

## Birds Recorded at Paicines, San Benito Co., California.

BY J. & J. W. MAILLIARD.

THE APPENDED LIST is compiled from notes and records made by my brother and myself at Rancho Paicines during many visits of from two to ten days duration at various times of the year since 1888. In this work we have been greatly aided by the resident superintendent, Mr. Peter Kelly, who is naturally a shrewd observer, and who has taken a deep interest in the bird life of the locality.

Our observations have been confined to this ranch and the immediate neighborhood, probably not covering over thirty square miles. Most unfortunately a valise containing some valuable notes and records of ours was stolen from a transfer wagon and never recovered. We are not sure of having closed the gap made by this loss.

Paicines is situated on the northern slope of a comparatively dry belt, Hollister ten miles north being the approximate limit of copious rains. The annual rainfall at Paicines varies from four inches in dry seasons to fifteen or more in wet winters, twelve inches when properly distributed insuring good crops. The result of this light precipitation, together with the coolness of the climate as compared with the southern and interior valleys of the State is that many of the resident birds are intermediate between the dark northern and coast forms and the lighter ones of the true interior and south.

The ranch consists mostly of open rolling land on both sides of the San Benito River, with some alluvial bottoms, occasional oak groves, many scattering oaks, sage brush and chaparral tracts, and clumps of cottonwoods or willows here and there beside the stream. Like many California rivers the San Benito can only be dignified with such a name immediately after a heavy rainfall in the mountains, as for the greater part of the time it is but a small stream, often dry for long stretches in the summer. Its valley is bounded on the southwest by the Gabilan Range which is some 3000 feet high and is covered on its northeast slope with digger pines and chaparral. On the ranch are large tracts of open pasture land, hundreds of acres of level grain fields and an alfalfa patch of 100 acres under irrigation, but no orchard or vineyard.

From this brief description it will be seen that the character of the country is quite diversified and the variety of birds correspondingly large. Many different species of ducks follow the river in the fall and winter and often light upon the small ponds and lagoons in its neighborhood, or upon the deeper spots in the river itself. Some waders also appear from time to time, killdeer thrive along the moist gravel beds and some colonies of herons maintain themselves without difficulty.

In the following list "summer resident" means breeding birds, while "common resident" does not mean abundant unless so stated,—it is meant to convey the idea more of even distribution and ordinary occurrence than of large numbers, while of course "sparingly resident" means that though fairly evenly distributed the numbers are small. These terms are used in order to have the text as concise as possible and yet make the matter clear.

1. *Colymbus auritus*. Horned Grebe. One record only; ♀ Oct. 14, 1900.
2. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Pied-billed Grebe. Casual winter resident.
3. *Larus californicus*. California Gull. Casual winter visitant.
4. *Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus*. Farallone Cormorant. Occasionally seen in winter and spring.
5. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. American White Pelican. Occasionally seen in winter.

6. *Anas boschas*. Mallard. Winter visitant. Some years a pair remain to breed.
7. *Anas americana*. Baldpate. Fall and winter visitant.
8. *Nettion carolinensis*. Green-winged Teal. Fall and winter visitant.
9. *Querquedula cyanoptera*. Cinnamon Teal. Seen during spring migrations.
10. *Spatula clypeata*. Shoveller. Winter visitant.
11. *Dafila acuta*. Pintail. Fall and winter visitant.
12. *Aix sponsa*. Wood Duck. Fall visitant during migration.
13. *Aythya vallisneria*. Canvas-back. One female recorded.
14. *Aythya affinis*. Lesser Scaup Duck. Winter visitant.
15. *Clangula clangula americana*. American Golden-eye. Winter visitant.
16. *Charitonetta albeola*. Buffle-head. Winter visitant.
17. *Erismatura jamaicensis*. Ruddy Duck. Winter visitant.
18. *Chen hyperborea* (sp?). Lesser? Snow Goose. Seen during fall migration, but no specimens taken. Probably this species.
19. *Branta canadensis* (subsp?). ? Goose. Also seen during migrations in fall, but not identified.
20. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. American Bittern. Occasionally noted and apparently resident.
21. *Ardetta exilis*. Least Bittern. One seen but not taken.
22. *Ardea herodias*. Great Blue Heron. Resident. A small colony breeds every year on the ranch.
23. *Ardea virescens anthonyi*. Green Heron. Common summer resident.
24. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*. Black-crowned Night Heron. Occasionally seen and apparently resident.
25. *Grus mexicana*. Sandhill Crane. Sometimes seen flying over in flocks.
26. *Rallus virginianus*. Virginia Rail. Fairly abundant resident in tule patches and alfalfa fields.
27. *Fulica americana*. American Coot. Common winter resident. One or two pair remain to breed in some seasons. We have two or three sets of eggs in our collection from here.
28. *Phalaropus lobatus*. Northern Phalarope. A few recorded during spring migrations.
29. *Recurvirostra americana*. American Avocet. One flock seen Aug. 5, 1900, and two ♂♂ and one ♀ secured.
30. *Gallinago delicata*. Wilson's Snipe. Winter resident. Always a few feeding in wet spots.
31. *Totanus melanoleucus*. Greater Yellow-legs. One seen Oct. 14, 1900.
32. *Actitis macularia*. Spotted Sandpiper. One record only, ♂ May 6, 1898.
33. *Numenius hudsonicus*. Hudsonian Curlew. One flock seen May 4, 1899 and three ♂♂ secured.
34. *Ægialitis vocifera*. Killdeer. Common resident. Abundant along river bed.
35. *Ægialitis montana*. Mountain Plover. Small flocks seen Jan. 15, 1898 and and two ♀♀ secured.
36. *Lophortyx californicus*. California Partridge. Abundant resident. Intermediate between *californicus* and *vallicolus*. Almost typical specimens of each can be found.

