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AN ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE BARR LAKE DISTRICT, ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO\*

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WITH SIX PHOTOS BY THE AUTHORS

IN submitting the following annotated list of the birds of the Barr Lake district, the writers fully realize that it is not a complete list of the species which occur in that section. There have been omitted a number of species that without reasonable doubt occur there, because of lack of absolute identification. Most of the birds included in the list have been taken and identified, and the few that have been included without specimens being taken are birds of positive identification—marks like the Lark Bunting and Black-necked Stilt, not easy to mistake.

For want of natural boundaries, the "Barr Lake district" as here treated, is a circular area fifteen miles in diameter, with the station of Barr as a center. This area is located in Adams County, nineteen miles northeast of Denver, in typical prairie country, and twenty-seven miles east of the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and at an altitude of about 5100 feet. The chain of lakes which furnishes the material for this list is almost entirely artificial, the two large lakes (which, combined, cover an area of about eleven hundred acres) being artificial irrigation reservoirs, and the long chain of lakes or ponds below, being caused by seepage from the main reservoirs. The scope of this list has been arbitrarily determined, and of sufficient size to include a portion of the valley of the South Platte River, the principal stream of northeastern Colorado, and a portion of Box Elder Creek, a typical prairie stream, draining the territory east and south of Barr, and emptying into the Platte.

This we did to enable us to include in our list several species of birds, typical of wooded areas and not found in treeless sections, as for example the Rocky Mountain Screech Owl and the Brown Thrasher.

The point of greatest interest in this list, to the bird student, will perhaps be the avifaunal changes that have taken place as the result of changed environmental conditions. Twenty-one years ago this entire district was covered with sage-brush, cactus and gramma grass, and was good hunting ground for antelope. Probably

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not two dozen species of birds could have been recorded in the district. The following year water was brought into the district and with the water came birds. Today there is a string of lakes, ponds and marshes, covered with tules, cat-tails, and other vegetation common to such locations, fourteen miles in length, and from one-half to one and one-half miles in width. This forms an ideal summer home for a large number and variety of water birds. Cottonwood groves have been planted and have grown to good-sized trees. Cottonwoods and willows have sprung up along the shores of the lakes, furnishing nesting sites for many species of perching birds. The surrounding country is under cultivation, furnishing abundant food for the seed-eaters. The lakes are teeming with fish and many other forms of aquatic life, and the swamps and marshes are rich in insect life. These varying environmental conditions, together with the well-wooded valley of the Platte on the west, Box Elder Creek on the east, and the vast, dry, rolling prairie stretching away on all sides, furnish a field for bird study almost ideal in every particular.\*

It has been our purpose to make this list as brief as possible, especially with reference to the common birds whose status is well established, but to include in it any facts which in our opinion would add to the present knowledge of our subject. We have endeavored to have the nomenclature conform to the latest published rulings of the Committee on Nomenclature of the A. O. U.

**Colymbus auritus.** Horned Grebe. "Two birds were seen on a small lake northeast of Barr, May 5, 1906. There is no question regarding their identity." (Hersey)

**Colymbus nigricollis californicus.** American Eared Grebe. Summer resident, common. Nests commonly during May and June, but not as plentifully as the succeeding species.

**Podilymbus podiceps.** Pied-billed Grebe. Summer resident, very common. Nests abundantly throughout May, June and early July.

**Gavia immer.** Common Loon. Not uncommon in migration.

**Larus argentatus.** Herring Gull. "Not uncommon during fall migration." (Hersey)

**Larus delawarensis.** Ring-billed Gull. This gull, altho resident at Barr having been recorded every month in the year, has not been found nesting. A flock of about 100 birds spend the entire summer on Barr Lake, but a careful search has failed to reveal a nest, and the birds exhibit no signs of nesting.

**Larus franklinii.** Franklin Gull. "One bird seen October 17, 1907, in a flock of Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*)."  
(Hersey)

**Larus philadelphia.** Bonaparte Gull. "One was killed on Barr Lake during the fall of 1907, but was not preserved." (Hersey)

**Xema sabinii.** Sabine Gull. Four birds were taken at Barr by Hersey on the following dates: One on September 3, two on October 3, and one on October 31, 1908.

**Sterna forsteri.** Forster Tern. Summer resident, common. Occurs in greater numbers and breeds more abundantly than the Black Tern. A colony of about 100 breeding birds nest regularly on a small lake northeast of Barr. The breeding season lasts from May 15th to July 1st.

**Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis.** Black Tern. Summer resident; common. Nests regularly, tho not more than three nests have been found by us in close proximity.

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\*This list is to be followed by a table of dates of migration recorded for the Barr Lake district.

**Pelecanus erythrorhynchus.** American White Pelican. Not uncommon in migration. Summer resident of somewhat erratic occurrence. Has been noted at Barr thruout the summer, but has not been found nesting.

**Mergus americanus.** American Merganser. Winter resident, common. Common in migration.

**Mergus serrator.** Red-breasted Merganser. Winter resident, not uncommon. Common in migration.

**Lophodytes cucullatus.** Hooded Merganser. Winter resident, not uncommon.

**Anas platyrhynchus.** Mallard. Resident, abundant. More common in winter than in summer, altho it is plentiful thruout the nesting season.

**Anas fulvigula maculosa.** Mottled Duck. "Several of these birds have been



NEST AND EGGS OF FORSTER TERN

killed at Barr during the past fifteen years.' (Hersey)

**Chaulelasmus streperus.** Gadwall. Summer resident, not uncommon. Abundant in migration. A few birds remain thruout the winter.

**Mareca americana.** Baldpate. Summer resident, not as common as *C. streperus*. Plentiful during migration.

**Nettion carolinensis.** Green-winged Teal. Resident. Abundant during migration; common during the nesting season and not uncommon during the winter.

**Querquedula discors.** Blue-winged Teal. Summer resident, abundant. By far the most abundant breeding duck. *Discors* and *cyanoptera* are the last of the migrating ducks to arrive in the spring and the first to leave in the fall.

**Querquedula cyanoptera.** Cinnamon Teal. Summer resident, common. A common breeder, but not so plentiful in numbers as *discors*.

**Spatula clypeata.** Shoveller; Spoonbill. Summer resident, common. Abundant in migration. Our observations lead us to infer that it does not nest in as large numbers at Barr as most of the common ducks, altho judging from the number of birds seen it is fully as common as the other species.

**Dafila acuta.** Pintail. Resident. With the exception of the teal the most abundant breeder at Barr. A few birds remain thruout the winter, and the first spring migrants from the south are usually Pintails.

**Aix sponsa.** Wood Duck. "I took two of these birds two miles west of Barr Lake during the fall of 1889." (Hersey)



NEST AND EGGS OF CINNAMON TEAL

**Marila americana.** Redhead. Summer resident, not uncommon. Abundant in migration, and more especially so during the spring movement. Nests in some numbers.

**Marila vallisneria.** Canvasback. Summer resident, not common. Common during migration, especially during the spring movement. Breeds sparingly.

**Marila marila.** American Scaup Duck. Migratory; rare.

**Marila affinis.** Lesser Scaup Duck. Abundant during spring migration. A few nest at Barr.

**Marila collaris.** Ring-necked Duck. "I have never taken this species at Barr, but it undoubtedly occurs there at times, during migration." (Hersey)

**Clangula clangula americana.** American Golden-eye. Winter resident, not uncommon. Common during migration.

**Clangula islandica.** Barrow Golden-eye. Winter resident, not common. Not uncommon during migration.

**Charitonetta albeola.** Bufflehead. Common in migration.

**Oidemia americana.** American Scoter. Migratory, rare. "Has been taken at Barr." (Hersey)

**Oidemia deglandi.** White-winged Scoter. Migratory, rare. "One was shot on Barr Lake near Denver, November 2, 1898, and reported by Mr. Fenton." (Cooke's Birds of Colorado, 2nd App.)

**Oidemia perspicillata.** Surf Scoter. Migratory, rare. "On October 22,



NEST AND EGGS OF REDHEAD

1899, Mr. L. B. Meek shot a fine male at Barr Lake, near Denver. The female was with it but was not secured. Three other specimens were known at the same place within the next week." (Cooke's Birds of Colorado, 2nd App., p. 196.)

**Erismatura jamaicensis.** Ruddy Duck. Summer resident, common. Nests rather commonly. Many nests of other species of ducks were found to contain eggs of the Ruddy.

