

A nest presumably of the Pintail Duck (*Dafila acuta*), which I had previously found, was also revisited as I desired to show it to Mr. Carriger. On reaching the nest, however, we found it deserted and the six eggs emptied of their contents, scattered about on the grass. Mr. Carriger located his first nest of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet today in a lodge-pole pine. Examination showed it to hold seven fresh eggs. Nearby one of the Yellow Warbler was noted placed in the dead portion of a willow without any attempt at concealment and yet for this very reason more liable perhaps to be overlooked, as nests of the Western Robin and Western Wood Pewee often are, which are built in dead or burnt trees.

Three nests of the White-crowned Sparrow, all on the ground in meadow land, were noted on June 7, one with four small young, one with one and one with four eggs, fresh. In a dead pine Carriger excavated a nest of the Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea pygmaea*) with small young, while a nest each of the Williamson (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) and Sierra Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius daggetti*) in dead portions of live lodge-pole pines were found in a like condition. We saw the first Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila*, sp.?) for the Lake Valley region today and were much disappointed in being unable to secure it.

As we intended leaving for the long tramp to Pyramid Peak the following morning we spent June 8 leisurely rowing along the lake shore east and southeast of Bijou. Many nests of the Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) were noted in cavities in piles in deep water. Most nests contained either eggs or young varying from five to seven in number. The Tree Swallows were not the only species to take advantage of the protection afforded by water-bound nesting sites, for numerous nests of the Brewer Blackbird and one of the Mountain Bluebird were also noted. The most remarkable, however, were two of the Red-shafted Flicker, both with almost full-grown young, some of which in the excitement caused by our approach fluttered into the water. For a time Carriger and I were kept busy returning them to their protected and yet perilous dwelling place. The day's work closed early as we had to spend considerable time after reaching camp preparing for the long trip to Pyramid Peak, already recounted in a previous number of THE CONDOR.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE COLORADO CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS

By WELLS W. COOKE

THE appearance of "A History of the Birds of Colorado," by W. L. Sclater, reviewed in this number of THE CONDOR, marks an opportune time for presenting the status of the Colorado state list of birds in the light of the new records furnished by Sclater and accessions that have become known since the third supplement to the Birds of Colorado was published in the *Auk* for October, 1909.

The Sclater list of 1912 shows both additions and subtractions as compared with the Cooke list of 1909, as shown in the following table.

INCLUDED BY SCLATER (1912) AND
NOT BY COOKE (1909).

Pelecanus occidentalis
Coccyzus americanus
Phalaenoptilus nuttalli nitidus
Chordeiles acutipennis texensis
Empidonax griseus
Empidonax trailli alnorum
Otocoris alpestris enthyemia
Agelaius phoeniceus
Loxia curvirostra minor
Astragalinus psaltria arizonae
Astragalinus psaltria mexicanus
Protonotaria citrea
Dendroica virens

INCLUDED BY COOKE (1909) AND
NOT BY SCLATER (1912).

Phalaropus fulicarius
Aegialitis meloda
Meleagris gallopavo silvestris
Phasianus torquatus
Buteo lineatus elegans
Otus asio
Sphyrapicus varius
Muscivora forficata
Otocoris alpestris praticola
Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis
Junco hyemalis montanus
Junco hyemalis oregonus
Junco hyemalis annectens
Vermivora celata lutescens
Geothlypis trichas
Planesticus migratorius

***Pelecanus occidentalis*.** First recorded for Colorado by H. G. Smith (CONDOR XII, 1910, 133) from a specimen taken at Thomasville and now in the State Museum.

***Coccyzus americanus*.** Included by Cooke in his original 'Birds of Colorado' on Bendire's record; later withdrawn by Cooke (Auk, xxvi, 1909, 412) as the evidence seemed insufficient. Now restored by Sclater based on a specimen taken by Aiken, June 4, 1898, at Ramah. This specimen has been sent to the Biological Survey and the identification confirmed by Oberholser. Sclater considers all of the yellow-billed cuckoos of Colorado east of the Rocky Mountains to belong to this form, while he is doubtful whether the western form, *occidentalis*, deserves a place in the list.

