

June 8 was again a lucky day for me. The evening before I had spent some two hours watching a pair but could not locate the nest, tho all their actions led me to believe that one was near by. Early in the morning I was again looking over the trees there, and soon heard and located the male. He was shortly joined by his mate. After some little time spent in feeding she flew into the top of a slender pitch pine tree. I could not see just where she was but heard the note which I have learned is uttered when she is on the nest, so climbed up and found the nest at a height of fifty feet, at the tip of one of the top branches. It contained three fresh eggs.

The eggs of *D. olivacea* are very thin-shelled and remind me very strongly of *Phainopepla*'s in this respect as well as in color. They are shaped more like a Song Sparrow's egg and resemble the greenish type of the latter in color and markings.

## MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA

By HARRY S. SWARTH

THE University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology during the past year has come into possession, by donation, of the collections of bird skins of Mr. F. O. Johnson and of Mr. W. B. Judson, of Los Angeles, California. Both of these collections are composed for the most part of beautifully prepared specimens, in excellent condition, including some rare and interesting birds. In going over them for the purpose of arranging and cataloging, the writer found various specimens, which, for one reason or another, it seemed desirable to place on record. In the case of the Johnson collection the information given herewith is derived solely from the labels attacht to the skins, but in the Judson specimens it is sometimes supplied from the writer's notes or memory, he having been with Mr. Judson when most of the birds listed below were collected. The numbers given are those of the bird collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

### JOHNSON COLLECTION

**Querquedula discors.** Blue-winged Teal. One specimen, adult male, "market in Los Angeles," January, 1895 (no. 12008).

**Colaptes c. collaris** × **Colaptes a. luteus.** Hybrid Flicker. Adult male, Riverside, California, December 31, 1888 (no. 11880). Of the size and general appearance of the Red-shafted Flicker, but with yellow wing and tail feathers. A few red feathers in the otherwise black malar stripes, and a slight indication of a red nuchal crescent.

**Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis.** Red-naped Sapsucker. One specimen, male, Riverside, California, December 26, 1889 (no. 11874). Just assuming the black breast of the adult plumage.

**Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus.** Vermilion Flycatcher. One specimen, male, Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California, December 26, 1894 (no. 11741). Not in fully adult plumage, the red of the lower parts and of the crown being of a pale hue and mixt with whitish or streaked feathers.

**Otocoris alpestris actia.** California Horned Lark. The series of this species includes one specimen (no. 11726, adult male, Riverside, California, January 2,

1889) with a most remarkably malformed hind claw. It has grown out to a length of twenty-nine millimeters, in a perfect spiral or corkscrew shape, forming seven complete turns with mathematical regularity.

**Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus.** Western Grasshopper Sparrow. Adult female, Beaumont, Riverside County, California, April 23, 1889 (no. 11502). There are comparatively few records of the occurrence of this species in southern California.

**Amphispiza nevadensis nevadensis.** Sage Sparrow.

**Amphispiza nevadensis canescens.** California Sage Sparrow. A series of twenty-eight Sage Sparrows taken in the vicinity of Riverside, California, during the months of November, December, and January (nos. 11378-11405) shows every degree of variation, from a few individuals typical of *canescens* to others indistinguishable from true *nevadensis*. Tho the majority of the specimens are probably to be referred to *nevadensis* they have mostly somewhat smaller bills than examples of that form from northern Nevada. In the matter of wing length there are some that might be referred to either race with equal propriety, being variously intermediate between the dimensions of the two forms as given by Grinnell (see CONDOR, VII, 1905, 18).

**Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** White-crowned Sparrow. Adult female, Palm Springs, Colorado Desert, California, April 26, 1889 (no. 11467).

**Melospiza melodia morphna.** Rusty Song Sparrow. Adult female, Riverside, California, November 3, 1888 (no. 11324). Tho the locality is extraordinary this specimen is so exactly like an example of *morphna* at hand from Seattle, Washington, that I have no choice but to refer it to that form. It certainly is not *merrilli*, which is of comparatively common occurrence during the winter months on the desert side of the southern California mountains.

**Calamospiza melanocorys.** Lark Bunting. Four specimens, all from Riverside, California (nos. 11223-11226), an adult female, February 23, 1888, and three adult males, April 21, 1888. Two of the males are in nearly perfect nuptial plumage, the third in the midst of the pre-nuptial molt. There are but few records of the occurrence of this species on the Pacific slope of southern California.