**Chen hyperborea.** Lesser Snow Goose. Migratory, not common. A few are seen every spring and occasionally in the fall.

**Chen hyperborea nivalis.** Greater Snow Goose. Migratory, rare. Three birds were seen by Hersey on October 17, 1908.

**Anser albifrons gambeli.** American White-fronted Goose. Migratory, not common. "Has been taken occasionally at Barr." (Hersey)

**Branta canadensis.** Canada Goose. Winter resident, common. Common during migration.

**Branta canadensis hutchinsii.** Hutchins Goose. Not as plentiful as formerly. A flock of seven birds wintered at Barr during the winter of 1908-09 in company with a large flock of *B. canadensis*.

**Branta canadensis minima.** Cackling Goose. Rare. "Only one bird observed in twelve years." (Hersey)

**Olor columbianus.** Whistling Swan. Migratory, not common.

**Olor buccinator.** Trumpeter Swan. Migratory, not uncommon. "More plentiful during migration than formerly." (Hersey)

**Plegadis autumnalis.** Glossy Ibis. Rare. There is one in the Hersey collection taken in June, 1905.

**Plegadis guarauna.** White-faced Glossy Ibis. Summer resident. Two birds were seen at Barr on the following dates: May 25, 30 and 31, 1907, and April 4, June 13, 18 and 21, 1908. While these dates would seem to indicate that the birds nested at Barr, we were unable to detect any evidences of breeding. "Two specimens were shot on Barr Lake, near Denver, October 3, 1898." (Cooke's Birds of Colorado, 2nd App., p. 197.)

**Botaurus lentiginosus.** American Bittern. Summer resident, very common. Breeds in some numbers.

**Ardea herodias.** Great Blue Heron. Summer resident, abundant. The birds that feed regularly at the Barr lakes nest in a grove of tall trees on the Platte River about eight miles west and south of Barr. The colony in 1908 was composed of about 100 pairs each of Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons. On August 4, 1906, over 100 Blue Herons were killed by a heavy hailstorm on Upper Barr Lake.

**Ardea egretta.** American Egret. The only definite record for Barr is one taken by L. J. Hersey, which is now in the Hersey collection.

**Ardea candidissima.** Snowy Heron. Summer resident, not common. Two or three birds are seen every summer at frequent intervals, but no indications of nesting have been observed.

**Nycticorax nycticorax naevius.** Black-crowned Night Heron. Summer resident, abundant. About 100 pairs have nested in a colony in a cat-tail swamp on one of the smaller lakes for a number of years up to 1908; but after the destruction of their favorite nesting site by fire in the fall of 1907 they joined the Great Blue Heron colony on the Platte River.

**Grus americana.** Whooping Crane. Not common. Seen only in migration, and not at all of recent years.

**Grus canadensis.** Little Brown Crane. Not common. Seen only in migration.

**Grus mexicana.** Sandhill Crane. Not uncommon in migration.

**Rallus virginianus.** Virginia Rail. Summer resident, abundant. Nesting in large numbers. Many remain thruout the winter.

**Porzana carolina.** Sora. Summer resident, common. Nests plentifully, but not in as large numbers as *R. virginianus*. Has been observed by Hersey every month in the year except December, January, and February.

**Fulica americana.** American Coot. Summer resident, very abundant. Nests in large numbers. A few remain thruout the winter.

**Lobipes lobatus.** Northern Phalarope. Common during migration.

**Steganopus tricolor.** Wilson Phalarope. Summer resident, common. Abundant in migration. Breeds not uncommonly.

**Recurvirostra americana.** American Avocet. Summer resident, not uncommon. During the springs of 1907 and 1908 about fifteen pairs of birds nested at Barr. In 1908 eleven nests were found on a little island less than two acres in area.

**Himantopus mexicanus.** Black-necked Stilt. Very rare. The only one seen by Hersey during fifteen years' observation was recorded June 1, 1907.

**Gallinago delicata.** Wilson Snipe. Resident. A few nest at Barr, and a good many more remain thruout the winter.

**Macrorhamphus scolopaceus.** Long-billed Dowitcher. Very common during migration.

**Micropalama himantopus.** Stilt Sandpiper. Very common during migration. The hailstorm of August 4, 1906, mentioned before, killed a hundred or more of them.



NEST AND EGGS OF AMERICAN AVOCET

**Pisobia maculata.** Pectoral Sandpiper. Common during migration.

**Pisobia fuscicollis.** White-rumped Sandpiper. Migrant, not common.

**Pisobia bairdii.** Baird Sandpiper. The most abundant sandpiper at Barr during migration.

**Pisobia minutilla.** Least Sandpiper. Almost as abundant during migration as *P. bairdii*. Both *bairdii* and *minutilla* have been observed frequently thruout May, and *minutilla* has been observed twice during June, hence it is not unreasonable to expect that one or both may yet be found breeding there.

