

harsh call note very similar to that of the Louisiana Tanager.

CASSIN'S PURPLE FINCH (*Carpodacus cassinii*). Common about camp and as high as 9,000 feet, where it was feeding along the edge of the snow. At this date the birds were gregarious at this altitude. Near camp several came to a tree near our cabin and were collected, among them being one male bird in the gray plumage.

GRAY-CROWNED LEUCOSTICTE (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*). A pair secured at the summit of Pyramid Peak, on June 10.

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*.) A flock was observed flying about the corral near camp, and others at 9,000 feet along the snow, all giving the twittering goldfinch notes. Gregarious at this date.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). A common songster in the meadow and up as high as 8,000 feet. I found a nest built two feet from the ground in a thick bush, on June 11, containing one egg, the bird flushing as I brushed past the bush.

WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella s. arizonæ*). Heard several times at 7,500 feet.

THURBER'S JUNCO (*Junco h. thurberi*). Seen and heard commonly at 7,500 feet, where it was not yet breeding on June 10. Two specimens were collected.

LOUISIANA TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*). Observed sparingly at 7,500 feet. Much commoner at lower altitudes.

—— SWALLOW (*Tachycineta*——). Either the Violet-green or Tree Swallow was observed about camp by Mr. Atkinson.

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*). Heard commonly about our camp. It seems strange that this valley bird should outrank the other vireos in this region, no other vireo song being heard.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER (*Dendroica auduboni*). Breeding at 7,500 feet. A nest and four eggs taken June 10.

HERMIT WARBLER (*Dendroica occidentalis*). One specimen seen on June 9, among the tamaracks.

PYGMY NUTHATCH (*Sitta pygmaea*). A nuthatch, doubtless of this species, was several times heard near camp.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE (*Parus gambeli*). Common about the rotten stubs and a set of eight slightly incubated eggs taken June 10. Mr. Atkinson found a nest just completed in a stub, but containing no eggs.

AUDUBON'S HERMIT THRUSH (*Hylodichla aonalaschkae auduboni*). The song was several times heard toward evening, from the tamarack forest, on June 8.

WESTERN ROBIN (*Merula m. propinqua*). A common resident in the meadow, nests with eggs being found June 9 and 10.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia arctica*). A nest was found in a stub by Mr. Atkinson at 9,000 feet, containing one egg. The nest was composed of grasses.



### The American Titlark in Spring Plumage in Los Angeles Co., Cal.

ABOUT the middle of April, 1899, while crossing a swampy bit of pasture, I flushed several Titlarks (*Anthus pensilvanicus*) and as I wanted some specimens, I shot two. On picking them up I was very much surprised and puzzled at the plumage one of them was in; all that I had shot before had been during the winter months, and they were very unlike the bird I now held in my hand, so much so that I could hardly believe that they were of the same species. This bird had the back of a decided ashy tinge, and the under parts, which were of a vinaceous color, were altogether unspotted, except for a few faint, almost invisible specks on the throat. The other bird was not so ashy on the back, and the lower parts were rather heavily spotted, though not so much so as the winter specimens. On dissection the unspotted bird proved to be a male, the other a female.

I looked through all the descriptions

of the American Titlark that I could find, and nowhere could I find a description of the male bird as having the breast unspotted until finally in a volume of the Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum (Vol. X, page 597) I found a very accurate account of this plumage, with the following interesting note: "The adult bird in full grey-and-vinous plumage, is seldom seen in collections; it is figured by Swainson in the 'Fauna Boreali-Americana,' but the only specimen I have seen was one in the Selater collection from Western Mexico, probably shot in full plumage just before its departure for its breeding haunts. All the other specimens collected in northern latitudes are more brown on the upper surface and show more or less spotting on the breast, which is a dull fawn-buff. It may be surmised therefore that only very old males gain the uniform vinous-breasted dress, and the females in all probability are always spotted on the breast." I hunted carefully for Titlarks for some time after I shot these birds, but only succeeded in getting one other, a female, before they had all left. I saw one as late as May 1st, but did not secure it.

The first week in April, 1900, I commenced looking for them again, but the majority had left already, and I could only find a few scattered birds, until, on April 10, when I ran across several flocks in a field I had not yet examined. The birds stuck to this one field pretty closely, and although there were large stretches of country on all sides apparently exactly similar, they were found in this one field and nowhere else. I saw them there several times, the last time being April 20, when they were still quite abundant but extremely shy and difficult to approach. On April 30th I visited the place again and searched carefully but the Titlarks were all gone, I did not see a single one. In all I secured eighteen birds, and three the year before making twenty-one all together. Of these nine were males and twelve females. Of the nine males only

two were in the unspotted grey-and-vinous plumage; all the others are more or less spotted underneath, although some are spotted very lightly; all the males are much more greyish above than the females.

The twelve females are all rather heavily spotted underneath, and lack the rich vinous tints of the males. This interesting plumage of the Titlark may not be as new to many members of the Cooper Club as it is to myself, but as I believe that the latest date on which this bird has been taken in Los Angeles County heretofore was April 3, and as it is improbable that any specimens should have finished their spring moult at that time, I believed that an account of this plumage might not prove uninteresting. It would seem besides that the old males in the most perfect plumage are quite rare and difficult to secure, at least in this locality.

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### The Evening Grosbeak as a Pet.

PERHAPS almost every wild bird has been made a pet of at some time or other, but the Western Evening Grosbeak is least often seen in captivity. Six years ago in August our bird was found here at Webber lake, 6,800 feet altitude, a tiny, featherless creature that had evidently gotten tipped out of the nest before the time had come for him to leave it. We did not know what the bird was, but put him in a cage and fed him moistened crackers and boiled eggs, liberally sprinkled with red pepper. He seemed to thrive on this diet and became fully grown before he would eat anything else. Finally he became fond of canary seed and now lives upon it. He eats also a great deal of fruit, preferring that grown in warm climates, such as oranges, and bananas. Green peppers are his special delight and he eats a whole one in a day, devouring it eagerly, even to the seed and core.