

especial niche of the Cerulean Warbler, except during migration. In the same niche, but generally ranging lower and more often visible, occurs the Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana*). As has often been remarked, the songs of the two associated species are similar, but with a little practice it was found that they could easily be distinguished; this was established by repeated tests where the vocalist was later identified by sight. It was quite apparent that after migration only a person well acquainted with the songs of both birds would be likely to detect the presence of the former, for the Cerulean is seldom visible and never at all conspicuous.

Once the song was learned, checking on the birds was easy, for the males were persistent singers. One was noted to sing at intervals of one-half minute to two minutes for nearly an hour early one June morning. While most of the singing was done in the morning, good song was also heard on a hot afternoon when most other birds were silent. Nevertheless, singing rapidly decreased in July and the last heard was on July 20, after which the species was neither seen nor heard, though observation in the area continued until the middle of August. Apparently the fall migration is early. The latest date we have is August 19, 1900, the last time Kirkwood saw his birds.

Baltimore bird students have speculated considerably about several inconsistencies existing between the local avifaunas of Baltimore and Washington; the Cerulean Warbler is a major example. In spring we might suppose that our Ceruleans would come from the southwest, since the species belongs chiefly to the Mississippi Valley, and if they crossed the mountains as several such species are now known regularly to do, they might be expected to fan out northeastward across the relatively unobstructed piedmont or follow the northeast-trending ridges. It seems strange that some of the birds should, instead of such a course, adopt one due eastward; yet that is the only route by which they might avoid the Washington region, which lies immediately on our southwest flank, and where the species is apparently quite rare. This, as Dr. Lincoln has suggested (in litt.), may eventually be found to be the case. Cerulean Warblers are well known in western Maryland but we have at present only slight information from the intervening territory.

We do not know what significance our isolated breeding group has. It does not seem to be a pioneering community of a species extending its range, for it apparently has not spread over a period of many years, although there is much territory available which is seemingly as suitable as that which it now occupies. Nor does it seem to be a relict community, for we have found no evidence that the species was formerly any more abundant in the East than it now is. At present it seems to have no *raison d'être*, either ecological or historical.—HAVEN KOLB, *The Natural History Society of Maryland, Baltimore*.

**Notes on the status of the Red Crossbill in Utah.**—In his monograph on the Red Crossbill (*Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 41: 131–132, 1937) Griscom calls attention to the fact that relatively little is known regarding the status of this species in Utah, and that practically nothing is known relative to the breeding habits within the state. Woodbury (*Condor*, 41: 162, 1939) has more recently reviewed the literature on this subject and recorded some data from the University of Utah and Brigham Young University collections. Other scattered references to the species have been made within the past few years. In his recent paper on the birds of the Uinta Basin (*Ann. Carnegie Mus.*, 28: 464–466, 1942), Twomey records seeing both

sexes feeding young that were two-thirds grown but makes no mention of finding any nests.

The writer's own experiences with the Red Crossbill go back to 1930 when he first began field work in the Uinta Mountains in northern Utah. Field work in later years, especially 1937 to 1941, indicates that this bird is a fairly consistent inhabitant of that mountain range.

In the summer of 1940, the breeding of Red Crossbills was definitely established at Lost Lake, western Uintas. The writer's attention was called to the nesting activity when on August 27 a female was noted on the ground pulling up the dried stems of *Vaccinium*. She soon flew to the nesting site which was on the limb of a tall Engelmann spruce about 40 feet from the ground. While she was working over the nest she was joined by the male; then both birds moved away out of sight. Assuming that the nest was under construction, and not wishing to disturb the birds, I left the area immediately. On August 30, the nest was visited for the second time and kept under observation for several hours. At that time it was a surprise to note that it contained at least three nearly full-fledged young. Apparently the female had merely been repairing the nest on the previous visit.

Both male and female participated in feeding the young at about half-hour intervals. The female came to the nest without apparent concern, but the male moved nervously about, uttering loud, sharp chirps while the feeding activity was going on. Unfortunately it was not possible to reach the nest with the equipment at hand, but some of the details of its construction could be made out from a steep hillside nearly on a level with it. The nest was composed mostly of dried *Vaccinium* stems which are very plentiful in that area. It was a rather bulky affair, plainly visible from below, and estimated at eight to ten inches in diameter.

On subsequent days, several families of streaked young out of the nest were seen in the same general vicinity. They were still being fed by the females; the males had gathered into small flocks and remained more or less by themselves.