**Ereunetes pusillus.** Semipalmated sandpiper. Migratory, rare.

**Ereunetes mauri.** Western Sandpiper. Migratory, not common.

**Calidris leucophaea.** Sanderling. Not uncommon during fall migration.

Eight or ten birds were taken during the fall of 1908, and 50 might have been easily secured. One was secured May 31, 1908.

**Limosa fedoa.** Marbled Godwit. Common during spring migration.

**Totanus melanoleucus.** Greater Yellow-legs. Abundant during migration.

**Totanus flavipes.** Lesser Yellow-legs. The most abundant shore-bird during migration with the possible exception of *P. bairdii*. Altho both *melanoleucus* and *flavipes* have been observed at Barr during May, June and July, we have not seen any indication of the birds breeding.

**Helodromas solitarius.** Solitary Sandpiper. Not uncommon during fall migration.

**Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus.** Western Willet. Very common in migration, especially in spring.

**Bartramia longicauda.** Bartramian Sandpiper. Summer resident, not uncommon. A nest containing fresh eggs was found June 28, 1907, one mile east of Barr Lake.

**Actitis macularia.** Spotted Sandpiper. Summer resident, common. Nests regularly at Barr, but in limited numbers. A few remain until extreme cold weather.

**Numenius americanus.** Long-billed Curlew. Summer resident, not common. Common during migration.

**Numenius hudsonicus.** Hudsonian Curlew. Rare. "A few are seen, nearly every fall." (Hersey)

**Squatarola squatarola.** Black-bellied Plover. Very common during both spring and fall migration.

**Charadrius dominicus.** American Golden Plover. Not uncommon during migration, but not as plentiful as *S. squatarola*.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** Killdeer. Summer resident; abundant. By far the most numerous nesting shorebird. A few remain thruout the winter.

**Ægialitis semipalmata.** Semipalmated Plover. Rare. Occasionally observed during spring migration.

**Ægialitis montana.** Mountain Plover. Summer resident; very common. Nests commonly on the dry prairie back from the lakes.

**Arenaria interpres morinella.** Ruddy Turnstone. Migratory; rare. One in the Hersey collection was taken at Barr, September 9, 1907. It was collected out of a flock of three.

**Colinus virginianus.** Bob-white. Resident; common.

**Tympanuchus americanus.** Prairie Hen. "Locally abundant in northeastern part of the State. In 1907 one pair of birds nested 14 miles northeast of Denver, near Barr, and in 1908 two pairs nested at the same place, raising 18 young." (Hersey) One taken during the fall of 1907 at Barr had 97 grasshoppers, 72 kernels of wheat and four of oats, in its stomach.

**Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.** Mourning Dove. Summer resident; abundant.

**Cathartes aura septentrionalis.** Turkey Vulture. Summer resident; not uncommon, but not as plentiful as formerly.

**Circus hudsonius.** Marsh Hawk. Summer resident, common. Very common during migration.

**Accipiter velox.** Sharp-shinned Hawk. Common during migration.

**Accipiter cooperii.** Cooper Hawk. Common during migration.

**Astur atricapillus.** American Goshawk. Not uncommon during migration.

**Buteo borealis calurus.** Western Red-tail. Common during migration.

**Buteo swainsoni.** Swainson Hawk. Summer resident; not common. Not

uncommon during migration. Nests commonly along the prairie streams east of Barr.

**Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis.** American Rough-leg. Common during migration.

**Archibuteo ferrugineus.** Ferruginous Rough-leg. Very common during migration.

**Aquila chrysaetos.** Golden Eagle. Winter resident; common.

**Haliaeetus leucocephalus.** Bald Eagle. Resident; not common.

**Falco mexicanus.** Prairie Falcon. Migratory; not common.

**Falco peregrinus anatum.** Duck Hawk. Common during migration.

**Falco columbarius.** Pigeon Hawk. Rather common during migration.



NEST AND EGGS OF KILLDEER

**Falco columbarius richardsonii.** Richardson Merlin. Migratory; rare. Only two definite records from Barr that we know of.

**Falco sparverius.** Sparrow Hawk. Summer resident, abundant. The commonest hawk in the Barr district. Very rare in winter. One was taken near Barr about Jan. 1, 1909.

