

southern type *littoralis*, Acadian, while the late returning northward birds of the present season from the fall migration of 1916, as being farther north residents, would naturally be the Labrador birds, the *nigricans* type?

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## THE BIRDS OF WALLA WALLA AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES, SOUTHEASTERN WASHINGTON.<sup>1</sup>

BY LEE RAYMOND DICE.

THE first definite knowledge of the vertebrate fauna of southeastern Washington was secured by J. K. Townsend (1839) and Thomas Nuttall, who, accompanying a trading expedition across the continent, reached, on September 3, 1834, the Hudson's Bay Company's post of Fort Walla Walla, situated on the Columbia River at the present site of Wallula. They remained here only a few days when they proceeded down the river to Astoria. The following year Townsend returned to Fort Walla Walla and remained in that region from July 6 until September 3.

In 1857 the United States government established Fort Walla Walla as an army post at the present site of Walla Walla. This is more than fifty miles from the former Hudson's Bay Company's post of the same name, and the fauna and flora of the two regions are somewhat dissimilar. Some uncertainty in scientific literature has been caused by the confusion of these two places.

Capt. Chas. Bendire was stationed at Walla Walla for several years, being there at least from August, 1879, until some time in 1881.

Belding (1890) has published a considerable number of brief notes from Walla Walla on birds observed by a person variously quoted as Dr. Williams, J. W. Williams, and once as D. T. Williams. These references probably refer to the same individual. From the

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<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the Zoölogical Laboratory, Kansas State Agricultural College, No. 16.

notes given, this person must have studied the birds of the region during a period lasting at least from August, 1884, until the summer of 1885.

During the summer of 1903 a party from the State College, headed by R. E. Snodgrass, crossed the region. They entered at Wallula, proceeded to Walla Walla, then to Bolles, and up the Touchet River to Dayton. From Dayton they proceeded across the Blue Mountains toward Almota (Snodgrass, 1904).

W. Leon Dawson spent several weeks in April and May, 1907, studying the birds near Wallula.

It is known that collectors of the U. S. Biological Survey have worked at several points in the region, but no account of their work has been published, except isolated references to certain localities in taxonomical work.

Storrs H. Lyman of Dayton, Washington, who has made many observations on the birds of Walla Walla and Columbia counties, has kindly allowed the insertion of his notes into the present paper.

Through the courtesy of Dr. H. S. Brode, notes have been secured on the specimens in the collection of Whitman College.

Observations on the birds of this region were begun by the author in December, 1904, and, broken by numerous absences, continued until December, 1915. The vicinity along the Touchet River just east of Prescott has received much the largest share of attention, though field trips, often of several week's duration, have been made to other parts of the region. Specimens have been secured of a large number of the species, and care has been taken to have the taxonomic determinations as nearly correct as possible.

The general topographic features, climate, and habitats of Walla Walla and Columbia counties have been described in an earlier paper by the author (Dice, 1916, 293-332). Western Walla Walla County is dominated by semi-arid sagebrush plains; eastern Walla Walla County and western Columbia County are characterized by high rolling bunchgrass prairie; and in southeastern Columbia County the Blue Mountains are covered by coniferous forests. The wide range of climatic conditions is reflected in the vertebrate life of the different faunal areas.

In the accompanying list an attempt has been made to give the local distribution of each species, so far as known in the region;

and any new information at hand on habits has been included. The list is known to be very incomplete, especially in regard to the bird life of the Blue Mountains and of the sagebrush areas of western Walla Walla County.

***Aechmophorus occidentalis.*** WESTERN GREBE.—A juvenile was taken near Walla Walla a few years ago by S. H. Lyman.

***Mergus americanus.*** MERGANSER.—In early March, 1914, Mr. Bethel Randall took a young male from a small flock swimming in the Touchet River two miles east of Prescott.

