

Cœur d'Alene, Idaho, October 1, 1923, and another shot December 19, 1924, at Kahlotus, Franklin County, Washington. At the latter place, a dozen were seen early in October, 1924. These records are all reported by Mr. Ransom.

Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex nebulosa*). One shot near Spokane September 23, 1922, and now mounted in the museum here. Withers Brothers said: "We have only seen eight or ten in the last thirty-five years here."

Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*). A dozen or more swans seen near Pasco and Yakima in November, and several shot before hunters could be warned. Ranchers called them "Arctic Geese".

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*). We saw one May 22, 1920, at a ranch house six miles north of Spokane. I believe this is the farthest north record for Washington.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Has never heretofore been authentically reported from this state, although there are records from all around us: Oregon, British Columbia, and the Flathead and Bitterroot valleys, Montana. A few were seen near Newman Lake, Washington, fifteen miles northeast of Spokane, in 1921, by members of the Spokane Bird Club. Mr. T. A. Bonser, curator of the museum, saw a male near the town of Tiger, north of Spokane, on July 6, 1924. Mr. W. L. Breuhlman, who has an orchard ten miles east of Spokane, saw several Bobolinks in June, 1922, and heard them sing. He recalled the song instantly, as similar to those heard in Ohio many years ago.—J. L. SLOANAKER, *Spokane, Washington, January 21, 1925.*

Some Colorado and Wyoming Records of the Varied Thrush and the Rusty Blackbird.
—In THE CONDOR (xxii, 1920, p. 75) is a record of a supposed immature Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius naevius* or *I. n. meruloides*), taken November 9, 1919, near Barnum, Wyoming, by L. R. Condit. Upon reëxamination, this skin, which is in the University of Colorado Museum, proves to be a Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Dr. Bergtold, of Denver, Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, of the United States Biological Survey, and Ralph Hubbard, now of Colorado Springs, all familiar with the plumage phases of this species, have examined the skin at the Museum and agree as to its identity.

As a Wyoming record, this is almost as interesting as though it were really a Varied Thrush. The first Wyoming record of the Rusty Blackbird is by Dr. Brewer (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., xv, 1872, p. 193, etc.), submitting data obtained from Holden and Aiken. He quotes one of them (doubtless Holden, as he was the one who collected in Wyoming) thus:

"The character of the region of Sherman, which is 8,000 feet above the sea level, is dreary in the extreme. It consists of several level plateaus, interspersed with canyons and meadows. I found no birds plentiful with the exception of the Rusty Blackbird, and it was difficult to obtain more than four or five specimens in a day."

This was quoted by Knight (Birds of Wyoming, Wyo. Exper. Sta., Bull. 55, 1902, p. 160), who placed the species in his hypothetical list, apparently because of lack of other records to confirm it. A letter from Edward R. Warren, September 20, 1924, informs me that he had just discussed the subject with Mr. Aiken, who believes that Holden's specimens were Brewer Blackbirds. He suggested that the specimens taken were probably placed in the Chicago Academy of Science collection. A letter to the secretary of that institution, inquiring whether specimens from Holden were now there under either name, elicited a reply from Frank M. Woodruff, curator of the Academy, in which he says that the Holden collection, as well as all of the collections of the Academy, were destroyed in the great fire. He adds that he and Holden were great friends years ago, and that he has a faint recollection that the bird in question was doubtful. Not having access to the volume in which the specimen was recorded, letters were sent to Dr. G. M. Allen, secretary of the Boston Society, and to Dr. Oberholser, which brought the following information: The Rusty Blackbird is mentioned only in the Wyoming notes, which are from Holden, where it is stated to be common, breeding in low, marshy places, and that birds and eggs were both taken. The important item is that Holden failed to observe the Brewer Blackbird, which almost certainly must have occurred there during the nesting season. Therefore there is scarcely any doubt that the birds he obtained were the Brewer, rather than the Rusty. Upon inquiry I find that this is the conclusion reached by various ornithologists familiar with the region.