Three yellow-billed cuckoos lately sent to the Biological Survey for identification by L. J. Hersey include both forms, and queerly enough one taken in the mountains on Clear Creek, August 23, 1910, is *americanus*, while one taken on the plains at Barr, July 25, 1911, is *occidentalis*.

***Phalaenoptilus nuttalli nitidus*.** Sclater follows the A. O. U. *Check-List* in considering this a valid form and entitled to a place in the Colorado list. Cooke included it originally, but dropped it as being only a color phase of *nuttalli*.

***Chordeiles acutipennis texensis*.** This addition to the Colorado list was secured by Aiken, June 11, 1908, at Hoehne, near Trinidad.

***Empidonax trailli alnorum*.** Added to the Colorado list by Sclater from a specimen taken May 27, 1905, by Aiken near Limon. The identification has since been confirmed by Oberholser. Since this form breeds in British Columbia and eastern Montana it is not strange that it should pass through eastern Colorado in migration.

***Empidonax griseus*.** First recorded for Colorado by Ridgway (Birds N. and Mid. Am. iv, 1907, 571) from a specimen taken May 24, at Newcastle. Sclater adds the record of one taken by Aiken May 3, 1872, near Fountain. A specimen now in the Biological Survey was taken by Cary September 5, 1906, in the Escalante Hills of western Routt County.

***Otocoris alpestris enthyemia*.** Sclater follows Oberholser in recognizing this form and considering it a winter visitant to Colorado. This form has been rejected by the A. O. U. Committee.

***Agelaius phoeniceus*.** Sclater recognizes two forms of red-winged black-

birds in Colorado, *phoeniceus* to include all the breeding birds of the State, and *fortis* to include migrants from the north that winter in Colorado. During the last few years large series of blackbirds have been collected in Colorado with a view of settling definitely the status of the several forms in the State. It may be considered as certain that the breeding bird of southwestern Colorado is *neutralis*; that the breeding bird of eastern Colorado is different from the breeding bird of the eastern Mississippi Valley and according to the present rulings of the A. O. U. Committee should bear the name of *fortis*; that most of the wintering birds of eastern Colorado are the same form as the birds breeding there, but that if the form *arctolegus* is recognized (as the present writer believes will eventually happen) it will have to be admitted to the Colorado list as a rare winter straggler.

Loxia curvirostra minor. Sclater considers the great bulk of the Colorado red crossbills as belonging to this form, but assigns the breeding birds of southwestern Colorado to *stricklandi* and records a pair taken May 22, 1874, in El Paso County as the same form. The male specimen mentioned by Sclater has been sent to the Biological Survey for examination and while the dimensions are well within the limits of *stricklandi*, they are also not outside the limits of the large Rocky Mountain form that has been separated as *bendirei*, but which is considered by the A. O. U. as included under *minor*. It seems best, then, to consider the pair mentioned by Sclater as large specimens of *minor*, which is the common resident bird of that part of Colorado.

The reference of the breeding birds of southwestern Colorado to *stricklandi* seems hardly warranted. No specimens are available to settle the matter one way or the other, but the fact that the breeding birds of the mountains of northern New Mexico are not *stricklandi* is a strong argument against the probable occurrence of this form as a breeder in Colorado.

Astragalinus psaltra arizonae.

Astragalinus psaltra mexicana.

Both these forms are still retained by Sclater though it has been conclusively proved that they are both color phases due to age. All Colorado Arkansas goldfinches are referable to one form *psaltria*.

Protonotaria citrea. Is admitted to the Colorado list by Sclater on the same evidence that was considered by Cooke as entirely unsatisfactory.

Dendroica virens. Added to the Colorado list by L. J. Hersey (Auk xxviii, 1911, 490) who took a specimen at Barr near Denver, May 20, 1909.

Phalaropus fulicarius. Not included by Sclater though the record has been published (Auk, xxvi, 1909, 409) and the specimen is still in the collection of the Biological Survey.

Aegialitis meloda. Not included by Sclater though a specimen was taken by Dawson May 17, 1899, at Julesburg and the record published (Wilson Bulletin, vi, 1899, 50; Auk xxvi, 1909).