***Anas platyrhynchos.*** MALLARD.—Numerous small flocks were observed along the Touchet River and in the grain and stubble fields of the valley near Prescott during late December, 1906. A male was noted Nov. 16, 1915, on the river.

***Mareca americana.*** BALDPATE.—Five were noted on a pool of the Touchet River two miles east of Prescott, Oct. 20, 1915.

***Nettion carolinense.*** GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Irregularly present, during the winter, in small flocks along the Touchet River near Prescott.

***Spatula clypeata.*** SHOVELLER.—In 1915 a small flock was noted Aug. 23 on a gravel bar of the Touchet River two miles east of Prescott. Another flock of eleven was seen on the river Oct. 21.

***Charitonetta albeola.*** BUFFLE-HEAD.—Five were observed on the Touchet River two miles east of Prescott on Oct. 23, 1915.

***Olor columbianus.*** WHISTLING SWAN.—A mounted specimen at Whitman College is from the Walla Walla River near the Oregon line.

***Botaurus lentiginosus.*** BITTERN.—A specimen in the Whitman College collection was taken near Walla Walla on Nov. 18, 1901.

***Ardea herodias treganzai.*** TREGANZA'S BLUE HERON.—Occasional throughout the year along the shores of the Touchet River near Prescott. They sometimes alight in the upper branches of trees, and in winter are found also in the meadows and open grain fields of the valley.

***Grus mexicana.*** SANDHILL CRANE.—Rare in summer along the shores of the Touchet River near Prescott. Several large migrating flocks of cranes, probably of this species, were seen on April 14, 1908. They were flying very high and were going directly northward.

***Fulica americana.*** COOT.—On Aug. 14, 1914, one was seen on a small seepage lake near Attalia. They are reported by hunters to occur in the fall along the Touchet River near Prescott. Oct. 13, 1915, one was taken by Mr. Geo. Gross from a hawk in the Blue Mountains on the South Fork of the Touchet River.

***Gallinago delicata.*** WILSON'S SNIBE.—Reported by S. H. Lyman as sometimes common along Mill Creek near Walla Walla. A specimen from that locality is in the museum of Whitman College.

***Pisobia bairdi.*** BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—Early in April, 1908, S. H. Lyman secured two from a small flock feeding in a grain field near Dayton (Dice, 1915, 60).

**Totanus melanoleucus.** GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.— Reported by S. H. Lyman to have been taken along the Touchet River at Dayton.

**Bartramia longicauda.** UPLAND PLOVER.— Dawson (1908, 484) heard Upland Plovers in April, 1905, near Two Rivers, western Walla Walla County.

**Actitis macularia.** SPOTTED SANDPIPER.— Often seen in summer on the bars of the Touchet River near Prescott. One was seen on the rocky shore of Snake River at Lyon's Ferry on June 23, 1914.

Spring arrival records for Prescott are: May 2, 1905; May 22, 1913; and May 19, 1914.

**Numenius americanus.** LONG-BILLED CURLEW.— Occasionally breeding in the bunchgrass hills near Prescott. They are rapidly decreasing in numbers, as the spring plowing practiced in connection with wheat growing destroys many of their nests, and only a small amount of uncultivated land, on which they can breed, still remains in the region. In spring they often feed about small pools of water in the prairie, but they seldom go near the river during their stay with us. They leave the region soon after the young are able to fly and thus escape the dry summer. Nesting occurs in the latter part of April and the early part of May.

Spring arrival dates at Prescott are: March 23, 1905; March 29, 1906; April 7, 1908; and April 9, 1913.

**Charadrius dominicus dominicus.** GOLDEN PLOVER.— Taken by Bendire at Walla Walla (Brewster, 1882, 227).

**Oxyechus vociferus vociferus.** KILLDEER.— Numerous along the shores of the Walla Walla River near Wallula in the early part of June, 1914. They also fed in the sagebrush, sometimes a half mile from the river. Killdeers are fairly numerous in summer along the shores of the Touchet River near Prescott. They often feed in the cultivated meadows of the valley, and at times, especially in the spring, may be found in the grain fields and bunchgrass areas a short distance from the river.

