

FIRST SPECIMEN OF BAIRD'S SANDPIPER COLLECTED IN THE EAST

Meantime my own collection of local birds was growing apace, and it was about this time (August 27, 1870) that I took a specimen of Baird's Sandpiper on Long Island, Boston Harbor, the first ever known to occur east of the Mississippi. This specimen proved something of a puzzle to Brewster and myself, and eventually led us to the Agassiz Museum and to J. A. Allen, then Curator of its bird and mammal collection. He very soon verified our identification, and we speedily came to know him very well. If I mistake not he was then at work on his "Mammals and Birds of East Florida", an epoch-making book, which appeared in the following April. Subsequently, at the request of Dr. Coues, I sent the sandpiper to Washington for examination, and in this way, perhaps, became known, by name at least, to Professor Baird, Dr. Coues, and Mr. Ridgway.

ACQUAINTANCE WITH DOCTOR T. M. BREWER

It must have been about this time, too, that I became acquainted with Doctor Brewer, then well-known in Boston as a publisher and book dealer. Though possessing a somewhat peppery disposition, he was a most kind and courteous gentleman, and was particularly fond of young people, and ever ready to lend a helping hand or speak a word of cheer to the aspiring young ornithologist. He came to my house to see some of my treasures, particularly a set of Sharp-tailed finch's eggs taken in Cambridge on the Charles River marshes, and more than once invited Brewster and myself to his house where we examined with pleasure his large collection of eggs. This he willed to the Agassiz Museum.

It was somewhat later than this—I do not recall the exact year—that through him I was offered the position, then vacant, of Secretary of the Boston Society of Natural History. This I declined, not liking the confinement of an indoor position.

In my mind Dr. Brewer was the living link connecting Audubon with our own times, and he often spoke of the pioneer ornithologist and of his acquaintance with him. Dr. Brewer knew Professor Baird intimately, and it was, perhaps, largely through him that I became known in Washington as a "promising young bird collector". Later, when I became attached to the Wheeler Survey, he always called at my office when visiting Washington and examined with great interest my bird and egg collections from the west. He died in 1880.

(To be continued)

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Correction of Impression.—I have found that at least one person regards the last paragraph of my "Trinomials and Current Practice" Communication in the last CONDOR (xxi, 1919, p. 92), in which I deplore the attitude of certain "quasi-ornithologists", as embodying my personal opinion of Mr. P. A. Taverner. As one has thought this, others undoubtedly will; but such a possibility never entered my head. I have the greatest respect for Mr. Taverner as a man and as an ornithologist, and would not dream of trying to belittle him. I added the last paragraph merely to condense two of my ideas into one communication, and meant exactly what I tried to imply—that I have no patience with those who give all their time and attention to eggs, butterflies or big-game hunting, and yet indulge in a mighty outburst of lamentation whenever a new bird is described.—A. B. HOWELL, *Covina, California, April 21, 1919.*

Notes on Some Catalina Island Birds.—On reviewing Mr. A. B. Howell's paper, "Birds of the Islands off the Coast of Southern California", in connection with observa-

tions made by the writer on Catalina Island during the first seventeen days of March, 1919, it has been thought that the following notes might be worth recording. Unfortunately permission was not had to do any shooting on the island, and specimens could not be taken. The subspecific identity of four of the following birds has therefore not been established.

At least one, and probably two, Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius* subsp.) were seen on numerous occasions about Avalon and on the terraces overlooking the town, and on March 9, three of these birds were seen on a ten-mile walk toward the upper end of the island. On this same walk, about five miles from the town, a Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius* subsp.) was seen at close range.

The Sapsucker whose work is so much in evidence on the trees in and about Avalon was caught at his drilling on two occasions, both within the town itself, on the 15th and 16th respectively, and proved to be the Red-breasted (*Sphyrapicus ruber ruber*).

On the 10th a flock of perhaps twenty Juncos (*Junco hyemalis* subsp.) was noted high up the slopes back of the town in a very brushy place where the going was bad. The birds were positively identified as Juncos, but a close enough view was not had to warrant even a guess as to the form.

A Hermit Thrush, supposedly the Alaska (*Hylocichla guttata guttata*), was everywhere common, from the beach to the top of the ridge, and no place on the island was visited where these birds could not be found scattered about in numbers. They were by far the most numerous land-bird observed during the entire seventeen days.

Three Western Robins (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) were seen on the 6th in the orchard of John Brinkley (Chicken John), whose attention was called to them and who stated that in a twenty-eight year's residence on the spot he had not before noticed the bird. Two residents of Avalon reported Robins in their door-yards on the same day, and remarked on the unusualness of seeing Robins on Catalina.

A scattered flock of between thirty and forty Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) was under observation from March 5 to 10 on the beautiful golf course back of the town. These birds also proved to be curiosities to some of the natives. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen to attack this flock repeatedly. The Bluebirds apparently left during the night of the 10th, as they were searched for over the entire lower end of the island and none was met with after that date.—HARRY HARRIS, *Kansas City, Missouri, April 18, 1919.*

Notes from Southern California.—Additional records of the Baird Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*): September 10, 1918, I found two of these birds on the beach near Del Rey, Los Angeles County. One, a female, was secured. More than three weeks later, on October 4, a lone male was taken in the same immediate locality. Was this mere coincidence, or is it fresh material for the mated-for-life theorists? The rarity of the species on this coast, and the circumstances under which these birds were taken, certainly suggest a mated pair, of which, one being killed, the remaining bird lingered in the same locality until it, also, was collected.

Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) in the San Bernardino Mountains: One taken on Deep Creek, and one at Big Bear Lake, September 19 and 22, respectively, 1918. Likely the species is of regular occurrence in these mountains, but I know of no published records.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*): A bird of this species came regularly to a feeding-table at the home of Mrs. W. H. Martz, 5166 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, where I examined it leisurely at a distance of about twenty feet. It was first noted late in November, 1918, and seen almost daily until some time during the following February, always in company with a flock of Gambel Sparrows, which never allowed the other to feed until they were sated.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*) and Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) on Santa Catalina Island: A flock of about twenty Cliff Swallows was noted on May 12, 1918. This, I believe, constitutes the first record for the Island. The Phainopepla was seen on the 14th of the same month, this record being the earliest but not the first published one of the species.

Baird Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus resplendens*): A dead bird on the beach near Hyperion, January 6, 1919, is the only one of the species I have found during