

(p. 515) will furnish a description of the method by which this bird extracts the food material from the bottom of ponds and rivers and from the muddy water. Analysis of the stomach of a specimen secured at Palo Verde, Imperial County, September 4, 1916, and contained in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, shows the following food elements:

- 10 seeds of the screw bean (*Strombocarpus pubescens*)
- 2 seeds mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*)
- Parts of 4 water beetles (*Cybister* sp.)
- Finely comminuted vegetable material.

The seeds were identified by W. L. McAtee and the beetles by E. C. Van Dyke.

This food material is exactly what we might expect to find in the shallow water of the Colorado River. It is of interest that a bird with so large a bill, and with the bill lacking the sieve-like apparatus of a duck's bill, can be so adept at sifting small particles from the water.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, July 1, 1919.*

The Occurrence of the Long-billed Curlew in Northwestern California.—In commenting upon "The Game Birds of California" recently, Mr. H. E. Wilder brought to my attention some facts known to him, but not heretofore published, relative to the occurrence of the Long-billed Curlew along the northwestern California coast. Mr. Wilder has generously urged me to put these facts on record, and furthermore has presented to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology a specimen of the bird, taken at the mouth of the Eel River, Humboldt County, July 18, 1916. This bird (now no. 30708, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was secured for Mr. Wilder by Mr. Jack Kemp, of Ferndale, and this latter gentleman states that he has shot many of the same species. District Attorney A. W. Hill of Eureka, who spent his early years on the shores of Humboldt Bay, told Mr. Wilder that he had shot many of these curlew there. He said they often came early in the fall before the ducks had appeared. In October, 1918, he saw a flock of seven at the mouth of Eel River.

Later, Mr. Wilder interviewed Mr. Frank Williams of the Russ-Williams Bank of Ferndale, who has spent much time hunting ducks and fishing for salmon along the lower Eel River. Mr. Williams stated that curlew have always been rather common though irregular visitors to that section. He said they usually occur in early fall, and commonly in small flocks; but at one time some years ago they came in great numbers, numerous flocks of 200 or more each being present.

As to subspecies, the bird sent to this Museum by Mr. Wilder falls under the name *Numenius americanus occidentalis*, the Lesser Long-billed Curlew—this on the basis of measurements in comparison with the averages and extremes given by Oberholser (Auk, xxxv, 1918, pp. 189, 193) and by Ridgway (Bds. N. and Mid. Amer., pt. viii, 1919, pp. 391, 394). The bird in question (no. 30708, Mus. Vert. Zool.) is marked "♀", but is so very small for this sex, even in *occidentalis*, that one is tempted to think it more likely a male. It measures, in millimeters: Wing 273; tail 99; exposed culmen 117; tarsus 85.

Of course one example is insufficient evidence that all the curlew visiting the Humboldt Bay region are the Lesser. Further specimens are needed. In west-central California, the larger, Eastern Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus americanus*) is the predominant race during the fall migration, as shown by the considerable number of specimens at hand.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, August 24, 1919.*

Additional Notes and Records from Colorado.—Since the publication in the Auk (xxxv, 1918, p. 236) of "Notes on Some Species New to the Colorado List of Birds", the following occurrences have been brought to light, which supplement those referred to. All specimens upon which they are based are in the collections of the Colorado Museum of Natural History.

Gavia pacifica. The Colorado record of this species is based upon an immature female (C. M. N. H. no. 7003) from the Edwin Carter collection, taken in the vicinity of Breckenridge, Colo., Nov. 15th, 1887. I am indebted to Mr. A. C. Bent of Taunton, Mass., for assistance in making the determination. In referring to the specimen, he writes, in part:—"Its measurements are rather small for this species, but not too small for a young

female; the shape of the bill, with the curving upper mandible and the angle at the gonyx, together with the broad, light edgings of the feathers on the back, are distinctive of this species". He mentions this specimen in his "North American Diving Birds".

This is the first record from Colorado for this bird.

Larus californicus. It may be well at this time to correct the records of this gull credited to Colorado from the Carter collection. The specimen upon which one of the supposed occurrences was based (C. M. N. H. no. 7132), has been re-examined, and proves to be an immature Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). It was taken near Breckenridge, Colorado, April 28, 1884. All other large gulls from this collection are either this species or the Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), and all efforts to locate any of the other supposed specimens of *L. californicus* have been unavailing. This species should be withdrawn from the state list.

Icteria virens virens. An examination of a rather extensive series of Chats from eastern Colorado has revealed two undoubted examples of the eastern variety (C. M. N. H. nos. 2908, 4711). The first, an adult male, was taken at Holly, on the Arkansas River, within a few miles of the Kansas line, on May 24, 1913. The second, also an adult male, was secured on Dry Willow Creek, Yuma County, June 20, 1915. Others in the series are apparently intergrades, referable to either *virens* or *longicauda*, and it seems not improbable that the two subspecies mingle freely in eastern Colorado and western Kansas.

This is really a restoration of a subspecies to the Colorado list, as Baird, Brewer and Ridgway mention an example of *virens* from Colorado in their "History of North American Birds", a chat having been taken by Thomas Say near the headwaters of the Arkansas River. It is presumed that this example of *Icteria* was secured by Say when he accompanied Major Long's expedition in 1823. Prof. W. W. Cooke was perfectly justified in dropping the subspecies in 1909 (Auk, xxvi, p. 420), on the records as then known, but the bird is to be reinstated on the facts here stated.

Toxostoma longirostre sennetti. Among the unusual occurrences reported from Colorado, few are of such exceptional interest as the specimen forming the record for this southern form. This bird (C. M. N. H. no. 2359) was taken at Barr, Colorado, in May, 1906. It is an adult female and was originally classified as *Toxostoma rufum* and as such passed unnoticed in the series of that species until a recent transfer of the collections. Then its characteristics and misidentification were brought to my attention.

The specimen is typical in every respect, comparing perfectly with examples from southern Texas.—F. C. LINCOLN, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, September 22, 1919.*

California Black Rail at San Bernardino, California.—On August 3 of this year R. B. Herron, one of the oldest ornithologists in California, obtained a live specimen, an adult male, of the California Black Rail (*Creciscus coturniculus*). This fact I consider worth publishing, as, so far as I am able to ascertain, it is a new record from San Bernardino and, with one exception, a record for this portion of southern California. This bird was found in a half dazed condition by a little girl, the daughter of a neighbor of Mr. Herron in this city, and the child, thinking that it was a fledgling that had fallen from the nest, took it to Mr. Herron asking if he could not feed it until it became strong enough to care for itself. Mr. Herron kept the bird, but it died within the next twenty-four hours, when he made a skin of it, which later on he gave to me. The only other record known to me for this section is of a bird taken by Prof. L. Miller at Riverside, California, some time during the month of August, 1893.

The bird obtained by Mr. Herron was in good condition except for a slight abrasion on the head. We have concluded that it flew against an electric light or telephone wire while migrating and was so stunned by the blow that it fell to the ground.—EDWARD WALL, *San Bernardino, California, August 16, 1919.*

A Second Record of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in the State of Washington.—The Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) is so scarce a bird on the Pacific coast as to make it seem advisable to publish records of all that we find. It therefore gives me pleasure to state that, when collecting on the Tacoma Flats on September 8, 1919, I was so fortunate as to secure two handsome males of this species. They were together