

A rancher from Twin Falls, 100 miles south and 145 miles east of Vale, Ore., tells me the 'Blue Quail' appeared there several years ago, while a report from Shoshone, 75 m. south and 150 east of Vale, says they are becoming plentiful near that place. I am unable to verify by personal observation either of these last reports, but have no reason to doubt them.

It is a fair supposition that the birds taken near Nampa were 'explorers,' merely crossing the valley to the hills beyond, where they will doubtless be found soon if indeed they are not already established there.

I have examined numerous birds in the flesh from the Owyhee section and would pronounce them typical *plumifera*, though I have not the material in my collection for a comparison. Hunters insist that they find another variety, similar in coloring but smaller and with shorter plumes.—L. E. WYMAN, *Nampa, Ida.*

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) **in Alberta.**—The records of the Passenger Pigeon printed of late in 'The Auk,'¹ cover practically all of its former range except the extreme northwest. The account of its occurrence in Alberta is contained in a little known book entitled 'Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains. A diary and narrative of travel, sport, and adventure, during a journey through the Hudson's Bay Company's Territories in 1859 and 1860. By the Earl of Southesk.' Edinburgh, 1875, 1-448. On May 28, 1859, when in northwestern Minnesota near Pembina, he says, "I stalked and shot some pigeons." When near Qu' Appelle Fort, Saskatchewan, July 2, they "discovered a few pigeons in a little grove." From Edmonton, Alberta, the party went westward and August 22, when near the Lobstick River the record reads, "We also saw a good many pigeons, one of which I shot with my rifle. They were plump, compact little birds, and made delicious eating." The next day, when a few miles further west, two were shot.

These are apparently the first and only records of the Passenger Pigeon in Alberta.—WELLS W. COOKE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

The Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata fasciata*) **in North Dakota.**—Recently I have been having some interesting correspondence with Mr. C. J. Campbell, whose home is at Englevale, North Dakota. From the Editor of 'Outer's Book' I learned that Mr. Campbell had shot a specimen of the Band-tailed Pigeon near Englevale, and I investigated the matter until I was satisfied of the truth of the statement; and now, with his permission, I publish his last letter to me on the subject, it being dated at his home on the 1st of July, 1912, and runs as follows:—"Dear Sir:—In reply to your letter of June 27th I am perfectly willing you should publish the facts as stated in any of my letters. The Band-tailed Pigeon referred to was shot by me on the evening of June 2nd in this village, which is situated in Ransom Co., N. D., about 50 miles from the Minnesota State

¹ 1910, 428; 1911, 346 and 427.

line and about 30 from the South Dakota line. I could not tell the sex. I only saw the one bird. When first seen a pair of Kingbirds were chasing it and it flew into a thick willow hedge to escape them. This Pigeon was about the size of a Passenger Pigeon or a trifle smaller, white collar around back part of neck. The end of tail square, that is tail feathers all of equal length. When the tail feathers were held spread out it plainly showed the band of dull or dirty white.

Yours truly,

CHAS. J. CAMPBELL."

There may be some significance in the capture of this bird so far off its range, when taken in connection with the outrageous slaughter of many hundreds of this species, which recently took place in Southern California, as described in the May-June (1912) issue of 'The Condor' (p. 108). R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

On the Alleged Egg-carrying Habit of the Band-tailed Pigeon.—In the July 'Auk' Mr. Wallace Craig protests at some length against the general acceptance of the belief that the Band-tailed Pigeon carries its egg from the nest on occasion, and incubates it on any limb of a tree on which it may happen to alight, as published in Bendire's 'Life Histories of North American Birds.' He remarks, quite rightly, that such an extraordinary act should not be believed except upon the best of evidence, which he asserts is not at hand.

Doubtless other western ornithologists besides myself have read with amusement this tale of the pigeon's actions, but without feeling the need of formally refuting the story. This, however, should have been done years ago, for such stories are sometimes repeatedly and widely quoted, as this one has been, until they are generally accepted as established facts. It is pertinent, in this connection, to refer to Mr. Herbert Brown's interesting account of the Masked Bob-white (Auk, XXI, 1904, pp. 209-213), where statements by Major Bendire's informant, referring to the species treated, and also quoted in Bendire's 'Life Histories,' are discussed and rated at about their true value.

Under the circumstances it is most unfortunate that many such statements and records should have been so widely repeated in ornithological literature. As the years go by such erroneous 'records' become increasingly difficult to correct, and while we can still do so, every effort should be made toward their elimination.

In this connection, and as an example of the insistence of an erroneous record, there can be cited the generally accepted statement of the Band-tailed Pigeons' breeding in southern Arizona during the entire year. This is positively asserted as an accepted fact in various books dealing with western ornithology, and is, I believe, traceable back to the same source as the egg-carrying tale. It is also contrary to fact. The Band-tailed