

of White-throated Sparrows hopping about in a street, quite near a house.

This, I think, will suffice to show the freaks of some of our winter birds. Although our birds are pretty well known, yet, since they indulge in irregular movements in different seasons, much close observation is still needed to make us fully conversant with their modes of life.

LISTS OF BIRDS OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY
OF COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, DURING
MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY, 1882.

BY J. A. ALLEN AND WILLIAM BREWSTER.

[The field notes of this List are based on the joint observations of Mr. Brewster and myself. The technical notes, in smaller type, are entirely by Mr. Brewster.—J. A. A.]

The area covered by the present list has a radius of about six miles, Colorado Springs being the central point. It therefore embraces the plains immediately adjoining the town, Austin's Bluffs to the northward, the Garden of the Gods, and that portion of Bear and Cheyenne Creeks between the base of the mountains and their junction with Fountain Creek. The places chiefly visited were the wooded bottoms of the two first-named creeks, and Austin's Bluffs. The broken ridges of the latter are scantily wooded with pines, and the intervening narrow ravines by oak scrub.

Excursions were made almost daily from April 7 to May 23, within which dates is included almost the whole period of the spring migration, few birds arriving either before the first date or after the second. The senior author also spent the month of March at Colorado Springs, and the summer at a ranch on West Monument Creek, about twelve miles northwest of Colorado Springs. A few notes are accordingly included respecting the occurrence of certain species of special interest from the fact that their breeding range does not extend below the base of the foothills. The

value of the list consists chiefly in its being a careful record of the arrival and relative abundance of the species coming within this limited area of observation.

The season, it may be added, was exceptionally cold and wet, with frequent falls of snow on the foothills, which on a few occasions extended to the plains, driving down, in several instances, birds which had previously retired to the foothills and lower slopes of the mountains. Probably, also, owing to the unusually inclement weather, many species arrived rather later than usual.

It remains to tender our grateful acknowledgements to Mr. Charles E. Aiken, Colorado's best known and highest ornithological authority, for varied acts of kindness, including many valuable suggestions as to the movements and resorts of birds. A few species of water birds, in each case duly accredited, are included simply on the basis of our seeing them as brought to him by collectors or sportsmen in the fresh state, the few localities near Colorado Springs favorable for water birds not coming within the range of our excursions.

1. **Turdus migratorius propinquus.** WESTERN ROBIN.—Common. Occasionally seen in small flocks in April and the early part of May. Observed nest-building May 1.

Most of the specimens taken are typical, but one, a fine adult male shot May 20, has the terminal spot on the inner web of the outer rectrices as large and purely white as in most eastern birds. The measurements of this specimen (which fall within the limits assigned to *propinquus* by Mr. Ridgway) are as follows: Wing, 5.40; tail, 4.70; bill from nostril, .52; tarsus, 1.33.

2. **Turdus pallasi auduboni.** AUDUBON'S THRUSH.—A few were seen about April 13, but no others till May 20, when for a few days they were quite abundant along the creek bottoms, having been driven down from the mountains by a heavy fall of snow.

Our seven specimens all come within the limits of size given for this form by Mr. Henshaw, in his excellent paper on the races of *Turdus pallasi*.^{*} The extremes are as follows: Wing, 3.72-4.05; tail, 3.08-3.20; bill (length from feathers), .54-.56.

Mr. Brown has lately expressed the opinion that "The difference in length of bill exhibited by the three races of this species is almost microscopic," and that "A much more tangible character, not mentioned by Mr. Henshaw, lies in the disproportionate slenderness of the bill of the west-

* This Bulletin, Vol. IV, pp. 134-139.

tern varieties."* In so far as *pallasi* and *auduboni* are concerned I am inclined to agree with the first part of this proposition, but I should apply it also to the proposed new character, which seems to me an equally "microscopic one." Fortunately, however, there is no necessity for "splitting hairs," the differences in general size and coloration between *auduboni* and *pallasi* being readily appreciable.