Meleagris gallopavo silvestris. Omitted by Sclater from the Colorado list, where it has held a place since included by Say in 1823. It is true that there is not now in any collection a specimen of the eastern turkey taken in Colorado, nor has a specimen ever been identified as such by a competent ornithologist. The only claim the form has, rests on the assumption that the birds of southeastern Colorado (where the species was very common a hundred years ago) must have been the same as the birds a little to the eastward in Kansas and Oklahoma. As the species is now supposed to be extinct in that part of Colorado it is probable that the matter never can be settled.

Phasianus torquatus. Admitted by Cooke in 1898 and omitted by Sclater in 1912. Sclater's action is correct as the bird was an introduced species,—though both Cooke and Sclater admit the English Sparrow to the State list.

Buteo lineatus elegans. Omitted by Sclater since it was based on a sight identification.

Otus asio asio. Omitted by Sclater. This species was admitted to the Colorado list on the strength of the statement by Snyder that he had once captured one in the mottled phase near Greeley. As dichromatism is not known in either of the screech owls that are resident in Colorado, a bird in the red phase would seem necessarily to be referred to *asio*. The lately ascertained fact that *maxwelliae* inhabits the plains to eastern Yuma County, while *aikeni* ranges east to the Kansas line (Holly, June 2, 1908), makes the probability much less that *asio* would ever occur in Colorado.

Sphyrapicus varius. Omitted by Sclater. There was a specimen in the Maxwell collection that was identified by Ridgway as the eastern form. At that time it was claimed that every specimen in the collection had been taken in Colorado, but it has since been learned that some of them were bought from outside collectors and it may well be that this particular specimen had been so obtained. All other records for the eastern form in Colorado are now known to be errors and Sclater is undoubtedly justified in dropping it from the list.

Muscivora forficata. Omitted by Sclater because it was based on a sight identification. The species is, however, so peculiar in shape and actions and was so distinctly seen by the observer that there cannot well be a mistake in the identification.

Otocoris alpestris praticola. Omitted by Sclater, though its claim to a place in the list is exactly the same as that of *enthymia* which is admitted.

Junco hyemalis oregonus. Omitted by Sclater, though the specimen was identified by Ridgway and the record has been published (Auk, xxv, 1908, 187; Auk xxvi, 1909, 417).

Junco hyemalis montanus.

Junco hyemalis annectens. Both omitted by Sclater on the ground that they are probably hybrids instead of geographical races. While the present writer frankly admits that the last word on the junco question has not yet been written and that this final judgment probably will be radically different from the treatment of the subject in the present edition of the A. O. U. *Check-List*, yet the tendency of the later discoveries in regard to breeding ranges is strongly against the theory of hybridization.

Vermivora celata lutescens. Omitted by Sclater who considers that all Colorado orange-crowned warblers should be included under the name *celata*. While probably all the breeding birds of the State are the same form, yet it would be strange if some of the more western breeding birds of *lutescens* did not pass through Colorado during migration. Indeed, specimens of such migrants have been so identified by Ridgway (Nidologist, III, 1896, 76). In this connection it is interesting to note that if Oberholser's name *orestera* is ever adopted for the breeding birds of the Rocky Mountains, it will still be necessary to retain *celata* in the Colorado list as a rare straggler based on a specimen taken September 18, 1910, at Boulder by N deW. Betts and identified at the Biological Survey.

Geothlypis trichas. Omitted by Sclater, and correctly, for the specimen on which Cooke's original record was based has since been examined at the Biological Survey and found to be *occidentalis*.

Planesticus migratorius. Omitted by Sclater, who considers all Colorado robins as *propinquus*. It is undoubtedly true that all the breeding robins of Colorado are this form, yet a specimen taken April 13, 1912, at Crook, Colorado, and sent to the Biological Survey, proves to be the eastern form, which, therefore, is to be retained in the State list (CONDOR, XIV, 1912, 154).

In addition to the species named above, there are several more new birds for Colorado that were not included in either list.

Anas rubripes. The black duck has had a curious history in Colorado ornithology. Originally entered in the list by Ridgway in 1874 based on a specimen taken by Aiken, its position was unquestioned until in 1900 Cooke hazarded the guess, on geographical grounds, that the Colorado birds would prove to be *Anas fulvigula maculosa*. A specimen taken November 6, 1907, near Loveland, and now in the Natural History Museum at Denver, is this form (Auk, XXVIII, 1911, 490). But, nevertheless, *Anas rubripes* must also be retained in the list, for as already recorded (Auk XXVII, 1910, 451), a black duck taken about November 13, 1904, at Loveland has been identified at the Biological Survey as *rubripes*.

