

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 This species should be withdrawn from the state list.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

in the herbage on the bottom of a dried up pond, from which the water had long since gone. This was about a quarter of a mile from water of any kind. A careful search in different directions failed to reveal any more birds of this species, although there was a very extensive migration of land birds as well as water birds. In the stomach of one was the assembled remains of a good sized grasshopper, carefully dismembered, and I was surprised to find that even the coarse, prickly hind legs had been eaten whole.

On the same day I walked up to within twenty feet of a flock of seven Pectoral Sandpipers (*Pisobia maculata*), an interesting bird on the Pacific coast, and watched them for ten minutes. They did not show the slightest fear, feeding up to within a few feet.

Another interesting specimen taken was an adult female Black Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*), which completed my bag of three birds for the day.—J. HOOPER BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington, September 11, 1919.*

One Reason for Eliminating Subspecies.—In the recent discussion in the CONDOR on the multiplication of subspecies no one has put forward a reason against them quite so final as that quoted by Prof. F. W. Oliver in his life of Arthur Henfrey (*Makers of British Botany*). Of this great exponent of the 'New Botany' Prof. Oliver says (p. 201): "He more than once expresses the opinion that there was too great a tendency to lump species in the handbooks to the Flora, and he urged on the occasion of the preparation of the third edition of the *London Catalogue of British Plants* that many more forms should find recognition. The editors of the catalogue however successfully opposed the suggestion on the ingenious grounds that it would raise the weight for postage beyond the limits of a blue (twopenny) stamp."—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario, September 4, 1919.*

A Tradition Nearly Broken.—The discovery was made on the fourth of July, 1919. The writer in company with B. P. Carpenter and friends was searching for oological treasure on a small rocky island of the Coronados group off the coast of Lower California.

A number of petrel nests had been unearthed, each of which contained the traditional single egg or young. But in nearly every colony of nesting birds one finds something unusual and this community proved to be no exception. An egg of the Socorro Petrel (*Oceanodroma socorroensis*) was removed from beneath the parent bird which was of unusual dimensions, measuring 1.50x1.12 inches, whereas a normal egg measures but 1.10x.85 inches. Upon blowing the specimen it proved to be fresh, and contained two yolks. Did not this bird have a set of two eggs started, and did not nature rather than have so time honored a custom broken provide but the one shell?—N. K. CARPENTER, HOOPER BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington, September 11, 1919.*

Some Southern Records of the Horned Puffin.—Judging by the take of specimens the Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) has been but a rare visitant along our coast. That this species may at certain times occur in considerable numbers appears to be evidenced by the note in the May-June CONDOR (p. 128) by Franklin J. Smith, and by the following additional records.

Mr. Wm. C. Bohrmann of San Francisco recently presented to the writer a splendid photograph of a Horned Puffin taken at Mussel Rock, March 2, 1919. The bird was found on the ocean beach still alive, but unable to fly. Quoting from a letter: "I carried this bird in my pocket for a mile or so toward the Cliff House. Had figured that some night-prowling raccoon would get him if I left him on the beach. But he looked so miserably unhappy that I finally decided to give him his small chance for life, and I let him go."

Richard Hocking has furnished material for the following note: Mrs. A. S. Allen and Richard Hocking of Berkeley went to Montara Beach on May 24, 1919, to look for some dead birds seen in the same place a week before. Here were found eight Tufted Puf-