3. **Turdus ustulatus swainsoni.** SWAINSON'S THRUSH.—First seen May 8, in large numbers. They continued abundant for several days, and were occasionally observed as late as May 23.

4. **Oroscoptes montanus.** SAGE THRASHER.—A few were seen April 10 to 15, but none later.

5. **Mimus polyglottus.** MOCKING BIRD.—One was taken at Austin's Bluffs April 26,—the only one seen. Mr. Aiken informs us that they occur occasionally about Colorado Springs, and that they breed abundantly a few miles to the southward, toward Pueblo, nesting in the cactus bushes.

6. **Mimus carolinensis.** CAT BIRD.—First seen May 10, and became more or less common in suitable localities a few days later.

7. **Harporhynchus rufus.** BROWN THRASHER.—First seen May 13, and immediately became more or less common in suitable localities.

8. **Harporhynchus bendirei.** BENDIRE'S THRASHER.—One was taken May 8 at Austin's Bluffs. (See this Bulletin, Vol. VIII, p. 57.)

9. **Sialia mexicana.** WESTERN BLUEBIRD.—First seen March 21. Later was more or less common in the creek bottoms till May 10. Large, mixed flocks of this species and *S. arctica* were seen on a few occasions, when heavy falls of snow had driven them down from the foothills. Were found breeding in June on West Monument Creek, down to the very edge of the plains.

10. **Sialia arctica.** ARCTIC BLUEBIRD.—First noticed about the middle of March, and for some weeks were rather common in all suitable localities—that is wherever there were trees. Were frequent in the town till into April, where they were as unsuspecting and confiding as the common Bluebird is in the East. Later they retired to the timbered creek bottoms, the bluffs, and foothills to pass the breeding season. One or two pairs were reported nesting in the town in boxes provided for their accommodation.

* This Bulletin, Vol. VII, p. 127 (foot note).

During stormy weather in April and the early part of May, particularly when snow covered the foothills or the edge of the plains, they gathered into flocks of fifty to one hundred and fifty or more, of which one-fourth to one-third were *S. mexicana*.

We may add that we heard no attempt at song from either *S. mexicana* or *S. arctica*, in this respect they differing strikingly from the Eastern Bluebird.

11. **Cinclus mexicanus.** DIPPER; WATER OUSEL.—The only one seen was shot April 7, at the mouth of South Cheyenne Cañon.

12. **Regulus calendula.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—Not uncommon during most of April wherever there was timber. Observed as late as May 5.

13. **Regulus satrapa.** GOLDEN-CRESTED KINGLET.—Several times met with in April, and one was shot May 4. Less common than the preceding.

14. **Parus atricapillus septentrionalis.** LONG-TAILED CHICKADEE.—Infrequently observed in the wooded creek bottoms and at Austin's Bluffs.

Our Colorado specimens of this race are but a trifle larger than *atricapillus* proper, but their tails are relatively longer, and the white of the wings and tail purer and more extended. The most typical examples of *septentrionalis* which I have are from Dakota, where the variety appears to attain its maximum size and whiteness. The difference between Dakota and Colorado specimens is considerable, in fact nearly as great as between the latter and true *atricapillus*.

15. **Parus montanus.** MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE.—A few pairs were seen during March and April; none later.

16. **Sitta carolinensis aculeata.** SLENDER-BILLED NUT-HATCH.—Two were shot in April—the only ones seen during our many excursions. A pair observed on West Monument Creek in June were evidently breeding.

17. **Certhia familiaris montana.** BROWN CREEPER.—Several were seen and one was shot April 7. A few were seen on following days, but none later than April.

The single specimen taken is typical of the above variety lately instituted by Mr. Ridgway.

18. **Salpinctes obsoletus.** ROCK WREN.—A single specimen was shot April 17, but no others were seen for ten days, when they suddenly became abundant, and for a week were to be seen in rocky places everywhere. They were less numerous later, but continued common at suitable localities.