Florida caerulea. One was taken September 14, 1910, by E. P. Walker at Montrose.

Ionornis martinica. One taken June 17, 1911, by W. F. Doertenbach at Florence.

Tryngites subruficollis. Taken at Barr August 25 and September 4, 1910, by L. J. Hersey (Auk, XXVIII, 1911, 490).

Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus. The original lists of Colorado birds contained this form, which was later changed to *Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*, which is the common bird of the state. It will be necessary now to restore *lapponicus* to the list, for a specimen of the eastern form was taken December 28, 1909, at Barr by L. J. Hersey, and has been identified by Oberholser (Condor, XIV, 1912, 108).

Telmatodytes palustris iliacus. As already recorded by Betts (Auk XXVIII, 1911, 118), a specimen of this form was taken October 10, 1910, at Boulder, and one taken at Skinner's, El Paso County, January 15, 1908, is considered by Oberholser to belong to this form.

Ixoreus naevius. The same observer has recorded (Auk XXVII, 1910, 218) a specimen seen at Boulder December 5, 1909.

Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis. A lot of hermit thrushes sent by L. J. Hersey to the Biological Survey for identification contain two specimens of this form taken at Granby October 7, and at Holly May 16, 1911. It is therefore added to the Colorado list as a rare migrant, both spring and fall (Condor XIV, 1912, 108).

SUMMARY

The Sclater (1912) list of Colorado birds contains 395 species. From the list are to be withdrawn as more or less doubtful seven species—*Phalaenoptilus nuttalli nitidus*, *Otocoris alpestris enthymia*, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, *Astragalinus psaltria arizonae*, *Astragalinus psaltria mexicanus*, *Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*, and *Protonotaria citrea*—leaving 388 species. To these are to be added fifteen species—*Anas rubripes*, *Florida caerulea*, *Ionornis martinica*, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, *Tryngites subruficollis*, *Aegialitis meloda*, *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, *Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis*, *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*, *Junco hyemalis oregonus*, *Junco hyemalis montanus*, *Telmatodytes palustris iliacus*, *Ixoreus*

naevius, *Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis* and *Planesticus migratorius*. This makes a Colorado list of 403 species about which there cannot be much question. There is still left a list of seven species about which opinions would differ as to whether or not they are entitled to a place in the list—*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*, *Phalaenoptilus nuttalli nitidus*, *Muscivora forficata*, *Otocoris alpestris enthymia*, *Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*, *Junco hyemalis annectens*, *Protonotaria citrea*.

The breeding records of the Colorado birds have been given by Sclater a much-needed revision, with the result of dropping from the list of breeders several species that had been included by Cooke in his several lists.

Lophodytes cucullatus. Omitted by Sclater from the list of breeding birds, because, although seen several times in summer, there is no definite record of its nesting.

Strix occidentalis. Not considered by Sclater a breeding species, although it is not known to be migratory in any part of its range.

Phloeotomus pileatus abieticola. This non-migratory bird is placed in the general list, but not in the list of breeders. The Colorado list would probably have been improved had the species been omitted altogether.

Compsothlypis americana usneae. Sclater is undoubtedly justified in withdrawing this species from the Colorado breeding list, and the same remark applies to the cases of

Dendroica striata, **Dendroica townsendi**, and **Pelecanus erythrorhynchos**.

The reason for denying the latter species a place in the breeding list is not so clear as in the case of several other birds.

Marila affinis. Omitted by Sclater, though it has been recorded as nesting at Barr Lake (Condor xi, 1909, 112). In a recent letter Hersey says: "On two different years I have found nest and eggs of the Lesser Scaup at Barr."

Egretta candidissima. Sclater includes this in his list of breeders with a question mark, and under the heading of the distribution of the species he says that it breeds "throughout its range." The queer fact has lately come to light that many adult Snowy Herons migrate in the spring far north of the breeding range and remain there through the summer as non-breeders. The habit of northward migration in the fall is common among herons, but the Snowy Heron is unique among North American birds in its northward migration in spring of non-breeders. The Snowy Heron does not breed nearer to Colorado than Louisiana.