37. *Columba fasciata*. Band-tailed Pigeon. Seen occasionally in winter. Said to be abundant in high ranges of the Gabilans.
38. *Zenaidura macroura*. Mourning Dove. Abundant summer and sparingly winter resident.
39. *Gymnogyys californianus*. California Vulture. Formerly abundant, but now rarely seen.
40. *Cathartes aura*. Turkey Vulture. Abundant resident for the greater part of the year, but notably scarce for a few weeks in midwinter.
41. *Elanus leucurus*. White-tailed Kite. Occasionally seen.
42. *Circus hudsonius*. Marsh Hawk. Occasionally seen.
43. *Accipiter velox*. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Common winter resident.
44. *Accipiter cooperi*. Cooper's Hawk. Common winter resident. Occasionally breeds.
45. *Accipiter atricapillus striatulus*. Western Goshawk. Very rare visitor.
46. *Buteo borealis calurus*. Western Redtail. Common resident.
47. *Buteo lineatus elegans*. Red-bellied Hawk. Occasional fall visitor.
48. *Buteo swainsoni*. Swainson's Hawk. Sparingly summer resident. Some years not noted.
49. *Archibuteo ferrugineus*. Ferruginous Rough-leg. Rare winter visitant.
50. *Aquila chrysaetos*. Golden Eagle. Resident. Several pairs have lived here for years.
51. *Falco mexicanus*. Prairie Falcon. Sparingly winter resident.
52. *Falco sparverius deserticolus*. Desert Sparrow Hawk. Abundant resident except in years of drought.
53. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. American Osprey. Once seen.
54. *Strix pratincola*. American Barn Owl. Common resident. In some places the river has washed against the alluvial banks and made perpendicular bluffs 20 or 30 feet high. Along these bluffs this species breeds in numbers in old squirrel holes. It also breeds occasionally in holes in trees.
55. *Asio wilsonianus*. American Long-eared Owl. Sparingly resident. A few nests have been found, but this species is seldom seen ordinarily.
56. *Asio accipitrinus*. Short-eared Owl. Once noted.
57. *Megascops asio bendirei*. California Screech Owl. Common resident. Difficult to say whether it is abundant or not.
58. *Bubo virginianus* (subsp.) ? Horned Owl. Common resident and quite abundant. Our series has never been passed upon by an expert and the variations are great.
59. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. Burrowing Owl. Common resident; scarce some years.
60. *Geococcyx californianus*. Roadrunner. Common resident.
61. *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*. California Cuckoo. One ♀ taken June 4, 1899. No other record.
62. *Ceryle alcyon*. Belted Kingfisher. Common resident.
63. *Dryobates villosus hyloscopus*. Cabanis's Woodpecker. Common resident. The subspecies in this locality is intermediate, and seemingly *hyloscopus* rather than *harrisi*.
64. *Dryobates pubescens gairdneri*. Gairdner's Woodpecker. Common resident; quite abundant.
65. *Dryobates nuttalli*. Nuttall's Woodpecker. Common resident.