Among our large series are a few specimens which, although in fresh, unworn spring plumage, almost wholly lack the usual dusky streaks of the throat and breast, the entire under parts,—with the exception of the jugulum, where there are a few faint shaft lines of a slightly darker shade than the general plumage—being immaculate. These birds are also unusually pale above, with the dorsal markings faint and few in number. As they were taken during the migration, they may represent a more or less local desert type, or the variation may be simply an individual one. I do not find it mentioned in previous descriptions. All of the Colorado specimens are very much grayer than some which I have from California.

19. **Catherpes mexicanus conspersus.** CAÑON WREN. — Heard April 10 in North Cheyenne Cañon; specimens were taken a little later in the Garden of the Gods.

20. **Troglodytes aedon.** COMMON WREN. — First seen May 5; a few days later they became common.

Colorado certainly *ought* to furnish true *parkmani*, but of the seven House Wrens which I collected there only two fulfil the requirements of that race. The others are neither grayer nor more distinctly banded than average eastern birds, from many of which they are practically indistinguishable. The comparative length of the first primary in the two forms is the only character which seems to possess any approach to stability, and this is not to be depended on. In short, the views which I have lately expressed* regarding the instability of the race *parkmani* are strengthened by the study of this fresh material.

21. **Telmatodytes palustris paludicola.** LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. — A single specimen was shot on the Fountain, near Beaver Ranch, April 22. This was the only one seen, but we were at no other time at a suitable locality for them.

22. **Anthus ludovicianus.** TIT LARK. — A few small flocks were seen during the last week of April.

23. **Helminthophila virginiaë.** VIRGINIA'S WARBLER. — Single individuals were heard May 1 and 2, and a specimen was taken May 3. A few days later they became common, and throughout the month were more abundant than any other Warbler. They are partial to the oak scrub, where they breed, but were also more or less frequent in the cottonwoods of the creek bottoms. Are quite shy and difficult to capture for so small a bird, keeping closely concealed in the thick scrub, though very active.

A series of about fifty specimens illustrates certain variations of plumage which do not seem to have been previously noted. For instance: Both Dr. Coues and Mr. Ridgway describe the adult male as having the yellow

* See this Bulletin, Vol. VII, p. 82.

beneath confined to the tail-coverts and an isolated patch on the breast or jugulum. With the specimens before me, however, this is the exception rather than the rule. In the majority the yellow extends uninterruptedly from the breast to the chin, paling anteriorly until it fades into white near the base of the lower mandible. In a few examples it is nearly as bright on the throat as over the middle of the jugulum. In one very highly-colored bird a narrow ashy collar passes across the jugulum separating the yellow into two distinct patches, one of which occupies the throat, the other the upper portion of the breast and the lower part of the jugulum. This bird is peculiar also in having the orbital ring strongly tinged with yellow.

Mr. Ridgway says* that the chestnut patch on the crown "is obsolete in the female"; Dr. Coues, that it is present but "more restricted than in the ♂."† The latter statement is the more nearly correct, for among the twelve females that I have examined not one has the crown entirely plain, although with a few the chestnut is pale and restricted to the central feathers. In the fully adult bird it is not less deep and extended than with average males, and the yellow of the breast and under tail-coverts is sometimes quite as rich as in some of the duller males. The latter, however, can be usually if not always distinguished by the darker ash of the head and the brighter yellow of the rump.

The crown-patch of the male varies little in color or extent, but it may be nearly or quite concealed, or conspicuously exposed, according to the condition of the plumage. The feathers of the crown, when fresh, are tipped with ashy, so that when each is in its proper place the chestnut beneath is perfectly covered. With the advance of the season, however, the ashy tips rapidly wear away, and with birds taken after the middle of May the crown-patch is a conspicuous feature. It may be always seen by disarranging the feathers.

24. **Helminthophila celata.** GOLDEN-CROWNED WARBLER.—First met with April 28. A few were seen almost daily till late in May.

Among a fairly extensive series of Orange-crowned Warblers I find two well-characterized and readily separable races, one a dark greenish-olive bird coming from Florida and Georgia, the other a bright yellowish form, the extreme of which is represented by specimens from California. The latter, it is perhaps needless to say, is variety *lutescens*, supposed to be restricted to the Pacific Slope.