During late December, 1908, several were noted near Prescott and one was taken on Jan. 1, 1909. Spring arrival dates for other years are: Feb. 26, 1905; Feb. 22, 1906; and Feb. 25, 1908.

**Perdix perdix.** HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE.— In the early spring of 1915 several were liberated in the Touchet Valley near Prescott. A flock of ten was seen in a field of the valley near some willows on Nov. 20. They had been introduced into Columbia County several years earlier.

**Colinus virginianus virginianus.** BOB-WHITE.— Introduced. A few were seen in early June, 1914, at the edge of the willows along the Walla Walla River near Wallula. At Prescott they have become common in the brush and timber. At times they feed in the meadows and even a short distance out into the open parts of the valley, but are never found far from cover.

Nests have been noted at Prescott as follows: June 5, 1908, 14 eggs; June 8, 1908, 10 eggs; July 1, 1910, 20 eggs; June 5, 1913, 19 eggs at the point of hatching. These nests were placed in grass at the edge of meadows or in brushy places.

**Dendragapus obscurus richardsoni.** RICHARDSON'S GROUSE.— A specimen from the Blue Mountains is in the collection of Whitman College. In late July, 1914, they were noted at Hompeg Falls in yellow pine, in western larch, in Douglas spruce, and in lowland fir, being most common in the Douglas spruce. On July 27 a flock was seen in alpine fir on a ridge near Twin Buttes Ranger Station, and others were seen in Douglas spruce on other parts of the same ridge. Several were seen on August 6 beside Butte Creek.

**Bonasa umbellus togata.** CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE.— Rather rare near Prescott, and found only in the densest timber and brush. One was seen July 26, 1914, in lowland fir forest at Hompeg Falls.

On June 13, 1908, a hen with a brood of small young was discovered in thick brush two miles east of Prescott.

**Pedicecetes phasianellus columbianus.** COLUMBIAN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE.— Reported by Townsend (1839) from near Wallula. A number were seen June 17, 1914, in the grain fields and in the bunchgrass areas near Eureka. They were formerly abundant in the bunchgrass hills near Prescott, but spring plowing destroys many of their nests and this in connection with extensive hunting has greatly reduced their numbers. They sometimes feed on the buds of the trees along the stream in winter, but are very seldom seen near timber in the summer.

A nest found in a stubble field near Prescott on May 9, 1906, was merely a slight depression in the ground lined with a little straw and a few feathers. It contained 12 eggs. Young only a few days old were seen on May 14, 1914. Quarter-grown young were seen on June 30. In many cases the mother will feign injury in an attempt to lead an enemy away from the vicinity of the chicks. In one case the mother made a series of motions and calls tending to direct the attention to herself and away from the chicks. The young hide in the grass, and may sneak away a considerable distance. They are very hard to find unless they give their calls, and this they rarely do until the hen begins to call them.

**Centrocerus urophasianus.** SAGE HEN.— Snodgrass (1904, 227) reported the sage hen to "occur throughout the entire sagebrush area of central Washington."

**Phasianus torquatus.** RING-NECKED PHEASANT.— Introduced into southeastern Washington. They are reported from time to time in the timber along the Touchet River above Prescott. One was seen Aug. 13, 1914, in a grain field near Walla Walla.

**Zenaidura macroura marginella.** WESTERN MOURNING DOVE.— Near Wallula several were seen in early June, 1914, at the edge of the willows along the Walla Walla River, and a few were noted in sagebrush, some being nearly a mile from the river. They are common during the summer in partially open places in the Touchet Valley near Prescott, and nest in bushes and trees along the river. They feed mostly on the ground at the edge of timber, but may sometimes be found several miles from trees or water. At Lyon's Ferry a few were seen in late June, 1914, about the

rock cliffs overlooking Snake River. They are common in summer at Walla Walla (Belding, 1890, 23).