**Vermivora celata celata.** Orange-crowned Warbler. One specimen, male, Riverside, California, December 25, 1888 (no. 11111).

**Dendroica townsendi.** Townsend Warbler. One specimen, Riverside, California, December 31, 1888 (no. 11084). Of uncommon occurrence in southern California during the winter months. This example is marked male, but it has all the appearance of an immature female.

**Oroscoptes montanus.** Sage Thrasher. Five specimens, all from Riverside, California (nos. 10892-10896); one, January 25, 1887; one, January 2, 1889; two, February 2, 1889; and one, February 23, 1889.

#### JUDSON COLLECTION

**Phalaropus fulicarius.** Red Phalarope. Three specimens, two males and a female (nos. 10357-10359) collected by A. W. Anthony "off San Diego, Calif." The date is written "12-3-1895," presumably December 3. Tho frequently reported as a migrant along the California coast there seem to be no definite records of its occurrence in winter, and the above date indicates that the species winters at least as far north as southern California.

**Lophortyx californicus vallicola.** Valley Quail. One specimen taken at Verdugo, Los Angeles County, California, on January 11, 1898 (no. 10397), exhibits in coloration and markings, a curious mingling of the characters of the two sexes. The

white markings about the head are present and nearly as sharply defined as in the male, but the dark areas they enclose are brown as in the female, mixt with some black markings. This black mottling is produced by individual feathers being parti-colored, brown and black, and not by scattered, wholly black feathers. Those areas which are steel blue in the male are darker, approaching the brown of the female. The scale-like markings of the lower breast and abdomen are sharply defined, but the coloration of these parts is much less intense than in the male bird, the buffy yellow being of a very pale shade, and the red of the abdomen mostly replaced by white. The crest is intermediate in size and shape between those of average males and females. Unfortunately the bird was not sexed. It is apparently an adult, that is in second winter plumage at least, for the primary coverts, which are not molted by the young bird the first fall, are of the adult type.

**Glaucidium gnoma gnoma.** Pigmy Owl. Three juveniles (no. 10342 ♀, no. 10343 ♂, no. 10344 ♀) taken from a nest in a dead pine tree in Bear Valley, San Bernardino Mountains, California. These were secured on June 28, 1894, the female parent having been shot the day before (no. 23 collection of H. S. Swarth). The young birds have lost the natal down, except where a few filaments cling to feather tips, and are in the juvenal plumage, but with stubby wings and tail. The body plumage is much as in the adults, but the top of the head is plain drab gray, in markt contrast to the brown dorsum, with a few partly concealed white spots on the anterior portion. There are some slight, apparently sexual, differences observable. The two young females are of about the same size, and are appreciably larger than the male. In the former the brown of the upper parts is of a more reddish cast, approaching Vandyke brown, while in the latter it is darker, more nearly Prout brown.

The day before the young owls were secured one of the parent birds was seen entering the nest cavity bearing a Chipmunk (*Eutamias*) in its claws, and the remains of the Chipmunk were found in the stomachs of the young birds. The old bird secured had its stomach filled to distention with the shells of grebe eggs, which it had pickt up in our camp (the nest was located in close proximity to our camp ground), these eggs being a staple in our larder at the time.

This record may be of some interest, as the species appears to be of rare occurrence in summer in the mountains of southern California. It is not included in Mr. Grinnell's recently publisht list of birds of the San Bernardino Mountains.

**Atthis morcomi.** Morcom Hummingbird. One of the two specimens on which the description of species was based was in the Judson collection, and is now no. 10299 in the bird collection of this Museum. No additional examples have turned up since the species was first described (see Ridgway, *Auk* xv, 1898, 325), and it seemed worth while to put on record a statement of where this specimen was located.

**Cynanthus latirostris.** Broad-billed Hummingbird. One specimen, an adult male, from the Santa Catalina Mountains, Arizona, April 14, 1896 (no. 10286). This bird was taken on the east side of the mountains, near the mouth of Bear Canyon, where the species was fairly common at the time. A nest containing one egg was found the same day.

**Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus.** Western Grasshopper Sparrow. One specimen, male, Highland Park, Los Angeles County, California, August 10, 1897 (no. 10089).

