. They are only found above timberline in summer, where they feed on the leaves and flowers of *Caltha leptosepalu*. During winter storms they descend to the valleys, hiding amongst the willows and eating willow buds. They are usually quiet during the day, but active and noisy in the evening, making a cackling like Prairie Chickens. Part of the usual description of the Ptarmigan is "tail always white." This, in so far as my observations extend, is not correct in regard to the first, or nestling, plumage, when the tail is like the back,—white, with grayish-brown blotches. They have from eight to ten young at a brood. A number I have taken this winter (1880) have the usual white plumage suffused with a delicate pink flush, enhancing their beauty wonderfully.



85. *Tetrao obscurus*, Say. DUSKY GROUSE.—Common; breeds. The Grouse, as it is called in contradistinction to the "Mountain Quail," or Ptarmigan, hugs the very border of timberline throughout the year; wandering above in fall after "hoppers," and coming down a little into the thick woods during severe winter weather. In summer their food consists of insects and berries, and at this time their flesh is excellent; but as soon as early frosts cut short this diet they feed on spruce needles, whence their flesh acquires a strong flavor.

86. *Ægialitis vociferus*, Bp. KILLDEER PLOVER.—Found in spring; breeds.

87. *Gallinago wilsoni*, Bp. WILSON'S SNIPE.—Found in spring and fall; breeds.

88. *Tringoides macularius*, Gray. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—Common; breeds. The noisy "Peet-weet" is found on nearly every sandy flat in the river. Remains until late in August.

89. *Grus canadensis*, Temm. SANDHILL CRANE.—I saw a large flock pass over in September, at an elevation of 15,000 feet. They breed in the upper part of Animas Park, at 7000 feet. When on the ground the Sandhill is not an object of beauty, but a prettier vignette is not produced anywhere than you can find in autumn on the plains of Kansas, where you see hundreds of these Cranes high in air, their long bodies *en silhouette* against the sky, with fleecy clouds near by forming the boundaries of the enchanted circle.

90. *Anas boschas*, Linn. MALLARD.—Common.

91. *Chauleasmus streperus*, Gray. GADWALL.—A small flock found in September.

92. *Querquedula discors*, Steph. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—An autumnal visitant.

93. *Fuligula marila*, Steph. GREATER BLACKHEAD.—Seen in December.

94. *Fuligula affinis*, Eyton. LESSER BLACKHEAD.—Found occasionally in winter.

95. *Histrionicus minutus*, Coes. HARLEQUIN DUCK.—Common; said to breed.

Some of the following are accredited to the county by local observers, while the others may possibly range as high up as the pines, which just reach into San Juan. If they come at all, however, it is but rarely.

1. *Turdus swainsoni*, Cab. SWAINSON'S THRUSH.—"At 9200."

2. *Sitta canadensis aculeata*, Allen. SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH.—I found this Nuthatch very rare all through southern Colorado, from 6500 to 8000 feet. In June I found the bird in New Mexico, at 8000 feet. My experience with it coincides exactly with Mr. T. M. Trippe's account given in "Birds of the North-west," page 230. Its song gave me no clue to the author, and more than once I thought it was a Flicker's call.

3. *Dendrocæa graciae*, Coes. GRACE'S WARBLER.—A dainty little inhabitant of the pines up to 7500 feet, and perhaps higher. Common on the tributaries of the Rio San Juan.



4. *Loxia curvirostra americana*, Coues. COMMON CROSSBILL. — Scattered irregularly all through the pine woods. Breeds at 7500 feet.
5. *Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*, Bd. YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRD. — "At 9300 feet."
6. *Corvus americanus*, Aud. COMMON CROW. — "At 9300 feet." The Crows of Southwest Colorado have many a lesson to learn. Gun in hand, I have walked past within a few feet of half a dozen who merely honored me with an idle stare.
7. *Cypselus saxatilis*, Ridg. WHITE-THROATED SWIFT. — "At 10,000 feet; breeds."
8. *Ceryle alcyon*, Boie. BELTED KINGFISHER. — I have found it as high as 9500 feet. Breeds on all the lower rivers.
9. *Melanerpes torquatus*, Bp. LEWIS'S WOODPECKER. — Very common up to 7000 feet.

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## BREEDING OF THE ACADIAN OWL (*NYCTALE ACADICA*) IN MASSACHUSETTS.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

So far as I can ascertain, the single egg of the Acadian Owl which is preserved in the National collection at Washington is the only authentic example known. It accordingly gives me unusual pleasure to announce the recent acquisition of a fine set of fully identified specimens taken by Mr. W. Perham at Tyngsboro, Mass., April 5, 1881. Mr. Perham is probably already known to some of the readers of the Bulletin as a remarkably successful collector of Hawks and Owls. He takes many eggs of the Mottled Owl by hanging up artificial nests in suitable places in the woods. These "nests" are made from sections of hollow trunks boarded up at the open ends, with entrance-holes cut in the sides, and the Owls apparently find them quite to their taste for they freely appropriate them, both as roosting and nesting places.

Sometime late in March of the present year a pair of Saw-whets took possession of one which was nailed against the trunk of an oak in an extensive piece of woodland. No nest was made, the eggs being simply laid on a few leaves which squirrels