Spring arrival dates at Prescott are: April 30, 1905; April 2, 1906; March 24, 1908; and April 24, 1913. Five were seen at Prescott on Dec. 25, 1908, so an occasional winter must be spent at that locality.

**Cathartes aura septentrionalis.** TURKEY VULTURE.—A flock of twelve were seen Aug. 31, 1915, by Carl Dice on a hill east of Prescott. On Sept. 5, he saw another in the trees of the valley. S. H. Lyman reports them from the Blue Mountains.

**Accipiter velox.** SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—Common in the timber along the Touchet River at Prescott and Dayton. Dates of capture at Prescott are Jan. 1, 1905; Dec. 21, 1908; Oct. 24, 1915; and Nov. 13, 1915.

**Accipiter cooperi.** COOPER'S HAWK.—One was shot Sept. 13, 1915, in the timber along the Touchet River near Prescott. S. H. Lyman reports them to be common near Dayton.

**Astur atricapillus striatulus.** WESTERN GOSHAWK.—Specimens have been taken at Walla Walla (Brewster, 1882, 232). One was shot Sept. 13, 1915, in the timber just east of Prescott while feeding on a young Bob-white. Bendire (1892, 199) says they are pretty generally distributed throughout the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington.

**Buteo borealis calurus.** WESTERN RED-TAIL.—Common over the whole of southeastern Washington. In the region near Prescott they occur throughout the year, but are more common in summer than in winter. They are found in the bunchgrass hills and also in the timber along the streams. In the summer of 1914 a number were seen on the ridges of the Blue Mountains.

On June 20–24, 1914, several pairs were seen about the lava cliffs beside Snake River at Lyon's Ferry. High on one of the cliffs a nest containing two well grown young was observed.

A pocket gopher (*Thomomys columbianus*) was found in the stomach of one taken near Prescott on Dec. 22, 1905.

**Buteo swainsoni.** SWAINSON'S HAWK.—Occasionally seen in summer near Prescott, in the bunchgrass hills, in the timber of the valleys, and in irrigated meadows. During the latter part of August, 1915, flocks of one hundred or more were observed soaring over the valley in the evenings. One was taken as late as Oct. 16.

**Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis.** AMERICAN ROUGH-LEG.—Taken near Walla Walla by Bendire (Brewster, 1882, 227).

**Archibuteo ferrugineus.** FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG.—Several rough-legs were seen on June 17, 1914, in the bunchgrass hills near Nine-mile. Another was seen June 25 in the bunchgrass hills about fifteen miles north of Prescott.

**Aquila chrysaëtos.** GOLDEN EAGLE.—Reported by S. H. Lyman to occur commonly in Columbia County. A mounted specimen from that county is in the museum of Whitman College.

**Falco mexicanus.** PRAIRIE FALCON.—Reported by Dawson and

Bolles (1909, 525), from the canyon of Snake River and from the gorge of the Columbia below Wallula. Bendire (1892, 289-290) found them somewhat common in timber and prairie at Walla Walla in late summer, fall, and spring, and rarely in winter. During the late fall of 1915, up until Nov. 7, one was often noted on power line poles in an open field east of Prescott.

**Falco columbarius columbarius.** PIGEON HAWK.—Those taken at Walla Walla have been referred to three different subspecies (Bendire, 1892, 303). However, it seems better to place them all under one subspecies until the taxonomy of the group is better known.

They were of "not uncommon" occurrence at Walla Walla in the winter of 1880-1881 (Allen, 1881, 128).

