

Hirundo erythrogastra. Barn Swallow. Quite a colony seemed to be contemplating settling down for the season in one of the caves along the shore.

Vermivora celata sordida. Dusky Warbler. This was the commonest bird on the island but was remarkably wild; so much so that the only way I could get one was on the wing. Owing to the lack of suitable bushes and small trees, they seemed to confine their nesting operations to a vine resembling a clematis, that grows over vegetation a couple of feet high. From a nest in this growth I flushed a bird by almost stepping on it. The four fresh eggs were in a dainty cup built of a silvery lichen that grows on almost everything in sight. The structure was lined with finer pieces of the same sort of lichens, making one of the most beautiful nests I have ever seen. Although I spent many hours tramping all over the island, the birds failed to reveal even the approximate location of another nest.

Salpinctes obsoletus. Rock Wren. Two pairs of these birds had selected nesting sites, and were not only anxious to let the whole world know it, but were willing to show the exact spot to anyone interested.

Sialia mexicana occidentalis. Western Bluebird. A pair appeared near camp on the nineteenth but were not present afterwards.

SOME BIRDS OF THE SAW-TOOTH MOUNTAINS, IDAHO

By STANLEY G. JEWETT

DURING the fall of 1910 I was sent into the Saw-tooth Mountains of Idaho to do some zoological collecting. I arrived at Ketchum on October 24 and left the mountains on December 20, after working at Ketchum in the Wood River Valley, and at the Boston Mine near the source of Rook's Creek. Side trips were made to the sources of Warm Spring and Baker Creeks, up to 9000 feet elevation. Wood River Valley at Ketchum is bordered with groves of aspens and cottonwoods alternating with extended thickets of willow. A few miles above the town the valley closes up to a narrow canyon with steep slopes on either side clothed with a heavy forest of Douglas spruce and Murray pine. In the vicinity of the Boston Mine on Rook's Creek most of the southern slopes are bare of forest trees, but clothed with a thick carpet of grass and sage-brush (*Artemisia tridentata*), while the northern slopes and canyons are well covered by such forest trees as Douglas spruce, Murray pine and lodge pole pine. This entire region is in the Saw-tooth National Forest Reserve, and is used for sheep grazing from July until September. The summer climate is delightful but frosts occur irregularly throughout the year, so no attempt at farming is made. Wood River and all its tributaries are well stocked with trout, and deer, bear and goat are fairly plentiful a few miles back from Ketchum. At the time of my arrival, October 24, most of the summer migrants, both birds and sportsmen, had left for warmer climates so the following list includes only what I believe to be winter residents, with the exception of one Western Robin (*P. m. propinquus*) seen October 27 at Ketchum.

Anas platyrhynchos. First seen on November 30; then common during December. Along Wood River several warm springs keep the ice thawed out in small

sloughs, and various water plants remain green throughout the winter. In such of these places as are well sheltered by thickets of willows, Mallards were usually found in flocks of from two or three to a dozen. Coyotes, lynxes and mink prey on these winter birds, and, with the long cold winter, it's a wonder any survive.

Gallinago delicata. During December several of this species were seen and two taken along Wood River. They keep close to the open spring holes feeding under the overhanging mud banks.

Dendragapus obscurus richardsoni. Common throughout this entire range. In Idaho this species nests in the lower foothills, mostly in the open sage-covered areas, and often several miles from the timber. As soon as the young begin to fly they start moving higher up the mountains, and by the time snow comes are all well up on the ridges. During October I flushed several small flocks along Spring Creek at about 6500 feet elevation, but not a single bird could be found there two weeks later. On Boyle Mountain, at 8000 feet, November 5, I saw at least one hundred individuals in a single flock, and during December I found them common on the pine covered ridges at from 7000 to 8000 feet.

Canachites franklini. This species is found in the Hudsonian Zone near the head of Wood River and on the higher ridges along Baker Creek. I did not find a single specimen myself but an old trapper, Mr. Zanchie, with whom I hunted in November, has killed several on Baker Creek. Known all over Idaho as "Fcol Hen."