**Amphispiza nevadensis canescens.** California Sage Sparrow. Adult female, head of Big Tuhunga Canyon, Los Angeles County, California, August 4, 1895 (no.

10068). This bird has just finished the post-nuptial molt, and is in perfectly fresh, unworn winter plumage. It is of a peculiar yellowish tinge, quite different from specimens either of the very dark *belli* or the pale *nevadensis* in comparable plumage. The species was fairly common in the locality at the time.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Some Notes From Washington.**—The following records were made by Mr. D. E. Brown of Tacoma, Washington. He turned over most of his notes to my brother and Mr. Dawson for their joint book, "The Birds of Washington," but the following, which seem to me of especial interest, were for some reason overlooked.

*Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis.* Hepburn Leucosticte. A Leucosticte was seen building a nest on Mt. Baker, Washington, June 10, 1905, but it was not possible to wait for it to be finished. Specimens collected at the time proved to be the Hepburn Leucosticte, altho the bird building the nest was not killed.

*Myadestes townsendi.* Townsend Solitaire. A nest found in a railroad cut near Renton—a suburb of Seattle—Washington. On June 3, 1908, it contained four young birds three or four days old.

*Strix occidentalis caurina.* Northern Spotted Owl. A nest believed to belong to this species found on May 23, 1908. It contained young birds somewhat larger than screech owls, and with no sign of any tufts on the head. Some young Horned Owls examined, of about the same age, had the ears very plainly developed. On visiting the same place on April 12, 1909, the nest—a hole in a stump—was found to contain a Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadicus*) and four slightly incubated eggs. Ranchers near by told of killing two large owls with smooth, round heads, during the winter.

*Botaurus lentiginosus.* American Bittern. A nest containing four eggs found in eastern Washington on June 3, 1908.—C. W. BOWLES.

**Seen on a Day's Outing in Southern Arizona.**—February 13, 1910, I spent with a hunting party on the San Pedro River near Fairbanks. My gun was a camera, and while looking for suitable shots I was impressed with the large number of birds seen, and particularly with the great variety. Following is a list of those observed during the day from the time we left Tombstone until our return. In some instances I append a few comments.

Mallard, Pintail and Green-winged Teal,—a small flock of each. Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Cooper Hawk, Harris Hawk, Western Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson Hawk, Aplomado Falcon, Desert Sparrow Hawk, Gila Woodpecker, Baird Woodpecker, Red-shafted Flicker, Say Phoebe and Black Phoebe. A flock of over a hundred White-necked Ravens alternately perching in some cottonwoods and circling overhead. Western Meadowlark; a flock of from two to three thousand Brewer Blackbirds which covered several large cottonwoods and peach trees, and the ground under them. The trees were literally black with them. Goldfinch (subsp. ?), House Finch, and numerous sparrows of which I identified the following: Intermediate Sparrow, Western Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Black-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow (subsp. ?), Abert Towhee, Canyon Towhee, Arizona Pyrrhuloxia and Arizona Cardinal; Audubon Warbler, Mockingbird, Crissal Thrasher, Cactus Wren, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren and Verdin. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet came close to us while we were lurching, its song and twitter first attracting my attention. Plumbeous Gnatcatcher, Western Robin and Mountain Bluebird, several of which were seen along the road and in the fields.

The feature of the day, however, was the securing of a male Texas Kingfisher (*Ceryle americana septentrionalis*). This bird was seen flying along an irrigating ditch close to the water, the white in its tail first attracting our attention. This is my first record and I believe the first for this Territory.\* Most of the species mentioned were seen on the river but a few were seen in the vicinity of Tombstone only.—F. C. WILLARD.

**Alaska Longspur at Gunther's Island, Eureka, California.**—While collecting on this island in the fall of 1909, I took on October 2 a female of the above species. It was the only one seen during a stay of three weeks at the island. The skin is now in the collection of Louis B. Bishop, New Haven, Connecticut, who identified it as the Alaska Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*). In the CONDOR, Vol. II, No. 1, page 44, Frank Stephens records taking one on the same date at San Diego.—HENRY W. MARSDEN.

\*Dr. Elliott Coues reported this species as seen on the Colorado River between Forts Mojave and Yuma, in September, 1865 (Ibis, 1866, p. 263). It apparently has not since been observed in the Territory.—Ed.