**Falco sparverius sparverius.** SPARROW HAWK.—Generally distributed throughout southeastern Washington. One was killed on June 17, 1914, in sagebrush near Wallula not far from the Walla Walla River. In the prairie area they are common in the timber along the streams, but they often hunt in the bunchgrass hills, being found sometimes several miles from timber. At Lyon's Ferry several pairs were seen in late June, 1914, about basaltic cliffs. A number were seen in late July, 1914, on the open rocky slopes and in open yellow pine timber near Hompeg Falls. One was killed August 9, in open Douglas spruce timber on top of a mountain ridge.

Several remained throughout the winter of 1905-06 in the Touchet Valley near Prescott. Spring arrival dates for other years are: April 3, 1908; and April 9, 1913.

A nest was found, April 23, 1906, in an old magpie nest about twelve feet high in an osage hedge two miles east of Prescott. There were no eggs at that time, but later five were laid. During early June, 1908, another pair nested in a deserted magpie nest. At other times Sparrow Hawks were seen to enter and leave old woodpecker holes high in the cottonwood trees, and they evidently nested there.

**Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis.** OSPREY.—S. H. Lyman reports the killing of one beside the Touchet River in the city of Dayton. On May 17, 1913, one was perched in a high tree overlooking the Touchet River near Prescott. At this place one was killed on Sept. 21, 1915.

**Asio wilsonianus.** LONG-EARED OWL.—A few live throughout the year in the timber along the streams of Walla Walla County. None are found except in heavy brush or timber.

A nest in a broken-down magpie nest twelve feet above the ground, was found in 1906 in thick brush along the Touchet River near Prescott. No eggs had been laid on April 23, but on April 27 the nest contained two. On April 24, 1908, another Long-eared Owl was seen on a deserted magpie nest thirty feet above the ground. Dawson (1914, 56-57) reports finding a nest near Wallula.

**Asio flammeus.** SHORT-EARED OWL.—On June 13, 1914, one was flushed from the ground in sagebrush near Wallula. He sailed off and

alighted on a hill covered by bunchgrass. Near Prescott they have been seen a few times in the bunchgrass hills. Specimens were taken by Bendire at Walla Walla (Brewster, 1882, 229). S. H. Lyman has noted the species in both Walla Walla and Columbia Counties.

**Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa.** GREAT GRAY OWL.—A specimen taken in Columbia County 15 or 20 miles east of Dayton was brought to S. H. Lyman early in December, 1914.

**Cryptoglaux acadica acadica.** SAW-WHET OWL.—One was taken Nov. 19, 1915, in timber two miles east of Prescott. S. H. Lyman has heard their call notes a number of times in the Blue Mountains. Early in December, 1914, he took a specimen at an old barn on the outskirts of Dayton.

**Otus asio macfarlanei.** MACFARLANE'S SCREECH OWL.—Noted at Wallula (Dawson and Bolles, 1909, 475). Breeding at Walla Walla (Bendire, 1892, 372). They occur commonly throughout the year in the timber along the Touchet River at Prescott. In late July, 1914, a family party, of which the young were nearly grown, inhabited the lowland fir forest near Hompeg Falls.

**Bubo virginianus lagophonus.** NORTHWESTERN HORNED OWL.—Type (Oberholser, 1904, 185-187) from Walla Walla, taken on Nov. 13, 1881. Oberholser states (p. 186) that in this form, so far as shown by the material at hand, there is no indication of a pale phase. Of 18 specimens taken by Bendire (1892, 388) at Walla Walla 12 were dark in color and were referred to *B. v. saturatus*, 3 were intermediate, and 3 being light in color were referred to *B. v. subarcticus* (Hoy). *B. v. saturatus* as given by Bendire (1892, 383) is evidently a synonym of *lagophonus* (Ridgway, 1914, 748). It seems that as *lagophonus* does not have a pale phase, two forms of horned owl must occur at Walla Walla.

Bendire (p. 388) reports *saturatus* (*lagophonus*) common near Walla Walla in winter, but states that they were not seen after the approach of spring. In some winters horned owls are numerous in the timber along the Touchet River near Prescott.