Specimens from Texas and Minnesota are paler and less yellowish than California ones, but on the whole more nearly like them than they are like the Florida examples. Still closer to *lutescens* are my Arizona and Colorado representatives, several of which are so nearly identical with even the brighter California birds that it is practically impossible to distinguish them. The general evidence of this series shows a barely appreciable paling of the yellow in the Colorado and

* North Am. Birds, Vol. I, p. 199.

† Birds Col. Val., Vol. I, p. 221.

Arizona birds as compared with those from California, a still further and rather more decided diminution of this color in the Texas and Minnesota ones, and an abrupt and very wide gap between the latter and the dark greenish-olive Florida specimens.

If the geographical variation among the representatives of the region at large west of the Mississippi is always as trifling as in the series before me, little violence would be done by uniting *lutescens* and *celata* under the latter and prior name.

But whatever the disposition finally made with the western forms, there seems to be no reason why the dark bird found in the Southern Atlantic States should not be recognized as a distinct variety, for it differs more from *celata* than the latter does from *lutescens*. Mr. Ridgway called attention to some of its peculiarities in "North American Birds" (Vol. I, p. 202), proposing to distinguish it under the name *obscura*, but as he unfortunately claimed among its characteristics the absence of certain markings (*i.e.*, the "orange" crown-patch and white spots on the outer rectrices) which it has been since shown to normally possess, the variety fell into disrepute, having been latterly ignored even by Mr. Ridgway himself. Believing that it really deserves a distinctive name I take the present opportunity to reinstate it under the following diagnosis:—

Helminthophila celata obscura RIDGWAY. SUBSP. CHAR. Differing from true *H. celata* in being darker and dingier, especially beneath, where the usual yellowish tinge is replaced by a greenish one.

♂ adult (No. 1800, Coll. W. B., St. Mary's, Georgia, April 7, 1877). Above dark greenish-plumbeous; beneath dingy greenish-olive, darkest on the sides, palest on the middle of the abdomen; sides of head and neck scarcely lighter than the back; eyelids and a short, ill-defined superciliary stripe greenish-yellow; a concealed crown-patch of deep orange-rufous; inner webs of outer tail feathers narrowly margined with white near their terminal ends.

♀ adult (No. 1801, Coll. W. B., Mellonville, Florida, March 14, 1877). Lacking the rufous crown-patch; otherwise similar to the male.

Habitat. Georgia and Florida in winter and early spring, perhaps migrating northward to breed.

Audubon figured this race, and his plate even exaggerates its peculiar dark coloring. It is probable that his specimens were taken in Florida, although he does not state that such was the case. I have seen no examples from the Mississippi Valley east of the Mississippi River, but Mr. Ridgway says (North American Birds, Vol. I, p. 202) that "specimens from Southern Illinois . . . and from Wisconsin are precisely like Rocky Mountain examples." Two Massachusetts ones before me are doubtfully referable to var. *obscura*. Both are somewhat lighter than Florida specimens although darker and greener than Texas or Minnesota examples. As they are in fresh autumnal plumage, in this respect differing from any others that I have, I cannot decide upon their precise relationship.

There seems to be some mystery, by the way, as to where these south-

ern birds breed. They are not uncommon in Georgia and Florida during the winter and early spring, but they apparently depart before the end of April. To the northward of the Carolinas in the Atlantic States the Orange-crown, of whatever race, is very rarely seen, while the migrants that pass up the Mississippi Valley are said to belong to the typical (*celata*) form. Possibly *obscura* will be found to summer among the little-known mountains of Georgia and the Carolinas. In such a case it will probably turn out to be a very local form.

25. *Dendroeca aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—First seen May 6; they soon became frequent in the town and in the willows and cottonwoods of the creek bottoms, and continued more or less common.

26. *Dendroeca townsendi*?—Three black-throated green Warblers were seen on Bear Creek, May 19, which could not be certainly distinguished from *D. virens*, but from the known range of the two species are more likely to have been *D. townsendi*. Having no gun at the time prevented their proper identification.