Accipiter velox. A single example seen near Ketchum on November 13.

Buteo swainsoni. Common throughout all the region I covered. Several were caught in steel traps set for mink along Rook's Creek. On October 31 I flushed one from the thick willows on Spring Creek where it had killed a Richardson Grouse and was in the act of making a meal. A charge of no. 8 shot stopped any more such killings and added another specimen to my list.

Aquila chrysaetos. A single bird seen October 29 near Ketchum, hunting rabbits over the sage plains. I saw no more in the mountains but was told that several pairs breed along Spring Creek. I saw a nest on a high cliff on Baker Creek, where Mr. Zanchie, a trapper, told me a pair nested during the summer of 1910.

Bubo virginianus pallescens. Fairly common throughout the timbered sections. I heard the call of this species very often during my trip, and one was collected on Wood River November 21.

Ceryle alcyon. Several seen along Wood River during November and December. A telephone wire across the river a few miles below Ketchum was a favorite perch for one of these fishermen. I have seen them dive into the icy water when the thermometer registered zero.

Dryobates villosus monticola. Common along the various streams in the spruce forests, but not seen in the cottonwoods along Wood River.

Dryobates pubescens medianus. Common in the aspen and cottonwood thickets along Wood River, but not seen in the spruce forests anywhere in the mountains.

Picoides americanus dorsalis. Only three seen, all in the Hudsonian Zone. One taken November 3 at about 7500 feet.

Phloeotomus pileatus abieticola. Fairly common in the forests along Spring Creek. They keep well up on the ridges and are seldom seen in the canyons.

Pica pica hudsonia. Common in the mountains about all mines and

camp. At the Boston Mine several Magpies were seen about the hog pen every day. Several were caught in meat-baited traps set for flying squirrels.

Perisoreus canadensis capitalis. Not common. One taken November 3 at the hog pen of the Boston Mine, where it had come to steal scraps from the hogs, and one shot on Boyle Mountain, November 5.

Cyanicitta stelleri annectens. Several were seen along Rook's Creek, and they were regular visitors to the hog pen at the Boston Mine. None recorded from Wood River Valley.

Nucifraga columbiana. Common everywhere throughout the range. Often a dozen were seen during a few hours tramp, both in the spruce timber on the mountains and along Wood River in the cottonwoods. They, in company with the Magpies, were daily visitors to the Boston Mine, feeding on scraps of meat stolen from the hog pen. On November 10 I hid in a thicket of pine on Boyle Mountain and "squeaked" up four Nutcrackers within a few feet of me. They were very anxious to learn where the noise came from, and I kept them around for half an hour before one of them located me; then with harsh cries the four left the neighborhood without a moment's hesitation. Several were caught in meat-baited traps set for flying squirrels and weasels at 8000 feet elevation.

Pinicola enucleator montana. First seen November 2, on a high wind swept ridge above Baker Creek; then becoming more common until December 10. During December several were taken in the willow thickets along Wood River at 6000 feet elevation.

Carpodacus cassini. Observed several on Spring Creek trail west of Ketchum, October 27.

Loxia curvirostra minor. Common in the pine and spruce belt all over the range, where they were feeding on seeds of coniferous trees. Several large flocks were seen on the high ridges above Baker Creek during November.

Loxia leucoptera. A single example secured November 6 in company with a large flock of *L. c. minor*, on Rook's Creek at 7000 feet elevation.

Acanthis linaria linaria. Only one seen. On November 16, during a heavy snow storm, an adult male of this species came to the camp yard at the Boston Mine and fed about the stables for some time.

Junco hyemalis connectens. Common along Spring Creek on October 27. As the snow grew deeper this species moved down Wood River to the vicinity of Hailey, at about 5500 feet elevation.

Melospiza melodia montana. Several seen along Wood River in December. They frequent the warm spring flats, and get an abundance of insect food from the muddy ground. Often seen feeding in the shallow water, while on all sides the snow was piled four feet deep.

