

NOTES ON SOME OF THE BIRDS OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

BY ALLAN BROOKS.

1. *Stercorarius longicaudus*. LONG-TAILED JAEGER. — A rare though regular fall migrant to the lower Fraser Valley. I have only observed it during the month of October. One white-breasted adult taken at Sumas Lake.

2. *Gavia alba*. IVORY GULL. — A fine adult was taken at Penticton on the southern extremity of Okanagan Lake during the month of October, 1897, by Mr. J. T. Studley. No cold or stormy weather had occurred to account for the occurrence of this Arctic Gull so far from its habitat.

3. *Xema sabinii*. SABINE'S GULL. — I shot a young specimen on the north end of Okanagan Lake Sept. 9, 1897. I had noticed it for two days, hawking for insects close to the surface of the water in company with large numbers of Night Hawks.

4. *Sterna paradisæa*. ARCTIC TERN.

5. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. BLACK TERN. — These are the only species of Tern I have taken in this Province, the former only on Okanagan Lake in October, the latter at several points on both sides of the Cascade Mountains. It breeds in Chilcotin.

6. *Anas discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.

7. *Anas cyanoptera*. CINNAMON TEAL. — Both of these used to breed in numbers in the vicinity of Chilliwack and Sumas, on the lower Fraser, but they are now scarce, owing to the prevalent floods in June which flood out their nests.

8. *Glaucionetta islandica*. BARROWS'S GOLDEN-EYE. — An abundant summer resident in the interior of British Columbia.

9. *Micropalama himantopus*. STILT SANDPIPER. — I shot two Sept. 19 at Sumas Lake, the only ones I have ever seen. They were in the first plumage.

10. *Tringa bairdii*. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. — Except *T. minutilla*, the most abundant *Tringa* in British Columbia.

11. *Ereunetes pusillus*. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. — Very abundant east of the Cascades and a regular migrant down the lower Fraser and the coast, arriving as a rule about two weeks ahead of *E. occidentalis* in the fall migration.

12. *Accipiter atricapillus*. AMERICAN GOSHAWK.

13. *Accipiter a. striatulus*. WESTERN GOSHAWK. — I have taken both forms both east and west of the Cascades. The latter seems to be the only form that breeds in southern British Columbia where I have noticed

it in summer as far east as Arrow Lake. The two subspecies intergrade perfectly.

14. *Buteo lineatus elegans*. RED-BELLIED BUZZARD. — Only noticed west of Cascades. Rare.

15. *Buteo swainsoni*. SWAINSON'S BUZZARD. — The darkest form of this Buzzard is a common breeder on all the mountains at high elevations, being only found in open or park like country. The only pair of white-breasted birds I ever saw in the Province was breeding on a low mountain near Vernon.

16. *Falco rusticolus*. GYRFALCON. — A regular winter visitant west of the Cascades. Young birds are sometimes almost dark enough for *obscurus*, and adults light enough for the Iceland form. The flight of this Falcon is as a rule rather slow compared with that of other large Falcons, but when in full pursuit of a Duck it gets up a tremendous velocity and can turn and twist almost as quickly as a Goshawk. In ordinary flight the wing stroke is much shorter than a Peregrine's, and the bird when going straight away appears to be hovering like a Kestrel.

17. *Falco mexicanus*. PRAIRIE FALCON. — This species used to be a regular migrant to lower Fraser Valley, but I have not seen or taken one for three years, nor have I ever seen one east of the Cascades.

18. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. PEREGRINE FALCON. — This is the only form I have taken, though *pealei* undoubtedly occurs on the coast. The form breeding on lakes in the interior seems to approach closely the small form that breeds on the Mediterranean (*brookei* Sharp).

19. *Falco columbarius*. PIGEON HAWK.

20. *Falco c. suckleyi*. BLACK MERLIN. — Both of these forms of Merlin occur both east and west of Cascades, but I have never seen a specimen that could not be referred without hesitation to one form or the other.

21. *Falco richardsonii*. RICHARDSON'S MERLIN. — Occurs in migrations only, both east and west of the Cascades.

22. *Falco sparverius*. AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK. — Mr. Brewster identifies specimens from this Province with the form *deserticola* (Mearns). It is a permanent resident throughout the southern portion of the Province.

23. *Syrnium occidentale*. WESTERN BARRED OWL. — Apparently confined to the lower Fraser Valley, where it is a rare and local resident.

24. *Nyctala richardsoni*. RICHARDSON'S OWL. — A considerable irruption of this Owl occurred throughout the southern interior during the winter of 1898-99.

25. *Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL. — The typical form occurs, as well as every possible intergrade between the darkest *saturatus* and *subarcticus*, almost light enough for *arcticus*.

26. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. BURROWING OWL. — I have three records west of the Cascades. East of them it is a tolerably common breeder in the semi-arid interior.