66. *Sphyrapicus ruber*. Red-breasted Sapsucker. Common winter resident.
67. *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi*. California Woodpecker. Common resident; more or less abundant at times. Sometimes scarce in winter.
68. *Melanerpes torquatus*. Lewis's Woodpecker. Resident. Some seasons, very abundant and in others very scarce.
69. *Colaptes cafer collaris*. Red-shafted Flicker. Abundant resident. In winter the cross between *cafer* and *auratus* is not uncommon, and we found two juveniles of such July 10, 1898, Collection of J. and J. W. M., No. 3516, ♂ juv., and No. 3517, ♀ juv. Unfortunately neither parent was taken. This is the only record we have of *cafer* + *auratus* between April and October in central California.
70. *Phalænoptilus nuttalli californicus*. Dusky Poorwill. Sparingly winter resident. No summer record, but with this species the proof is only negative, as it is a very shy bird and seldom met with.
71. *Chordeiles acutipennis texensis*. Texan Nighthawk. Abundant summer resident. Breeds in dry parts of river bed, and also in sandy places among the sage brush.
72. *Chætura vauxi*. Vaux's Swift. Occasionally large flocks are seen for a few hours, with intervals of weeks between appearances. Probably breed in the Gabilan range. Scattering birds seen throughout the year.
73. *Aeronautes melanoleucus*. White-throated Swift. Resident. A large colony has bred for years in the seams in the limestone in a quarry near the ranch, in spite of blasts and continued work. This colony was once nearly exterminated by a large blast that was fired while the birds happened to be in the crevices, but the survivors remained faithful to the spot. Hundreds were killed by this blast and apparently but few were left unharmed. We have not visited the place lately and so do not know whether the colony is increasing again.
74. *Trochilus alexandri*. Black-chinned Hummingbird. Summer resident. Common along the river bed where a wild tobacco plant grows. This species is a late arrival and leaves early, making but a short stay.
75. *Calypte anna*. Anna's Hummingbird. Common resident. Abundant in summer.
76. *Selasphorus rufus*. Rufous Hummingbird. Our records show presence only during the spring migration.
77. *Tyrannus verticalis*. Arkansas Kingbird. Abundant summer resident. Earliest seasonal record is March 16, 1901.
78. *Tyrannus vociferans*. Cassin's Kingbird. Common summer resident. Fairly abundant but not so much so as *Tyrannus verticalis*. Earliest seasonal record, March 7, 1899. Also recorded March 15, 1901. It thus seems that a few of both species of kingbird arrive in this locality quite early as compared with the San Francisco Bay region.
79. *Myiarchus cinerascens*. Ash-throated Flycatcher. Abundant summer resident.
80. *Sayornis saya*. Say's Phoebe. Common resident. Breeds early. Set of five eggs taken March 12, 1901.
81. *Sayornis nigricans semiatra*. Black Phoebe. Common resident. Abundant for this species.
82. *Contopus borealis*. Olive-sided Flycatcher. We have no record for this species, but I am almost certain of having heard its note in the pine region.

83. *Contopus richardsoni*. Western Wood Pewee. Very abundant summer resident.
84. *Empidonax difficilis*. Western Flycatcher. Abundant summer resident.
85. *Empidonax hammondi*. Hammond's Flycatcher. One record by Mr. T. E. Slevin, April 18, 1890.
86. *Empidonax wrighti*. Wright's Flycatcher. One record only, ♂ April 15, 1899.
87. *Otocoris alpestris strigata*. Streaked Horned Lark. Some specimens of apparently this subspecies were taken Oct. 1, 1899. Horned Larks are often abundant during fall migrations, but unfortunately no other subspecies has been identified so far.
88. *Pica nuttalli*. Yellow-billed Magpie. Formerly very abundant but now limited to a few pairs in favorite spots. Apparently killed off by squirrel poison. They seem to be resident, but for some months we have no record.
89. *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*. Blue-fronted Jay. Only one record at Paicines proper, ♂ Jan. 31, 1896. Said to be fairly abundant in Gabilan range.
90. *Aphelocoma californica*. California Jay. Abundant resident.
91. *Corvus americanus*. American Crow. Varilyngly abundant summer resident.
92. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Occasionally noted during fall, winter and spring. Only one or two at a time among other blackbirds.
93. *Agelaius gubernator californicus*. Bicolored Blackbird. Abundant resident except in midwinter when it is apt to be scarce.
94. *Agelaius tricolor*. Tricolored Blackbird. Flocks of this species occasionally pass through, flying north, during April.
95. *Sturnella magna neglecta*. Western Meadowlark. Abundant resident.
96. *Icterus bullocki*. Bullock's Oriole. Very abundant summer resident. Earliest noted March 15.
97. *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*. Brewer's Blackbird. Abundant resident.
98. *Coccythraustes vespertinus montanus*. Western Evening Grosbeak. Never noted before this year (1901), when several were taken in February and March. Only a few seen.
99. *Carpodacus purpureus californicus*. California Purple Finch. Rare. Occasionally noted in spring.
100. *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. House Finch. Very abundant resident.
101. *Astragalinus tristis salicamans*. Willow Goldfinch. Abundant winter resident.
102. *Astragalinus psaltria*. Arkansas Goldfinch. Common resident, varyingly abundant.
103. *Astragalinus lawrencei*. Lawrence's Goldfinch. Common summer resident.
104. *Poecetes gramineus confinus*. Western Vesper Sparrow. One record, ♂, October 7, 1898.
105. *Ammodramus sandwichensis alaudinus*. Western Savanna Sparrow. Abundant winter resident.
106. *Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus*. Western Grasshopper Sparrow. Notes heard on several occasions but no absolute record.
107. *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. Western Lark Sparrow. Abundant resident.