In 1913, Grave and Walker (Birds of Wyoming, Univ. Wyo., pp. 55, 105, 116, 124)

recorded the Rusty Blackbird in local lists by Rev. P. B. Peabody, A. E. Lockwood and C. H. Sawyer, respectively. Peabody's list for Weston and Crook counties says: "Birds seen only; hence record doubtful." Lockwood definitely reports one taken from a flock of Brewer Blackbirds near Casper in 1901. Sawyer's list for Hermosa, Albany County, says: "Rusty Blackbird. Female No. 36. Taken June 21, 1906. Parent of nest with four eggs near edge of marsh." As the Brewer and the Rusty both nest sometimes at the edge of the water and sometimes elsewhere, the site does not help us. However, the locality is within the regular breeding range of the Brewer and far from the range of the Rusty. He does not mention the Brewer, which almost certainly must have been present. This throws very grave doubt upon the record. If his specimen can be located it should be reexamined.

The Lockwood and Condit specimens appear to be the only ones free from doubt for that state. Whether the other birds in the flock from which the Condit specimen was taken were also Rusty Blackbirds cannot now be determined, as that species is reported to migrate with flocks of the Brewer, and possibly of red-wings also, along the western border of its migration route at the edge of the Great Plains.

In Colorado, the Rusty Blackbird is a little, but not much, better known. Smith (Auk, III, 1886, p. 284) recorded a pair taken near Denver, December 17, 1883. Osborn (Science, XXII, 1893, p. 212) reported one taken at Loveland in November, 1889. Cooke (Birds of Colorado, 1897, p. 95) characterized these as the only authentic records for the state, adding that "it has been several other times reported, but was evidently mistaken for Brewer's Blackbird." Perhaps that comment refers to Thorne's and Morrison's records. Thorne (Auk, IV, 1887, p. 264) reported the species to be common, in flocks with Brewer Blackbirds, at Old Fort Lyon, eastern Colorado. I have not access to Morrison's paper, in the Ornithologist and Oologist for 1889, page 148, as cited by Sclater (A History of the Birds of Colorado, 1912, pp. 315-316). Sclater considers Thorne's record doubtful, but cites Morrison's publication without data or comment, and adds two specimens taken by Aiken near Colorado Springs in 1908. Aiken and Warren afterwards (The Birds of El Paso County, Colorado, Colorado College Publication Science Series, XII, no. 13, part II, 1914, p. 545) declare that the Colorado Springs record is the only one from south of the Platte-Arkansas divide, thus also rejecting Thorne's record. Richards (CONDOR, XI, 1909, p. 101) took one female near Littleton. Lincoln (Auk, XXXVII, 1920, p. 70) took a female from a flock of Red-wings in the Clear Creek District, April 14, 1912.

Analysis of these reports indicates that the Rusty Blackbird is an uncommon winter resident in Colorado, but not a breeding bird. Perhaps the scarcity of records in both states is due to the fact that it is usually found in this region associated with flocks of Brewer and red-wings, and is hence easily overlooked, while the fact that there are more apparently authentic records for Colorado than for Wyoming may be merely because there has been more ornithological work done along the western border of the plains in Colorado than in Wyoming.

The re-identification of the Barnum example eliminates the Varied Thrush from the Wyoming list. The occurrence of the latter bird in Colorado stands upon a single observation near Boulder, December 5, 1909, by Norman deW. Betts (Auk, XXVII, 1910, p. 218; Univ. Colo. Studies, X, 1913, p. 222). Mr. Betts was an unusually careful, accurate, and conscientious observer, was fully alive to the danger of field identifications and the necessity of close, painstaking, detailed observations as a basis for such records, and was aware that there was then no record of the species for Colorado; so he was on guard against mistakes. He did not take the bird, but observed it for some time, with and without field glasses, in good light and at close range. He prepared during his observations an accurate description, which exactly coincided with that of an adult male Varied Thrush, the comparison being made in the evening of the same day. He was entirely certain of the determination and I see no reason to doubt it. Professor Cooke also accepted the description as a satisfactory determination, sufficient for a state record.