Passer domesticus. A small flock stayed about the stage barn at Ketchum all the time I was there. Mr. Baxter, the hotel-keeper, told me that several were found frozen on his porch during the winter of 1909.

Bombycilla garrula. First seen November 9, when, during a thick snow-storm, I took a male on Rook's Creek, at 7000 feet. On November 22 I saw a flock of eighteen in the town of Hailey, on Wood River. They were feeding on dried and frozen apples that were still on the trees.

Lanius borealis. A single example seen on Rook's Creek November 13.

Cinclus mexicanus unicolor. Common on all the streams throughout the range, a dozen or more staying below the warm springs in Spring Creek during December. Several times as I made my way through the willows on snow-shoes,

muffled to the ears to keep out the biting frost of zero weather, I have heard this little fellow's beautiful ringing song above the roar of the icy waters.

***Certhia familiaris montana*.** A few seen in the pine and spruce belt, but nowise common. One taken on Rook's Creek, 7500 feet, November 3.

***Sitta carolinensis nelsoni*.** Seen occasionally through the Canadian and Hudsonian zones, but not common.

***Sitta canadensis*.** Common wherever spruce and pine timber is found, usually in company with *Penthestes gambeli gambeli*.

***Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*.** Common along Wood River in the willow and aspen thickets, but never seen in the coniferous belt.

***Penthestes gambeli gambeli*.** This and the next species were the most common birds in any part of the mountains, outnumbering all other species three to one. On October 31 I was on Boyle Mountain at about 8000 feet elevation, and I spent about an hour with a flock of this species that numbered well over one hundred individuals.

***Regulus satrapa olivaceus*.** Common everywhere in suitable forests. It was a pleasing sight to see these little mites searching the trunk and inner branches of the spruce trees that were laden to the breaking point with snow. They appeared all unmindful of the intense cold.

***Planesticus migratorius propinquus*.** A single individual seen along Spring Creek October 27.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Breeding of the Band-tailed Pigeon in Marin County, California.—While never resident, the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba f. fasciata*) was formerly intermittently abundant in portions of Marin County, California. Sometimes it appeared in flocks of a hundred or so in the fall or winter when food conditions seemed to attract them, and was usually quite numerous in the spring and summer. The birds would then be in evidence from April to July, and might be seen picking up stray kernels in the fields just planted with forage corn. Or, later, when elder berries were ripe they would come in small flocks and feed in the tops of the elder bushes. It seemed as if they must have bred here in those days, yet with all the deer hunting, range riding and deliberate searching for nests we never had any actual evidence of this, excepting once, when a bird was seen carrying material for a nest into a fir forest, though the nest was not discovered.

This pigeon is becoming scarcer all the time, and, while an occasional small flock is seen in this neighborhood, it never appears in such numbers as it did thirty, or even twenty years ago, and hence it seems singular that the first breeding record for this locality should have been made only this summer, when but few are left in evidence. This record was made purely by accident, the bird having been flushed from its nest when the writer was surveying a line through a forest of second-growth timber on a steep hillside at Lagunitas, near San Geronimo, Marin County, on July 30, 1912.

The nest, of small twigs loosely laid together and closely resembling that of a Mourning Dove, though naturally a little larger, was on an overhanging branch of a California lilac (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*) extending over a steep rocky place that was rather more open than the immediate neighborhood. The nest was about eight feet from the ground. The single egg it contained was in an advanced state of incubation, the embryo being probably within three days of breaking the shell.

At times the Band-tailed Pigeon, possibly on account of unfavorable food conditions in its natural haunts, gathers in large flocks in certain localities, and it then falls an easy victim to the hunter. Possibly also there are localities where it breeds in numbers and may easily be shot. Be this as it may, this fine bird is certainly and surely being destroyed faster than it breeds, and it is high time that it should be given some sort of protection, and listed with game birds.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

Some 1912 Spring Notes from Southern California.—*Mycteria americana*. Wood Ibis. On May 18 I saw a single bird of this species feeding in a small pond within a hun-