Grus mexicana. Omitted by Sclater from his list of breeding birds, but a late record of nesting is mentioned in the body of the work.

Pedioecetes phasianellus columbianus. Sclater includes *campestris* in the list of breeders, but not *columbianus*, and seems rather doubtful about the latter occurring in the state. The facts are that all sharp-tailed grouse now in Colorado are almost typical *columbianus* and that the form different from *columbianus*, which used to occur in great numbers in northeastern Colorado, is now extinct in the state.

Astur atricapillus striatulus. Sclater gives *Astur atricapillus* as a "rather uncommon winter bird in Colorado," and says that it breeds "south perhaps to Idaho." While it is true that there is no specific record of a nest of a goshawk found in Colorado, yet the bird has been noted in summer in the state by several competent observers—among which records may be mentioned Lone Cone, near Coventry, July 27, 1907 (C. H. Smith); not rare July 6-17, 1905, in Middle Park

at Coulter and Hot Springs (Cary)—and in the Zuni Mountains, New Mexico. It has also been taken in summer in the San Francisco Mountains, Arizona, and a specimen now in the collection of the Biological Survey was taken at Tres Piedras, New Mexico, July 13, 1892, and undoubtedly represents a bird that had nested in the vicinity. But all of these breeding birds, from Idaho to Arizona and New Mexico, should be referred to the western form *striatulus*, and *atricapillus* should therefore be dropped from the list of Colorado breeders and its place taken by *striatulus*. The former remains, however, as a winter visitant to Colorado.

Asio flammeus. Sclater withdraws this species from the breeding list, but it should be retained; for a pair seen by A. K. Fisher at Sterling July 27, 1892, must be considered as breeding birds.

Strix varia. Not given by Sclater in his list of breeders, but if the species is to be admitted at all in the Colorado list it must be as a breeder, since eggs were secured at the same time with the original specimen.

Dryobates villosus villosus. Sclater does not include this form in the list of breeders; but the specimens on which the form was introduced into Colorado were nesting when taken. This is also the breeding form of the Arkansas Valley as far west at least as Lamar, where a specimen was taken by H. G. Smith June 20, 1904.

Passerella iliaca schistacea. Not included in Sclater as a breeder because no nest has been found in Colorado; but as almost all the records for the state are in June and July, it seems almost straining a point to exclude it from the breeding list.

Pipilo aberti. Excluded by Sclater. Its claim to a place in the Colorado list rests on a nest and eggs. It would be better to drop the species entirely from the list.

Nannus hiemalis. Excluded by Sclater, because there is no specific record of the finding of a nest. There seems to be reason for doubting that the July birds, seen by Gillette and Cooke, were nesting.

Toxostoma bendirei. Should be withdrawn from the list of breeders, for the breeding records of Christie are undoubtedly erroneous.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Position of Mourning Dove Nestlings.—In an article by F. C. Willard entitled "A Week Afield in Southern Arizona," which appeared in *THE CONDOR* for March-April, 1912, there occurs this statement: "The young Mourning Doves always face in the same direction." This may be true of this species in Arizona, but it does not hold good in Iowa, as a few notes made in 1907 will show.

The first mention of positions in nest, bearing date of June 18, refers to doves in a nest situated in an evergreen tree about three feet from the ground, favorably located for making drawings and photographs, and was visited for these purposes when the nestlings were about twelve days old, the boy who found the nest, showing the way. When we found them, one young dove faced north, the other south. "When I returned to photograph them both faced south."

Three other notes relate to nestlings in our yard that were visited daily. The older of these Mourning Doves was hatched June 17. The first note on this question bears date of June 23: "The parent bird sat with its tail north-by-west, and I expected to find the young facing southeast; but one was in that direction and the other in the opposite direction. It is the first time both of their heads were not together." Again, on June 24: "One youngster faced one way and the other in the opposite direction." A note on July 5 mentions that they faced the same way. These are all the notes that were made on this subject; but an impression remains that after June 24 they were more frequently found facing opposite directions.—ALTHEA R. SHERMAN.