27. *Dendroeca coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.—The first specimen was shot April 25. It afterwards became not uncommon, associating with *D. auduboni* and remaining for two or three weeks.

28. *Dendroeca auduboni*. AUDUBON'S WARBLER.—First seen April 28—a single male. Afterwards they were seen almost daily, and became fairly abundant about May 8, frequenting the shade trees and gardens of the town, as well as the creek bottoms and bluffs. Continued common till about May 16, and were last seen May 20.

29. *Dendroeca striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—A single one was seen May 8, and one was shot May 9, both at Austin's Bluffs, and the only ones seen. Mr. Aiken regards them as of regular occurrence but rare.

30. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—A single specimen was seen and taken April 13; no others were seen till May 10, after which they were more or less frequent in suitable localities.

In a recent paper on Arizona birds I called attention to certain peculiarities in western examples of this species, peculiarities already noted by previous writers, but by them regarded as too inconstant to warrant the separation of a new race. Since that time, however, I have examined a number of additional specimens, and among these the characteristics which distinguish western from eastern birds are so well maintained that I feel justified in instituting the following variety:—

Geothlypis trichas occidentalis var. nov. CH. SUBSP. Similis *G. trichas* sed cauda longiore; colore supra pallidior et flavior; colore infra magis flavicante et extento; alba striga in pileo latiore et puriore.

♂ adult (No. 5550, Coll. W. B., Truckee River, Nevada, May 4, 1881). Upper parts nearly uniform pale yellowish-olive, with a tinge of brown on the occiput; throat, jugulum, breast, anterior portion of abdomen, and under tail-coverts rich, pure yellow; sides of body warm ochraceous brown strongly tinged with yellow; middle of abdomen anteriorly creamy white; a black mask on the front and sides of the head bordered behind by a broad band of creamy white, slightly tinged with bluish; much concealed yellow on the feathers of the crown.

Dimensions: Wing, 2.32; tail, 2.30; culmen, .55.

Habitat: Pacific and Middle Provinces of the United States.

The differences which distinguish this race from *trichas* proper, although somewhat difficult of description, are readily appreciable upon a comparison of specimens; they may be briefly summed as follows: *Occidentalis* is somewhat larger than *trichas* and its tail is disproportionately longer. Its upper parts are always paler and usually yellower; the yellow of the under parts is decidedly richer and purer, and extends much further down on the abdomen, frequently tinging nearly all of the body beneath; the flanks are paler and more ochraceous; the white of the head purer and generally broader.

I have not seen var. *melanops* of Mexico but judging from descriptions the present race approaches it rather more closely than it does *trichas*. A decided approach is furnished by a specimen from Cienega Station, Arizona (No. 5906), which is even yellower above than my type of *occidentalis*, while the yellow of the under parts extends over nearly all the abdominal region and strongly tinges the flanks. This bird agrees very closely with Baird's description of *G. melanops* but is considerably smaller. In my paper on the Arizona collection I referred it to *G. trichas*, but I am now inclined to consider it an intermediate between the present race, *occidentalis*, and *melanops* of Mexico.

31. ***Geothlypis macgillivrayi*.** MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER.—First seen May 4. Soon became frequent, and continued more or less common in willows along creek bottoms till the end of the month.

32. ***Icteria virens*.** YELLOW-BREADED CHAT.—First observed May 13; others seen and heard on following days.

33. ***Myiodiocetes pusillus pileolatus*.** BLACK-CAPPED FLYCATCHING WARBLER.—First seen May 12; of frequent occurrence later in willow thickets along streams.

34. ***Setophaga ruticilla*.** REDSTART.—First seen May 18. Not common.

35. ***Pyranga ludoviciana*.** LOUISIANA TANAGER.—Arrived in large numbers May 12, and continued common.