The taxonomic status of Red Crossbills in the Uinta Mountains presents an interesting situation. A series of 22 specimens from the Brigham Young University collection was sent to Mr. Griscom who kindly determined them. All proved to be non-typical *benti*. According to Mr. Griscom the males of the series are of the non-rosy-red type like those of the western Colorado Rockies. Three birds from the Lost Lake and Trial Lake areas of the western Uintas show the bill characteristics of *bendirei*, which is the subspecies of western Wyoming, but are, nevertheless, referred to *benti*. This tends to confirm the mixing of eastern and northern faunas in the Uinta Mountains which is also evidenced by other animals, notably some of the mammals.

Twomey (*op. cit.*: 464) regards some of his specimens taken in the Uintas as approaching the more southern *grinnelli*. It seems possible, therefore, that the population from this range may present an odd mixture of the three surrounding races.

Collection and observation data on the Red Crossbill from the writer's notes may be summarized as follows: July 18, 1930, two immature birds collected from a flock (estimated as 50) near Trial Lake, western Uintas; July 24-30, 1937, fourteen specimens collected at Elk Park, eastern Uintas; August 24, 1938, three flocks observed in the vicinity of Trial Lake; various dates in June and July, 1940, many flocks observed at Lost Lake; August 27-30, 1940, six specimens, including the breeding male, collected at Lost Lake.

In many years of field experience the writer has not found the Red Crossbill in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah although there are scattered references to its occurrence there. Stanford (Proc. Utah Acad. Sci., 15: 144, 1938) records a specimen from Logan Canyon, Cache County. Mr. R. G. Bee records in his journal having seen three crossbills in the south fork of Provo Canyon, June 30, 1940.—C. LYNN HAYWARD, *Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.*

**Additional bird records for Grand Canyon National Park.**—In 1937, there was published by the Grand Canyon Natural History Association a "Check-list of Birds of Grand Canyon National Park" (Grater, Natural History Bulletin, No. 8, 55 pp.). A study of this check-list indicates that 183 kinds of birds were then known from the area. For each kind, the seasonal status and, so far as known, the distribution within the park are given, and in cases of rare birds, record specimens are cited or details of the records are given. Although the subspecies for certain geographically variable types have not as yet been satisfactorily worked out, largely because of lack of specimens, nevertheless the list serves as a useful summary of all the data available up to the time of publication and so is a valuable working aid. Furthermore, since the avifauna of the Grand Canyon National Park typifies that of much of northern Arizona, it is to the interests of students of avian distribution that the list be kept up to date as new data accumulate. McKee (Condor, 41: 256, 1939) added four new species to the list. Arnold (Condor, 43: 292, 1941) added another. There are four additional records, thus bringing the list up to a total of 192 kinds.

**BUFFLE-HEAD, *Charitonetta albeola.***—A male specimen was found dead on November 21, 1940, on the bank of the Colorado River at the foot of Bright Angel Trail. It was turned in at the National Park Service Headquarters and prepared as a study skin, now number B-467 in the Grand Canyon National Park collection of birds.

**BLACK VULTURE, *Coragyps atratus atratus.***—On August 4, 1940, a Black Vulture was observed at Grandview Point which is about midway along the East Rim or Desert View Drive and at an elevation of 7496 feet. The lone bird was first seen about 4:00 p. m. at rest on an exposed promontory some 25 yards beyond and a bit below the rim proper. The black, seemingly featherless head and the contour of bill were distinctive. For several minutes the bird remained at its resting place and then, apparently disturbed by a crowd of people, took off with a wing beat that seemed a bit rapid for a vulture. In flight, the individual seemed smaller than its relative, the Turkey Vulture, which is common along the canyon rim. The ends of the primaries of the bird were not widely separated and the bird lacked the gray appearance beneath that one sees in the Turkey Vulture.

Incidentally, another person reported to the Park Naturalist that he had observed a Black Vulture at the same place and on the same afternoon. Very possibly this was the same bird; in any event the report served as corroborative evidence of the record noted here. Then at 10:15 a. m., September 10, 1930, a Black Vulture was again seen at Grandview Point, this time flying in company with Turkey Vultures. Thus the diagnostic features were again checked.

Taylor and Vorhies (Condor, 35: 205, 1933) summarized all records for the Black Vulture in Arizona up to April, 1933, and their observations suggest that in recent years the species has been appearing in increasing numbers in southern Arizona. The record of its occurrence nearest to the Grand Canyon region is from