108. *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*. Intermediate Sparrow. Common winter resident.
109. *Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*. Nuttall's Sparrow. Common winter resident. These two subspecies in the aggregate are very numerous in winter, but we do not know whether the Intermediate is largely represented or not as it is very difficult to segregate them.
110. *Zonotrichia coronata*. Golden-crowned Sparrow. Common winter resident.
111. *Spizella socialis arizonæ*. Western Chipping Sparrow. Abundant summer resident.
112. *Junco hyemalis oregonus*. Oregon Junco. Common winter resident.
113. *Junco hyemalis thurberi*. Thurber's Junco. Recorded in March and April.
114. *Junco hyemalis pinosus*. Point Pinos Junco. Recorded by T. E. Slevin April 18, 1890.
115. *Amphispiza belli*. Bell's Sparrow. Resident in sage brush, sparingly in winter but sometimes abundant in spring.
116. *Melospiza melodia heermanni*. Heermann's Song Sparrow. Common resident around springs and small tule patches.
117. *Melospiza lincolni*. Lincoln's Sparrow. Common winter resident in swampy places. Sometimes rather abundant in March and April.
118. *Pipilo maculatus oregonus*. Oregon Towhee. Common resident; not abundant.
119. *Pipilo fuscus crissalis*. California Towhee. Abundant resident.
120. *Zamelodia melanocephala*. Black-headed Grosbeak. Common summer resident.
121. *Cyanospiza amœna*. Lazuli Bunting. Common summer resident.
122. *Piranga ludoviciana*. Louisiana Tanager. Not an unusual spring and fall migrant. Very abundant during the noted wave in spring of 1896.
123. *Progne subis hesperia*. Western Martin. Common summer resident. Breeds in the neighborhood but site of present colony not known. Noted as early as March 30.
124. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. Cliff Swallow. Very abundant summer resident.
125. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. Barn Swallow. Summer resident; not common.
126. *Tachycineta bicolor*. Tree Swallow. Common summer resident.
127. *Tachycineta thalassina*. Violet-green Swallow. Occasional flock seen in late winter or early spring. Common summer resident.
128. *Clivicola riparia*. Bank Swallow. Common summer resident, abundant in places.
129. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Rough-winged Swallow. Common summer resident. Arrives very early in spring.
130. *Ampelis cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing. Regular winter visitant. Occasional small flocks seen at any time during winter and early spring, but not resident.
131. *Phainopepla nitens*. Phainopepla. Common winter resident. Some years quite abundant.
132. *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*. California Shrike. Common resident. Abundant for bird of this species.
133. *Vireo gilvus*. Warbling Vireo. Abundant summer resident.
134. *Vireo solitarius cassini*. Cassin's Vireo. Fairly common summer resident in willow growth along the river.
135. *Vireo huttoni*. Hutton's Vireo. Common resident.