27. *Glaucidium gnoma californicum*. CALIFORNIA PYGMY OWL. — Mr. Brewster informs me that all the British Columbian specimens which I have sent him are referable to this subspecies.
28. *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*. CALIFORNIA CUCKOO. — Becoming more abundant in the coast region every year, probably on account of the invasions of the forest tent caterpillar.
29. *Dryobates villosus leucomelas*. NORTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER. — I have taken the northern form of the Hairy Woodpecker several times in the lower Fraser Valley west of the Cascades.
30. *Picoides americanus alascensis*. ALASKAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. — Resident on the Cascades as far south as Mt. Baker.
31. *Picoides arcticus*. BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. — The only form of Three-toed Woodpecker I have observed east of the Cascades.
32. *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK. — Mr. Ridgway identified specimens I sent him from west of the Cascades as the typical form. I doubt whether *henryi* occurs in British Columbia.
33. *Phalænoptilus nuttalli*. POOR-WILL. — A tolerably common summer resident throughout the southern portions of the semi-arid interior.
34. *Cypseloides niger*. BLACK SWIFT. — Very abundant; breeds at high altitudes.
35. *Otocoris leucolæma*. PALLID HORNED LARK. — A common migrant at Chilliwack (west of Cascades) where I have also taken both the other Horned Larks found in the Province — *merrilli* and *strigata*.
36. *Cyanocitta stelleri annectens*. BLACK-HEADED JAY. — I have a typical example of this form taken within 40 miles of the coast.
37. *Dolichonyx oryzivora albinucha*. WESTERN BOBOLINK. — Occasional both east and west of the Cascades and many breed.
38. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD. — Tolerably common east of and a straggler west of the Cascade Mountains.
39. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. — I have two records of this species for Chilliwack.
40. *Agelaius phœniceus*. REDWING. — Redwings from southern British Columbia are characterized by very long slender bills, and a very rufous coloration in the female: Mr. Brewster informs me they come closest to *sonoriensis*.
41. *Icterus bullocki*. BULLOCK'S ORIOLE. — Abundant east of the Cascades, and a few pairs breed west of them at Chilliwack.
42. *Loxia leucoptera*. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. — Chilliwack — 3 specimens.
43. *Leucosticte tephrocotis*. GRAY-CROWNED LEUCOSTICTE. — I have taken the typical species as far west as Chilliwack.
44. *Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*. HEPBURN'S LEUCOSTICTE. — Breeds above timber line in the Cascades.
45. *Spinus tristis salicamans*. WESTERN GOLDFINCH. — Of irregular occurrence during early winter at Okanagan.

46. *Rhynchophanes mccowni*. McCOWN'S LONGSPUR. — I shot an adult male at Chilliwack on June 1, 1887, and two years later took two females on the same spot.

47. *Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus*. WESTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. — A summer resident near Vernon.

48. *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. WESTERN LARK SPARROW. — A very scarce summer visitant, both east and west of the Cascades.

49. *Zonotrichia querula*. HARRIS'S SPARROW. — I took two at Sumas (Lower Fraser) 10th January, 1895.

50. *Junco hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. — I have twice observed and once taken the Eastern Junco at Chilliwack, B. C.

51. *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*. CALIFORNIA SHRIKE. — My father took one at Chilliwack, April, 1888.

52. *Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO. — The most abundant Vireo both east and west of the Cascades in southern British Columbia.

53. *Helminthophila rubricapilla gutturalis*. CALAVERAS WARBLER. — Common in the Okanagan district.

54. *Icteria virens longicauda*. LONG-TAILED CHAT. — Sumas, 26th May, 1897.

55. *Setophaga ruticilla*. AMERICAN REDSTART. — Regularly east of, and accidentally west of Cascades.

56. *Salpinctes obsoletus*. ROCK WREN. — I have taken only one west of the Cascades (Chilliwack, Nov., 1889). Common in suitable localities in southern interior.

57. *Sitta aculeata*. SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH.

58. *Sitta pygmæa*. PYGMY NUTHATCH. — Confined to the region of *Pinus ponderosa*.

59. *Parus hudsonicus columbianus*. COLUMBIAN CHICKADEE. — Common at high elevations in the interior. I have taken it as far west as Nicola. In the mountains west of Arrow Lake I observed all four species of Chickadees associated together — *columbianus*, *rufescens*, *gambeli*, and *septentrionalis*.

60. *Psaltriparus minimus*. LEAST TITMOUSE. — I shot two specimens out of a considerable number on 25th Nov., 1899, but could not find any the next day at same place, nor have I ever seen them before, though I always have looked out for them.

61. *Merula migratoria*. ROBIN. — I have taken the typical form as far west as Chilliwack, although *propinqua* is the resident race.