

tected breeding grounds of this cormorant Mr. Bent mentions St. Lazaria and Forrester islands. The writer spent two summers in the vicinity of St. Lazaria Island and six summers on Forrester Island without seeing any indications of its breeding on either of them. The species was not seen at all at St. Lazaria and only once, in spring, at Forrester. There is no portion of the coast line of Forrester Island and outlying islets that was not thoroughly covered and it is certain that this bird did not breed there from 1914 to 1920. Though the writer has searched carefully for breeding colonies of this bird and has questioned many others regarding them, he has been entirely unable to locate any along the southeastern Alaskan coast and doubts their existence in this locality.

The White-crested Cormorant is a rather common winter resident in the vicinity of Craig, adult birds being noted as early as September 11 (1921) and as late as May 17 (1922). Immature birds have been seen as late as June 2 (1921) and may possibly occur throughout the summer. It is the writer's belief that these birds come from lakes in the interior and not from coastal breeding colonies.

Phalacrocorax penicillatus. Brandt Cormorant. The specimen of this cormorant taken by the writer on Forrester Island June 2, 1917, and recorded in Condor, xx, 1918, p. 85, constitutes the only record of the species for the locality and, I believe, from Alaska. This bird was almost certainly a straggler only and it would seem insufficient evidence upon which to include Forrester Island in the breeding range of the species as is done by Mr. Bent.

Craig, Alaska, November 5, 1922.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Concerning the Cassiar Junco.—I wrote a personal letter to the editor of THE CONDOR the other day which called forth the decidedly unexpected reply that I had some very good ideas which ought to go on record. The editor's remark was called forth by some comments I had made on Swarth's discovery of the breeding range of *Junco connectens*, at Telegraph Creek, B. C., as set forth in his "Birds and Mammals of the Stikine Region of Northern British Columbia and Southeastern Alaska". I took rather a personal interest in this discovery, as my home, Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the type locality of *Junco connectens*. I was living there when Messrs. Allen and Brewster collected the type specimen, of which, however, I knew nothing until years after, though I met those gentlemen there.

It so happens that much of my field work about Colorado Springs has been done in the autumn and winter months, when we have a goodly assemblage of Juncos with us: *caniceps* (the local breeding form), *mearnsi*, *aikeni*, *shufeldti*, *montanus*, *hyemalis*, and *connectens*. Of course these are not all equally abundant; some are quite rare. I may say here that I had never been quite satisfied in my own mind with the treatment accorded *connectens* by various writers. Some, if my memory serves me right, tried to explain it as a hybrid, an explanation which seems to me in many cases to be a confession of ignorance, an explanation to fall back upon if you don't know the real facts.

In my field work in this region I have yearly seen a certain number of these black-headed Juncos, with no brown on back or pink on sides. They are quite different-looking birds from *hyemalis*, which is much rarer, and they are, of course, easily distinguishable from *shufeldti* or *montanus*, the other two black-headed Juncos about here. Seeing these birds regularly, even though they were relatively rare, rather convinced me that they must belong to a distinct form and not of a hybrid nature, though

I knew well enough that this point would never be established until the breeding range was found. Swarth appears to have found this, and his remarks on the subject show decidedly that *Junco connectens*, the Cassiar Junco, as he has named it, is a valid form, a good subspecies.

This affair shows what uncertainty may be caused by the description of a species or subspecies from a specimen taken on the winter range, perhaps thousands of miles distant from the summer home. In this instance almost forty years went by before the breeding range was discovered and the validity of the form really established. This brings a question to my mind: Where do most of the individuals of *connectens* winter? Can someone tell us? I wonder if any other species or subspecies of our birds have been described from winter specimens, with the summer home remaining as yet unknown.—EDWARD R. WARREN, *Colorado Springs, Colorado, November 6, 1922.*

Note on the Sense of Smell in the Golden Eagle and Certain Other Birds.—The problem of the respective place of the senses of smell and of sight in enabling the Turkey Vulture and other carrion feeders to find food is difficult partly because of the lack of sufficient reliable data. The following testimony to the efficacy of the sense of smell is contained in a report submitted to the Biological Survey by Mr. Stanley G. Jewett, Predatory Animal Inspector, Portland, Oregon. On April 16, 1918, according to Jewett, trapper Elmer Williams (working in Okanogan County, Washington) caught a Golden Eagle in a coyote trap which he had set at the base of a small fir sapling in a grove and baited only with the "decayed fish and beaver castor" scent in use by the government trappers. In such case the trap is carefully concealed and there is no indication to any but the most practiced eye that any disturbance in the surroundings has taken place. A little scent is usually dashed on the twigs or leaves in the immediate vicinity of the trap, and the only impression received is through the sense of smell. Jewett writes that trappers in the Oregon-Washington district often catch such species as the Turkey Vulture, Raven, Western Crow, Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Magpie, and even occasionally the Crested and Gray jays (*Cyanocitta* and *Perisoreus*) in traps baited only with scent, and one case is known of the capture of a Horned Owl.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *U. S. Biological Survey, La Jolla, California, September 14, 1922.*

Additions to the List of Birds from Yellowstone Park.—

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). A pair of these birds were seen with a flock of Cassin Purple Finches. Although Bobolinks have been on the ranches all about us for years, this pair, noted May 20, 1922, is the first record inside this Park.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*). A single bird seen on August 30, 1922, with four Killdeer for companions.

White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*). A single bird seen on September 17, 1922, feeding on the border of a muddy slough. Both this bird and the Turnstone were passing through on migration.

These three bring the list of birds for the Yellowstone National Park up to 205 species.—M. P. SKINNER, *Yellowstone Park, October 7, 1922.*

A Grebe Under Water.—About 8 A. M. on October 12, when the water was unusually clear, I observed an Eared Grebe diving near our pier. The depth was about ten feet and details were easily visible. The descent was made at an angle of about 45°, changing abruptly to a course parallel to the sand when very close to it. Swimming close to the bottom continued for distances estimated at from fifty to seventy-five feet in the various dives. The course next to the bottom was very irregular, mostly zigzag, but also including some reverse turns.

Irregular movements of the head accompanied these swimming movements at the bottom. The whole combination of movements gave a very distinct impression of searching for something. The natural conclusion was that the bird was searching for sand crabs or sand worms or other bottom-dwelling animals. No count was kept of the number of dives, made in plain view, but there must have been at least five. Ap-