**Falco sparverius phalœna.** Desert Sparrow Hawk. Summer resident, not common. (?) A few specimens referable to *phalœna* have been taken at Barr.

**Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.** Osprey; Fish Hawk. Not uncommon during migration.

**Asio wilsonianus.** Long-eared Owl. Resident; not common. Nests along the Platte River.

**Asio flammeus.** Short-eared Owl. Resident; more common in winter than in summer. Still more plentiful during migration.

**Glaux acadicus.** Saw-whet Owl. "I have never taken it at Barr, but have heard it in the evening on several occasions during spring migration." (Hersey)

**Otus asio maxwelliae.** Rocky Mountain Screech Owl. Resident; common along all the well-wooded streams.

**Bubo virginianus pallescens.** Western Horned owl. Resident; common. Breeds commonly on Box Elder Creek only a few miles southeast of Barr.

**Nyctea nyctea.** Snowy Owl. Winter visitant; rare.

**Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea.** Burrowing Owl. Summer resident; abundant. A few remain during the winter.

**Ceryle alcyon.** Belted Kingfisher. Resident; common thruout the State, but rare at Barr.

**Dryobates villosus monticola.** Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker. Winter resident; not uncommon.

**Dryobates pubescens homorus.** Batchelder Woodpecker. Winter resident; not uncommon.

**Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis.** Red-naped Sapsucker. Not uncommon in migration.

**Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** Red-headed Woodpecker. Summer resident; common.

**Colaptes auratus luteus.** Northern Flicker. Rare. "Several that have been taken at Barr are referable to *hybridus* of authors, but nearer *luteus* than *collaris*." (Hersey)

**Colaptes cafer collaris.** Red-shafted Flicker. Resident; abundant. The commonest breeding woodpecker.

**Phalaenoptilus nuttallii.** Poorwill. Rare; one taken May 18, 1907, is the only definite record.

**Chordeiles virginianus henryi.** Western Nighthawk. Summer resident; abundant.

**Selasphorus platycercus.** Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Summer resident; not uncommon.

**Tyrannus tyrannus.** Kingbird. Summer resident; abundant. Breeds in large numbers around Barr.

**Tyrannus verticalis.** Arkansas Kingbird. Summer resident; abundant. Breeds in large numbers at Barr.

**Tyrannus vociferans.** Cassin Kingbird. Summer resident; rare.

**Sayornis saya.** Say Phoebe. Summer resident; abundant.

**Myiochanes richardsonii.** Western Wood Pewee. Summer resident; common.

**Otocoris alpestris leucolaema.** Pallid Horned Lark. Resident; abundant. One of the commonest breeding birds of the prairie.

**Pica pica hudsonia.** American Magpie; Black-billed Magpie. Resident, abundant.

**Aphelocoma woodhousei.** Woodhouse Jay. Winter visitant; rare.

**Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis.** Western Crow. Summer resident; not common, altho a few breed around Barr. Common during migration, occasionally in very large flocks.

**Molothrus ater.** Cowbird. Summer resident; common. Large numbers of their eggs are found in nests of the Red-winged Blackbird.

**Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus.** Yellow-headed Blackbird. Summer resident; extremely abundant.

**Agelaius phoeniceus fortis.** Thick-billed Red-wing.

**Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis.** San Diego Red-wing. A series of 32 skins collected at intervals of about a week, from October 5, 1907, to June 4, 1908, in the vicinity of Denver was sent to the Biological Survey for identification. Of this number 13 skins were taken at Barr, 12 of which were identified by Mr. Oberholser as *fortis*, while the remaining skin, taken November 28, was labeled *neutralis*. Of the remaining 19 skins, all taken in the vicinity of Littleton, Arapahoe County, 14 were labeled *fortis* and five *neutralis*. All of the skins labeled *neutralis* were fall specimens. Resident, very abundant, but not as plentiful during the summer as *X. xanthocephalus*.



NEST AND YOUNG OF YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

**Sturnella neglecta.** Western Meadowlark. Summer resident; abundant. One of the commonest breeding birds of the Barr Lake district. Winter resident; not uncommon.

**Icterus bullocki.** Bullock Oriole. Summer resident; abundant.

**Scolecophagus cyanocephalus.** Brewer Blackbird. Summer resident; common.

**Quiscalus quiscula aeneus.** Bronzed Grackle. Summer resident; not common.

**Coccothraustes vespertinus montanus.** Western Evening Grosbeak. Winter visitant; not common.

**Carpodacus cassini.** Cassin Purple Finch. Winter visitant; not uncommon. Common during latter part of March and April.

**Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis.** House Finch. Resident; very common. Is rather more plentiful during the breeding season than during the winter.

**Loxia curvirostra stricklandi** (?) Mexican Crossbill. Winter visitant, rare. Owing to lack of material there is some question as to whether these birds are referable to *stricklandi* or *bendirei*.

**Acanthis linaria.** Redpoll. Winter resident; common.

**Astragalinus tristis.** Goldfinch. "Seen at Barr only during migrations." (Hersey)

**Astragalinus psaltria.** Arkansas Goldfinch. Summer resident; not uncommon.

**Spinus pinus.** Pine Siskin. "Abundant during spring migration some years." (Hersey)

**Passer domesticus.** English Sparrow. Altogether too abundant everywhere.

**Calcarius lapponicus alascensis.** Alaskan Longspur. Winter resident; abundant at times.

**Poocetes gramineus confinis.** Western Vesper Sparrow. Summer resident; common.

**Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus.** Western Savanna Sparrow. Common in migration.

**Coturniculus savannarum bimaculatus.** Western Grasshopper Sparrow. Summer resident; not uncommon and breeds.

**Chondestes grammacus strigatus.** Western Lark Sparrow. Summer resident; common. Probably the commonest breeding sparrow.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys.** White-crowned Sparrow. Common in migration.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii.** Intermediate Sparrow. "Not uncommon in migration, coming earlier in spring than *leucophrys*." (Hersey)

**Spizella monticola ochracea.** Western Tree Sparrow. Winter resident; abundant.

**Spizella passerina arizonae.** Western Chipping Sparrow. Summer resident, and at times abundant.

**Spizella breweri.** Brewer Sparrow. Not uncommon in migration. Not common summer resident at Barr.

**Junco aikeni.** White-winged Junco. Winter resident; rare.

**Junco hyemalis connectens.** Intermediate Junco. Winter resident; not uncommon.

**Junco hyemalis mearnsi.** Pink-sided Junco. Winter resident, common.

**Junco phaeonotus caniceps.** Gray-headed Junco. Not uncommon in spring migration.

**Peucaea cassini.** Cassin Sparrow. Summer resident. About half-a-dozen pairs were seen during the spring of 1907 and one nest with eggs was taken. During the spring of 1908 the birds were much rarer, not more than three being seen.

**Melospiza melodia montana.** Mountain Song Sparrow. Resident; common. Breeds commonly and occurs in summer and winter in about equal abundance.

**Melospiza lincolni.** Lincoln Sparrow. Summer resident, not common. One in the Hersey collection was taken April 15, 1907.

**Pipilo maculatus arcticus.** Arctic Towhee. Winter resident; not common. "Have taken them as late as May 6th." (Hersey)

**Oreospiza chlorura.** Green-tailed Towhee. Not uncommon during migration.

**Zamelodia melanocephala.** Black-headed Grosbeak. Summer resident; common.

**Calamospiza melanocorys.** Lark Bunting. Summer resident; abundant. One of the most abundant breeding birds.

**Passerina amoena.** Lazuli Bunting. Migratory; rare.

**Piranga ludoviciana.** Western Tanager. "Not uncommon in migration." (Hersey)

**Petrochelidon lunifrons.** Cliff Swallow. Summer resident abundant.

**Hirundo erythrogaster.** Barn Swallow. Summer resident; common.

**Riparia riparia.** Bank Swallow. Summer resident; common.

**Stelgidopteryx serripennis.** Rough-winged Swallow. Summer resident; not uncommon.

**Lanius borealis.** Northern Shrike. Winter resident; common.

**Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides.** White-rumped Shrike. Summer resident; common. Breeds abundantly on the prairie streams just east of Barr.

**Vireosylva gilva.** Warbling vireo. Not uncommon during migration.

**Helminthophila celata.** Orange-crowned Warbler. "Common at Barr during spring migration." (Hersey)

**Dendroica aestiva.** Yellow Warbler. Summer resident; very common. Breeds commonly around the lakes.

**Dendroica coronata.** Myrtle Warbler. Very common during spring migration.

**Dendroica auduboni.** Audubon Warbler. Abundant during migration.

**Dendroica striata.** Black-poll Warbler. The only record is one taken May 6, 1908, by Hersey.

**Oporornis tolmiei.** Tolmie Warbler. Common during migration.

**Geothlypis trichas occidentalis.** Western Yellowthroat. Summer resident; abundant. Breeds commonly in the cat-tail swamps around the lakes.