136. *Helminthophila rubricapilla gutturalis*. Calaveras Warbler. This species was only noted on one occasion. Two individuals were seen on April 20 1899, and one captured by Mr. T. E. Slevin, who was collecting with me at the time.
137. *Helminthophila celata lutescens*. Lutescent Warbler. Sparingly summer resident at Paicines, but more numerous along brushy hillsides in neighborhood.
138. *Dendroica æstiva*. Yellow Warbler. Abundant summer resident.
139. *Dendroica coronata*. Myrtle Warbler. Winter resident. Frequently found among *D. auduboni*.
140. *Dendroica auduboni*. Audubon's Warbler. Abundant winter resident. A few remain until about May 1, and acquire nearly full breeding plumage before leaving.
141. *Dendroica nigrescens*. Black-throated Gray Warbler. One record ♂, October 2, 1898.
142. *Dendroica townsendi*. Townsend's Warbler. Occasionally taken early in spring, but never resident at any time. Our record, two ♂ ♂ taken May 14, 1896.
143. *Dendroica occidentalis*. Hermit Warbler. Only record, May 12, 1896.
144. *Geothlypis tolmiei*. Macgillivray's Warbler. Sparingly summer resident in willow thickets.
145. *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. Western Yellowthroat. Common resident.
146. *Icteria virens longicauda*. Long-tailed Chat. Summer resident, but only met with in most favorable spots.
147. *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*. Pileolated Warbler. Abundant summer resident.
148. *Anthus pensilvanicus*. American Pipit. Very abundant winter resident.
149. *Mimus polyglottos*. Mockingbird. Sparingly winter resident. Lives on berries of mistletoe.
150. *Harporhynchus redivivus*. California Thrasher. Common resident. Earliest breeding record Feb. 22, 1895.
151. *Salpinctes obsoletus*. Rock Wren. Resident in steep slides and rocky places. More abundant for the last two years than formerly.
152. *Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus*. Dotted Canyon Wren. Resident in, steep, rocky canyons. Quite numerous in some spots.
153. *Thryomanes bewicki spilurus*. Vigor's Wren. Abundant resident.
154. *Troglodytes ædon parkmani*. Parkman's Wren. Common summer resident.
155. *Cistothorus palustris paludicola*. Tule Wren. Sparingly resident in tule patches.
156. *Sitta carolinensis aculeata*. Slender-billed Nuthatch. Common resident.
157. *Sitta canadensis*. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Our only records are ♂ Oct. 4, 1898; ♀ Oct. 5, 1898 and a few more seen at that time.
158. *Parus inornatus*. Plain Titmouse. Abundant resident.
159. *Chamæa fasciata*. Wren-Tit. Common resident. Intermediate form, but seems nearer *fasciata*.
160. *Psaltriparus minimus californicus*. California Bush-Tit. Abundant resident.
161. *Regulus calendula*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Common winter resident. Its striking little song often heard in March. Among the specimens we have taken there are none of the darker northern form.

162. *Poliophtila cærulea obscura*. Western Gnatcatcher. Common resident. Abundant in spring and early summer.
163. *Hylocichla aonalaschkæ*. Dwarf Hermit Thrush. Abundant winter resident.
164. *Merula migratoria propinqua*. Western Robin. Very abundant winter resident.
165. *Hesperocichla nævia*. Varied Thrush. First noted March 13, 1901, when a number were seen in a grove of live oaks. We have never come across this species here before, and none of the men on the ranch were familiar with it.
166. *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. Western Bluebird. Abundant resident.
167. *Sialia arctica*. Mountain Bluebird. Regular winter visitant. Sometimes very numerous.
168. *Passer domesticus*. English Sparrow. Common nuisance around buildings

This list is approximately complete as far as it goes, yet hardly a year passes without a new record being made of some visitant or wanderer. As neither my brother nor I have resided at Paicines for any length of time it is impossible to give correct data of arrival of migrants, and this we have made no attempt to do.

The past three years of successive drought reduced the bird life as far as immigrants were concerned to a very low ebb, and even affected many of the resident species. This winter however brought with it abundance of rain, and at the present writing the outlook for luxurious vegetation in the way of crops, grass, etc., could not be surpassed. The result of this will be a great plenty of food for the birds and it will be interesting to see whether this will at once produce a marked increase in the bird life over the last three seasons.

*San Geronimo, Cal., April 6, 1901.*



### Breeding Range of the Allen and Rufous Hummingbirds.

I was glad to see an answer in the July CONDOR to my query in regard to the breeding of the Rufous Hummer in California. But I do not consider the evidence offered by Mr. Emerson to be unquestionable or even worthy of any credence whatever. For have I not again and again seen male Rufous Hummers pursuing female Anna, Black-chinned and even Costa Hummers, where the latter appeared in the vicinity of the temporary feeding grounds of the pugnacious Rufous? And is it not probable that the female of the Allen Hummer would be treated in the same way if similar opportunity afforded, just as Mr. Emerson's two instances illustrate? And then too, has it ever been shown that after mating the male of any of our hummingbirds

has anything whatever to do with the female or nest? Unless otherwise proven it seems to me more probable that the nests observed were those of the Allen. It seems to me an almost impossible feat for even the keenest observer to distinguish the female Rufous and Allen Hummers in life, though the two species should present themselves side by side at close range. For I am sure it is hard enough to identify the two in the hand. I am aware that a number of good authorities have recorded the breeding of the Rufous Hummer in Central and Southern California. But it will do these no injustice for some one to present fresh evidence of an unquestionable nature (if obtainable!); to be explicit, an incubating female taken with the nest and eggs.

The reasons for my present position in this regard are somewhat as follows: