

Evidently the young had already become somewhat scattered. I heard them again on the following day, after which they disappeared.

The nest was left in a very foul state, the bottom being a disgusting mass of muddy excrement, alive with wriggling worms. Apparently the Flicker does not remove the excrement of its young. These young, however, managed to keep very clean, and appeared to be perfectly free from vermin.

No one, apparently, has previously observed, or at least reported, that the Flicker feeds its young by regurgitation. Nor do I find on record anything definite or satisfactory regarding the manner in which the young of the other Woodpeckers are fed before they leave the nest. This would be somewhat remarkable were it not that any attempt to pry into the family secrets of all birds that build in holes is attended with great difficulties. The difficulties can be overcome, however, by the exercise of a little patience and ingenuity, and it is to be hoped that some one who possesses these qualities, as well as the opportunities for applying them, will give the matter close attention, for it both invites and demands thorough investigation.



ON THE OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

AMONG some birds taken in British Columbia by Mr. Allan C. Brooks, and now in my collection, are the following, several of which do not appear to have been previously reported from the Province just named.

1. *Falco sparverius deserticolus*. DESERT SPARROW HAWK.—Three specimens, a male and two females, all taken at Chilliwack.
2. *Picoides americanus alascensis*. ALASKAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—A female Three-toed Woodpecker, labelled as having been obtained on the "Summit of the Cascade Mountains, 8 miles north of Mt. Baker," September 8, 1891, agrees so perfectly with descriptions of

P. a. alascensis that I do not hesitate to refer it to that form, of which, however, I have no examples at hand for direct comparison. Mt. Baker is in Washington. The distance in an air line from its summit to the northern boundary of the United States is about twenty miles, but if, as is probable, Mr. Brooks measured his "8 miles" from the base of the northern spur of the mountain, the locality where his bird was shot would be within the limits of British Columbia. In any case the capture extends the range of *P. alascensis* far to the southward of any region where it has been previously found.

3. *Agelaius phæniceus sonoriensis*. SONORAN RED-WINGED BLACK-BIRD.—The collection contains five Red-winged Blackbirds belonging to the *A. phæniceus* group taken at Chilliwack in 1891 on the following dates: Three males, January 9; a female, February 9; and a female March 25. All of these have the bill quite as long and slender as in the most extreme examples of *sonoriensis*. Their close relationship with this form is further shown by the generally brown coloring of the females, in both of which, however, the brown of the upper parts is richer, the streaking of the under parts coarser and blacker, and the brownish saffron tinge of the breast and sides deeper than in my representatives of *sonoriensis* from northwestern Mexico. Despite these differences it is perhaps wisest to call the Chilliwack birds *A. p. sonoriensis*, at least for the present. One thing is certain—they are not *A. phæniceus*; in view of which fact the recent announcement¹ by Mr. Rhoads of the occurrence of *phæniceus* in British Columbia may require confirmation.

4. *Rhyncophanes mccownii*. McCOWN'S LONGSPUR.—Mr. Brooks has kindly given me the following account of his detection of this Longspur in British Columbia: "My first specimen, an adult male in full plumage, was shot on the 2d of June, 1887. At about the same time several years afterwards I took two females on the very same spot. I passed this place every day but saw no others, either there or elsewhere in British Columbia." One of the females just mentioned is now before me. It is an adult bird in rather worn plumage, and is labelled "Chilliwack, June 2, 1890." Mr. Fannin includes this species in his list on Mr. Brooks's authority.

5. *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*. CALIFORNIA SHRIKE.—A Shrike taken at Chilliwack April 9, 1888, resembles *L. excubitorides* in the clear and nearly immaculate white of its under parts, but above is quite as deeply colored as are dark extremes of *L. l. gambeli*. This combination, with the possession of a bill larger than is often found in either of the forms just mentioned, gives it a remarkably close superficial resemblance to *L. ludovicianus*. As it is scarcely within the bounds of possibility, however, that the last-named form can ever stray so far to the westward, it seems best to refer this puzzling bird to *L. l. gambeli*. It is, I suppose, one of the specimens mentioned in Mr. Fannin's list under the name *excubitorides*.

¹ Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1893, p. 47.