36. **Hirundo erythrogastra horreorum**. BARN SWALLOW.—First observed May 2; frequently seen later. Not abundant.
37. **Tachycineta thalassina**. VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW.—First seen May 4. A considerable number observed on the 14th, and at frequent intervals later. In July and August large numbers were seen near West Monument Creek, where they outnumbered all the other Swallows.
38. **Tachycineta bicolor**. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.—Not seen in spring, but a pair was observed in June, nesting on the West Monument.
39. **Petrochelidon lunifrons**. CLIFF SWALLOW.—First observed about May 18, but doubtless arrived somewhat earlier. Small parties frequently seen on the wing later. On the West Monument late in summer it ranked next to the Violet-green Swallow in numbers.
40. **Stelgidopteryx serripennis**. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—First observed about May 10, and not uncommon later.
41. **Myiadestes townsendi**. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE.—One shot April 14, and a few others seen on following days. They appeared in large numbers on April 29, evidently forced down from the mountains by a heavy snowstorm, and were everywhere abundant, even frequenting open fields near thickets. A few were seen the next day, but none afterward.
42. **Vireo gilvus**. WARBLING VIREO.—First taken May 16; frequently seen later, but was by no means common.
43. **Vireo solitarius plumbeus**. PLUMBEUS VIREO.—Two obtained May 3; seen at intervals later, but not common.
44. **Lanius borealis**. NORTHERN SHRIKE.—Seen a few times in March.
45. **Lanius ludovicianus excubitoroides**. WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE.—Not common. First seen April 29, and single pairs were met with later. Nest with eggs taken May 23.
46. **Carpodacus cassini**. CASSIN'S PURPLE FINCH.—A few were seen in the vicinity of Cheyenne Creek during April. Last observed about April 23.
47. **Loxia curvirostra mexicana**. RED CROSSBILL.—A flock of about thirty individuals was seen at Austin's Bluffs April 26. A few were noticed here and elsewhere at both earlier and later dates.

Although evidently not typical *mexicana*, our specimens approach that form, both in respect to general size (the longest wing among six exam-

ples measures 3.75 inches) and in the unusual length and thickness of the bill. The character upon which Mr. Ridgway lays special stress—viz., the equal size of the upper and lower mandibles in *mexicana*—is not maintained among them, however, the under mandible being, as in *americana*, decidedly weaker than the upper. The reference of such intermediate specimens is, necessarily, largely a matter of opinion, but on the whole, the present birds seem to be nearer *mexicana* than to the typical *americana* of the East.

48. **Chrysomitris pinus.** PINE FINCH.—One of the most abundant species, occurring everywhere in and near the wooded creek bottoms, and wandering thence to outlying thickets and hillside scrub, usually in small scattered parties, but sometimes massing into dense flocks numbering hundreds of individuals.

49. **Chrysomitris tristis.** GOLDFINCH.—Seen at intervals in small flocks during May, usually in or near town. Were common during summer.

50. **Chrysomitris psaltria.** ARKANSAS GOLDFINCH.—Noticed a few times and one shot on the West Monument in July. Not seen in May; probably arrive about June 1.

51. **Centrophanes ornatus.** CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.—A small flock of about twenty individuals was met with near town May 9, of which five were shot. No others observed.

52. **Rhyncophanes maccowni.** MACCOWN'S LONGSPUR.—A single specimen was shot May 9, from the above-mentioned flock of *Centrophanes ornatus*. No others were recognized.

53. **Passerculus savana alaudinus.** WESTERN SAVANNA SPARROW.—A few were seen, chiefly about the outskirts of the town, during the last half of April and the early part of May.

(To be continued.)

Recent Literature.

STEARNS AND COUES'S "NEW ENGLAND BIRD LIFE." Part II.*—The appearance of the second volume of this book has been doubtless greeted

* New England Bird Life: being a Manual of New England Ornithology. Revised and edited from the manuscript of Winfrid A. Stearns, Member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, etc. By Elliott Coues, Member of the Academy, etc. Part II. Non-oscine Passeres, Birds of Prey, Game and Water Birds. Boston: Lee & Shepard, Publishers. New York: Charles T. Dillingham. 1883. 8vo. pp. 409, 88 woodcuts.