Regarding the protests occasionally voiced by ornithologists against admitting unique records based upon field identifications alone, it may be said that the value of such determinations depends upon a number of factors, such as the character of the species, the distinctness of its determinative characteristics, its maturity, sex, conditions under which it is observed, and the ability, experience, knowledge, conscientiousness and integrity of the observer. Some records based upon field identifications appear to be more dependable than others based upon the examination of skins showing

odd-plumage phases of difficult species. Applying these ideas, I believe Betts' record is good. I discussed it with him at the time.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, November 13, 1924.*

The California State Bird List at the End of 1924.—In 1868 the first catalog of the birds of California was published (see Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 11, 1915, p. 5), and in it were given 353 species. In 1892, a total of 445 species and subspecies had been credited to the state. In 1902, 491 were listed; in 1912, 530; in 1915, 541. In 1919, a list of additions (see Condor, XXI, p. 41) brought the total up to 564. A similar chronicle toward the end of 1921 (see Condor, XXIII, p. 195) showed that the total known avifauna of the state then comprised 576 species and subspecies. It is the purpose of the present note to summarize the situation as it was at the end of 1924, taking into account all the proposals, published and of which I am aware, of both eliminations and additions, supplementary to the previous summaries. The following are the names and citations which appear to merit inclusion in the present connection. Of course mere changes in names have no place here; only a proposed subtraction or addition of a "concept" of a species or subspecies is entered.

ELIMINATIONS

1. *Anas rubripes* Brewster. Black Duck. (See Phillips, Nat. Hist. Ducks, II, 1923, p. 72.)
2. *Nettion crecca* (Linnaeus). European Teal. (See Phillips, Nat. Hist. Ducks, II, 1923, p. 217.)
3. *Carpodacus mexicanus clementis* Mearns. San Clemente House Finch. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., I, 1923, p. 213.)
4. *Melospiza melodia phaea* Fisher. Oregon Song Sparrow. (See Swarth, Condor, XXV, 1923, p. 218.)
5. *Salpinctes obsoletus pulverius* Grinnell. San Nicolas Rock Wren. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., II, 1923, p. 683.)
6. *Chamaea fasciata rufula* Ridgway. Ruddy Wren-Tit. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., II, 1923, p. 822.)

ADDITIONS

1. *Larus leucopterus* Faber. Iceland Gull. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Auk, XXXIX, July, 1922, p. 411.)
2. *Anas diazi novimexicana* Huber. New Mexican Duck. (See Phillips, Nat. Hist. Ducks, II, 1923, p. 58.)
3. *Guara alba* (Linnaeus). White Ibis. (See Lincoln, Condor, XXV, September, 1923, p. 181.)
4. *Rallus yumanensis* Dickey. Yuma Clapper Rail. (See Dickey, Auk, XL, January, 1923, p. 90.)
5. *Pisobia aurita* [= *Pisobia acuminata* (Horsfield)]. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. (See Anthony, Auk, XXXIX, January, 1922, p. 106.)
6. *Tringa solitaria solitaria* Wilson. Eastern Solitary Sandpiper. (See Brooks, Condor, XXVI, 1924, p. 38.)
7. *Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieillot). Buff-breasted Sandpiper. (See Brooks, Condor, XXVI, 1924, p. 37.)
8. *Charadrius dubius curonicus* Gmelin. Little Ringed Plover. (See Oberholser, Auk, XXXVI, October, 1919, p. 559.)
9. *Arenaria interpres interpres* (Linnaeus) [in addition to *A. i. morinella*]. Common Turnstone. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., III, 1923, p. 1337.)
10. *Oreortyx picta confinis* Anthony. San Pedro Mountain Quail. (See Oberholser, Auk, XL, January, 1923, p. 84.)
11. *Dendragapus obscurus howardi* Dickey and van Rossem. Mount Pinos Grouse. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Condor, XXV, September, 1923, p. 168.)
12. *Accipiter cooperi mexicanus* Swainson [as separable from *A. c. cooperi*]. Mexican Cooper Hawk. (See Dawson, Birds Calif., IV, 1923, p. 1664.)
13. *Myiarchus magister magister* Ridgway. Arizona Crested Flycatcher. (See Dickey, Condor, XXIV, July, 1922, p. 134.)
14. *Otocoris alpestris enthymia* Oberholser. Saskatchewan Horned Lark. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Condor, XXVI, May, 1924, p. 110.)
15. *Molothrus ater californicus* Dickey and van Rossem. California Cowbird. (See Dickey and van Rossem, Condor, XXIV, November [December 19], 1922, p. 208.)