

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Plegadis guarana at Stockton, Cal.—Mr. Clark's interesting article on Migration of Certain Shore Birds in the April *Auk* reminds me of a remarkable flight of *Plegadis guarana* past Stockton, May 5, 6, 7, 1879, during a gale from the northwest that lasted three days. During this time from 4000 to 5000 of these birds flew north. They followed the eastern edge of the tule marsh as nearly as the strong wind would allow them to, going by sinuous flight up and down, to the right and left, with few wing strokes. I have never seen so many of these birds in any other year.

The tule marsh west of and very near Stockton at that time had a width from east to west of about twenty miles, and was a resort at all times of numerous water birds, of which few are seen since the marsh has been reclaimed and cultivated. The willows on the banks of the river and sloughs were excellent collecting grounds during the spring migration, much better than at present, owing partly, I think, to the English sparrow which has nearly possessed the country about Stockton. During this flight of *Plegadis* a great many *Dendrocygna fulva* went north over a slough about half a mile west of the route over which *Plegadis* flew, both species keeping on their respective routes during the three days' flight.—L. BELDING, *Stockton, Cal.*

Note on Food of Gray-crowned Leucosticte.—While I was crossing the Western Divide of the southern Sierra, just north of the Saw-tooth in the vicinity of Mineral King, in the latter part of June, 1904, I saw a considerable number of *Leucosticte tephrocotis*. They were running about over the snow-drifts which extended from the Pass north of Saw-tooth to Lake Columbine and were very busy catching the twelve-spotted lady-bird. I could see many little holes through the snow and wondered if the lady-birds had made them.—W. F. DEAN, *Three Rivers, Cal.*

[Additional evidence of the inadequacy of the so-called "warning marks" of lady birds!—ED.]

Helminthophila sordida at Haywards, Cal.—Two specimens in my collection, No. 19, male, Jan. 25, 1881, and No. 2087, Feb. 8, 1899, measure respectively, in millimeters; length of skin 119 and 120; wing, 59 (both); tail, 47 and 49; culmen, 11 and 12. No. 2087 was taken from a gum tree early one morning after a heavy rain storm with three *H. c. lutescens*. No. 19 is very highly colored, particularly the greenish yellow of rump and upper tail coverts. The crown patch is a deep orange green covering the whole head. The February bird is duskiest, almost smoky, the crown patch being hardly distinguishable. This species may be looked for in the spring migration, particularly on wooded slopes of north hill-sides. This record is the most northern.—W. OTTO EMERSON, *Haywards, Cal.*

Scaled Partridge at Pueblo, Colorado.—While waiting for a train at Pueblo, Colorado, on July 7, 1904. Mr. Bailey and I explored the outskirts of the town. In a twenty acre park of grass and newly planted trees on the edge of the city we found Arkansas flycatchers, western wood pewees, house finches, a meadowlark, a yellow warbler, and a western chipping sparrow, while a pair of Bullock orioles were feeding grown young. Just outside the park but in a typical desert patch of tree cactus and grease brush where mockingbirds, mourning doves, lark sparrows, and nighthawks were seen, we flushed a scaled partridge (*Callipepla squamata*.) As we followed, it scudded along and then burst into short flights, when crowded circling back on set, curved wings to the place where it had first been flushed, suggesting that it might have a family in the vicinity.

In his *Birds of Colorado*, Prof. Cooke states that the scaled partridges which were formerly "common along the cedars on the higher arid lands back from the river . . . have been working towards the cultivated lands along the river," in the winter of 1899-1900 becoming "in the vicinity of Rocky Ford more common than the bobwhite." (*Birds of Colorado*, State Agr. Coll. Bull. 56, 1900, 202.) They have also been recorded from the neighborhood of Denver, so the Pueblo record merely serves to help fill in the line of their extending range.—FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

Notes from Cochise Co., Ariz.: Purple Gallinule.—During the second week of June, 1904, a purple gallinule (*Jonoris martinica*) alighted on the lawn of one of the residences in Tombstone, where a hose was playing. It appeared very much exhausted and drank greedily which seemed to revive it somewhat. We watched it for sometime running around on the grass and then as it showed no inclination or ability to fly we caught it. It died during the night, however. A friend here who saw the bird said he caught one in an exhausted condition at Cochise Stronghold in the Dragoon Mts., in the month of April, 1903. He kept the bird alive for several days.—FRANK C. WILLARD, *Tombstone, Ariz.*