**Bubo virginianus occidentalis.** WESTERN HORNED OWL.—The horned owl breeding at Walla Walla is given by Bendire (1892, 388) as *B. v. subarcticus*. This name is given by Ridgway (1914, 744) as a synonym in part of *occidentalis*, and this must be the subspecies breeding in Walla Walla County.

Near Prescott horned owls are rarely seen in summer. Throughout the year they keep to the heavy brush and timber along the rivers.

**Nyctea nyctea.** SNOWY OWL.—Bendire (1892, 390) took two Snowy Owls at Walla Walla in winter. S. H. Lyman reports that he has seen the species near Dayton in very cold weather.

**Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa.** BURROWING OWL.—In June, 1914, a pair had a nest in sagebrush beside an irrigating ditch near Wallula. Reported from Walla Walla (Bendire, 1892, 400). Near Prescott they are numerous in summer in the bunchgrass areas.



Spring arrival dates at Prescott are: March 19, 1905; April 3, 1908; and April 11, 1913.

**Glaucidium gnoma californicum.** CALIFORNIA PYGMY OWL.—Bendire (1888a, 367) took this owl in the Blue Mountains of Washington. S. H. Lyman killed one at an old barn near Dayton in December, 1914. A specimen in the Whitman College collection was taken Feb. 13, 1902, at Dayton.

**Streptoceryle alcyon caurina.** WESTERN BELTED KINGFISHER.—Numerous in summer along the Touchet River near Prescott. They are often seen perched on trees overlooking the stream. On Aug. 4, 1914, one was seen on Butte Creek in the Blue Mountains. During the winter of 1904-05 several remained near Prescott all winter. In 1913 the first spring arrival was noted on March 31. A nest hole was discovered in the soft dirt banks of the Touchet River near Prescott on May 19, 1914.

**Dryobates villosus monticola.** ROCKY MOUNTAIN HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Occasional in winter in the trees along the Touchet River near Prescott. In the summer of 1914 a number were seen on the ridges of the Blue Mountains in alpine fir forest and elsewhere on dead trees.

**Dryobates pubescens homorus.** BATCHELDER'S WOODPECKER.—Numerous throughout the year in the timber along the Touchet River near Prescott. Reported rare at Walla Walla (Bendire, 1895, 59).

On June 11, 1908, a nest containing young was found four feet above the ground in an apple tree near Prescott. The female was seen gathering large, red aphids from nearby golden-rod. She would gather all her mouth could hold and until the aphids stuck out like a fringe all around the edges of the bill. Then she flew in a direct line toward the nest. This female was also seen to gather aphids from apple trees.

**Xenopicus albolarvatus.** WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Mr. George Gross shot one in the Blue Mountains late in May, 1909, and sent me the specimen.

**Picoides arcticus.** ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—S. H. Lyman secured a male about five years ago in heavy Douglas spruce on a ridge of the Blue Mountains. The specimen is now in his collection.

**Picoides americanus** subsp. THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—A white-backed, Three-toed Woodpecker was seen July 31, 1914, in heavy Douglas spruce forest near the top of a ridge near Twin Buttes R. S. S. H. Lyman reports the species to be common in these mountains.

**Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis.** RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER.—Found sparingly in the Blue Mountains of Washington by Bendire (1888, 226).

**Sphyrapicus thyroideus.** WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER.—Noted a number of times in the Blue Mountains in the summer of 1914. Near Hompeg Falls they were found in lowland fir in the canyon, and in yellow pine forest on the low ridges. On top of the ridge at Twin Buttes R. S. they were seen in Douglas spruce forest, and on Butte Creek they were found in brush and among cottonwoods.

**Phlœctomus pileatus picinus.** WESTERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Several were reported to have been present for about a month in Sept.—

Oct., 1914, in trees along the Touchet River east of Prescott. Near Hompeg Falls they were noted a few times during July, 1914, in low-land fir forest, and two were seen in western larch forest.

**Asyndesmus lewisi.** LEWIS'S WOODPECKER.—Abundant in summer near Prescott. They live principally in the timber, but may often be found on fence posts in the bunchgrass and grain fields several miles from trees. None were seen along the Touchet River below Lamar, nor were any seen in the Blue Mountains. Reported breeding at Walla Walla (Bendire, 1895, 120).

Spring arrival dates at Prescott are: April 29, 1905; April 26, 1908; and April 29, 1913. In 1915 the species was last seen on Sept. 18. Several nests containing vociferous young were noted in the early part of June, 1908, high in cottonwood trees near Prescott. On May 21, 1914, a nest was found about twelve feet high in a catalpa.

These woodpeckers are very fond of cherries and may often be seen feeding on the ripe fruit. When cherries are ripe a constant stream of birds may be seen carrying them in their bills to the young in nearby nests.

**Colaptes cafer collaris.** RED-SHAFTED FLICKER.—A number were seen in early June, 1914, in the willows along the Walla Walla River near Wallula. In the timber along the streams of the prairie area they are common in summer. They often fly considerable distances out into the bunchgrass hills and feed on the ground. On the ridges of the Blue Mountains they were numerous during the summer of 1914 in buckbrush, alpine fir forest, and Douglas spruce forest, being most often noted on dead trees. A few were seen in the deciduous timber along Butte Creek.

A few flickers remain at Prescott during the winter. During the winter of 1908 one roosted every night at a certain place under the porch of a ranch building.

Mating behavior was noticed as early as February 29, in 1905. A nest, about twelve feet high in a catalpa tree, two miles east of Prescott, on May 7, 1908, contained six eggs. This nest had been used by flickers for at least two previous seasons.

**Chordeiles virginianus hesperis.** PACIFIC NIGHTHAWK.—Common near Wallula in early June, 1914. They were often seen flying over sagebrush and occasionally over the Walla Walla River or over the willows along the stream. They often alight on the ground or on fence posts in the sagebrush. Near Prescott a few have been observed in flight over the bunchgrass hills, over the Touchet River, and over the timber along the stream. At Lyon's Ferry a number were seen in the evenings of late June, 1914, flying over Snake River. In the late summer of 1914 a few were seen flying over Butte Creek and over the highest ridges of the Blue Mountains.

**Chaetura vauxi.** VAUX'S SWIFT.—S. H. Lyman has seen this swift in the region on two occasions, once finding a specimen dead in Dayton.

**Archilochus alexandri.** BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD.—Common summer resident in the timber along the Touchet River near Prescott.

**Selasphorus rufus.** RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD.—Numbers occur in the

timber along the Touchet River at Prescott. Two young fully able to fly were noted on Aug. 11, 1915. The species was last seen on Aug. 24.

**Stellula calliope.** CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD.—A juvenile was taken Aug. 6, 1914, in brush along Butte Creek.

**Tyrannus tyrannus.** EASTERN KINGBIRD.—A few were seen in early June, 1914, in the willows along the Walla Walla River near Wallula. Near Prescott and Walla Walla they are common in summer, but are not so abundant as the western kingbird. They are most abundant at the edges of timber, in orchards, and in the shade trees about isolated farm buildings, but are often found on fence posts in the bunchgrass considerable distance from trees. On Eureka Flat they were numerous in the early part of June, 1914, several miles from the nearest timber.

One nest was found July 13, 1909, and another on June 26, 1914, both on a small bridge over the Touchet River near Prescott. In 1915 they were last noted in this region on Sept. 1.

**Tyrannus verticalis.** WESTERN KINGBIRD.—In early June, 1914, numerous pairs were observed near Wallula and they were numerous on Eureka Flat. They are abundant in summer near Prescott. They are not usually found in heavy timber, but prefer open woods or places where there are only a few trees. A favorite place is in the shade trees about farm buildings. Sometimes they are found in the bunchgrass hills far away from buildings or trees.

Spring arrival dates at Prescott are: April 30, 1905; April 26, 1908; and April 21, 1913. In 1915 they were last noted on Aug. 22.

On June 12, 1914, one was seen brooding a nest on a hay derrick near Wallula, and remained on the nest even when the derrick was in use. Near Prescott they nest commonly in trees and about barns. On May 7, 1908, a nest in process of construction was found in a locust tree. On May 13, 1908, a completed nest was observed in a barn in the bunchgrass hills southwest of Prescott. June 12, 1914, a nest was seen on a rocky cliff at Lyon's Ferry. In the foothills of the Blue Mountains, southeast of Waitsburg, a nest was noted on a fence post in bunchgrass. They also breed at Walla Walla (Bendire, 1895, 248).

The Western Kingbird is very pugnacious and fearless and will attack any animal which ventures near the nest. In the bunchgrass country, where nesting sites are scarce, they will make use of any sort of a small box nailed up for their use. If they can be induced to nest near a poultry yard, hawks and magpies are effectively kept away.

**Sayornis sayus.** SAY'S PHEBE.—Reported from Walla Walla (Bendire, 1895, 277). One was seen June 17, 1914, in bunchgrass on the hills near Nine-mile. They are common in summer in the neighborhood of Prescott. At Lyon's Ferry one was seen June 23, 1914. Their preference is for open country with a few trees, and they are seldom found in heavy timber. Sometimes they are found a mile or more from trees. In the bunchgrass hills they are often found about farm buildings.

March 8, 1905, and March 9, 1908, are spring arrival dates at Prescott,

but these records are probably not of the earliest arrivals, for the Say Phoebe is one of the first birds to arrive in spring.

On May 5, 1908, a nest with four partially fledged young was found inside an old house near Prescott. The nest was placed on a ledge above a closed window. The bird entered the house through an open window and crossed two rooms to reach the nest. On June 19 a second brood was found in this nest. One of the first brood was found dead in the room, but the other three had probably been able to get out through the open window. June 24, 1910, a nest containing young was found in the same building, but in a different room, which the bird entered through an open screen door. On May 16, 1908, a nest was found on a beam in a dirt cellar in the hills near Prescott. All the nests were low and broad and included horse-hairs and bits of cloth in their construction.

**Nuttallornis borealis.** OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—One was collected Sept. 17, 1909, from the top of a high tree near Prescott. Others were seen in an orchard on Aug. 7, and Sept. 5, 1915. A specimen in the Whitman College collection was taken at Dayton on Aug. 24, 1900.

**Myiochanes richardsoni richardsoni.** WESTERN WOOD PEWEE.—Common in the orchards and timber of the Touchet Valley near Prescott. In 1915 they were last seen on Aug. 27.

**Empidonax difficilis difficilis.** WESTERN FLYCATCHER.—Reported by Snodgrass (1904, 229) to occur along the Walla Walla River and on the Touchet River. On August 6, 1914, one was shot from a flock of juveniles in heavy brush along Butte Creek in the Blue Mountains.

**Empidonax trailli trailli.** TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER.—Characteristic of open brush and willow patches in the Touchet Valley east of Prescott. Specimens were taken on June 18, 1908, and June 27, 1914. In 1915 they were still present on Aug. 22.

**Empidonax hammondi.** HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER.—A juvenile was taken in lowland fir forest near Hompeg Falls on July 26, 1914.

**Empidonax wrighti.** WRIGHT'S FLYCATCHER.—A number were seen in the trees beside the Touchet River near Prescott on May 18, 1913, and one specimen taken. In late July, 1914, old and young were numerous in open places of the lowland fir forest at Hompeg Falls. One specimen was taken on July 23, and on July 24 another was taken in brush on the side of the canyon.

(To be concluded.)