**Wilsonia pusilla.** Wilson Warbler. Not uncommon in migration.

**Setophaga ruticilla.** American Redstart. "One seen in company with several other migrating warblers, May 10, 1908." (Rockwell)

**Anthus rubescens.** Pipit. Abundant during migration.

**Mimus polyglottos leucopterus.** Western Mockingbird. Summer resident; not uncommon. Nests sparingly at Barr, and commonly along the prairie streams a few miles east of Barr.

**Dumetella carolinensis.** Catbird. Not uncommon during migration. Summer resident; not common. "Sometimes nests at Barr." (Hersey)

**Toxostoma rufum.** Brown Thrasher. Not uncommon during migration. "Summer resident and breeds along the Platte river a few miles west and north of Barr." (Rockwell)

**Salpinctes obsoletus.** Rock Wren. Not uncommon during migration.

**Troglodytes aedon parkmanii.** Western House Wren. Not uncommon during migration. "Summer resident and breeds on the Platte River a few miles west and north of Barr." (Rockwell)

**Telmatodytes palustris plesius.** Interior Tule Wren. "Winter resident; common at Barr and probably nests there. I have taken it every month of the winter." (Hersey)

**Certhia familiaris montana.** Rocky Mountain Creeper. Winter visitant; rare.

**Sitta carolinensis nelsoni.** Rocky Mountain Nuthatch. Winter visitant; not common. "Seen occasionally in the late fall." (Hersey)

**Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis.** Long-tailed Chickadee. Winter resident; not uncommon.

**Regulus calendula.** Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Migratory, rare.

**Myadestes townsendii.** Townsend Solitaire. "Not uncommon in fall migration at Barr." (Hersey)

**Hylocichla guttata auduboni.** Audubon Hermit Thrush. Migrant; at times abundant during the spring movement.

**Planesticus migratorius propinquus.** Western Robin. Summer resident; abundant.

**Sialia currucoides.** Mountain Bluebird. Summer resident; not common. More common during migration.

*Denver, Colorado.*

### NESTING OF *DIOMEDEA NIGRIPES* AND *D. IMMUTABILIS* ON MIDWAY ISLANDS

By DR. T. W. RICHARDS, U. S. Navy

**A**MONG the smallest and most isolated of this country's outlying territorial possessions is the coral group appropriately known as "Midway". Situated in Lat. 28° 13' N., Long. 177° 21' W., the largest—Sand Island—only measures about one mile in length by half that distance in diameter; almost the entire surface is of barren sand, the highest point being some 75 feet above sea level. Were it not for a light-house and relay station for the long trans-Pacific cable, the entire group would be well-nigh forgotten.

As might be expected we have thus afforded an ideal breeding resort for numbers of pelagic birds, and for several years I tried to obtain some definite information regarding the local avifauna, but without avail until, in 1906 and 1907, two of my naval medical confreres were temporarily stationed at this outpost and, with the greatest pains, most kindly collected, prepared and forwarded to me a number of eggs, with notes, photographs and descriptions of the birds. To Drs. R. A. Campbell and M. C. Baker, U. S. Navy, I am much indebted, and take this opportunity of expressing my thanks and appreciation.

While I was aware that the Laysan Albatross bred on Midway in company with another species, I was surprised and particularly pleased when the photos and descriptions accompanying certain eggs showed beyond a doubt that they were referable to *D. nigripes*, the eggs of which, so far as I am aware, have not hitherto been fully described. I may add that the identification was kindly confirmed by Dr. Charles W. Richmond, of the Smithsonian Institution.

In nearly all published descriptions of eggs of the Diomedidae they are referred to in terms somewhat as follows: "white, sometimes speckled or sprinkled on larger end with reddish brown" (Ridgway), giving the impression that they resemble, on a large scale, eggs of the Stormy Petrel, for example. While this may be true of some species, it would be inappropriate for a great many specimens of *D. nigripes*, tho some are faintly speckled or even immaculate. In many instances, however, these eggs are boldly and handsomely splashed with dark brownish red, in some forming a cap or wreath about one end, usually the larger; in others, extending over nearly one-half the shell; in fact there is as much color, relatively, as on an average egg of any of our larger Buteos, tho it is apt to be more constantly confined to one end. Compared with eggs of *immutabilis* they