

was especially conspicuous, since the tail was kept spread in true Redstart fashion. Almost more diagnostic than markings was the behavior of the madcap sprite. Member of an exceedingly active family, the Redstart outdoes all the others in wild acrobatic feats, and once known is not soon forgotten. Its agility almost deceived the observers into the belief that there was more than one. But in spite of the fact that there seemed to be Redstarts all over the tree, the frayed condition of the tail soon proved all to be one and the same bird.

Willett and Grinnell record but three occurrences of this species in southern California. To my knowledge, at least one other has since been published in the CONDOR, by Miss Potter and Mrs. Ellis.—MARY MANN MILLER, *Los Angeles, California, January 6, 1926.*

Wood Ibis in the Yellowstone National Park.—On July 16, 1925, Mr. Elmer Harrold of Leetonia, Ohio, saw one of these birds (*Mycteria americana*) wading and feeding in a small marsh near the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone in northwestern Wyoming. This bird was not timid, but permitted the observer to approach near and watch its methods of slowly wading about, agitating the water with one foot at a time, and occasionally swallowing some morsel seemingly disclosed by the stirring. This was reported to Park Naturalist Edmund J. Sawyer, and by him to the writer; neither one of us had ever before seen the species in Yellowstone National Park. Neither Wilbur C. Knight in his "The Birds of Wyoming", 1902, nor B. H. Grave and Ernest P. Walker in their "Wyoming Birds", 1913, record this species in Wyoming. But Aretas A. Saunders gives two records in Montana (A Distributional List of the Birds of Montana, 1921), while W. Vincent Evans records it as "extremely rare" (Birds of Park and Sweetgrass Counties, Montana). Messrs. Harrold and Sawyer are to be congratulated on a new distributional record for this species.—M. P. SKINNER, *Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York, January 2, 1926.*

A Third Rusty Blackbird to Be Recorded in California.—On Saturday afternoon, November 14, 1925, while at Monte Vista Ranch, Jamacha, San Diego County, California, I saw a bird that I did not recognize, in a piece of low, semi-marsh land covered with short grass and weeds such as grow in alkaline marshes. When flushed, the bird flew about twenty-five feet and alighted in a bare willow. I returned to my car about a mile away and, coming back with my gun, found the bird had disappeared; later, however, I located it crouched beneath a dead bush about two feet in height, close to the spot where it was first flushed. During the entire time it was in sight it was extremely tame, and rather sluggish in all its actions. I collected it and, upon taking it to the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, I found that it was a Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), the third capture, according to the records, in the State of California. L. M. Huey of the Museum staff, who prepared the specimen, states that it was an adult female, weight 55.5 grams, and that the crop and stomach were empty. It is now no. 10163 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History.—JOSEPH W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego, California, November 16, 1925.*

Bird Notes from Wheatland, Wyoming.—On May 23 and 24, 1925, I had the pleasure of a trip to the mountainous country at the southwest base of Laramie Peak, and again on October 3 and 4, 1925. While there I observed for a brief time the birds of that region. Most of my time was spent in studying the Dusky Grouse, but I never missed an opportunity of observing any other species that I might come across in my wanderings. The country visited lies at about 8,000 feet altitude and it is traversed by many small streams bordered with aspen, willow, and pine.

Dusky Grouse. *Dendragapus obscurus obscurus.* This is probably the most common bird of the entire region. During the spring trip it was most easily approached in the early morning and the males drummed frequently from the rocky open timbered ridges. Later in the day the birds were flushed from the thick groves of aspen and pine, and droppings found on these feeding grounds indicated brooding birds. It was not until we were about ready to leave for home that we discovered a nest of eight eggs under the corner of a projecting rock on a sparsely timbered pine ridge that was

interspersed with sage-brush. The nest was a rounded depression in the ground lined with but a little grass and a few grouse feathers. It was eight inches across and three inches deep, and so placed under the rock that the bird could leave easily from three sides and was guarded from the rear by the rock itself. The eggs were typical of this species and were much incubated. I doubt if this can be taken as the usual condition of incubation at this time, but the season was very much advanced for this country. The female was so slow in flushing that I was able to touch her as she left the nest. During the spring season the birds were found feeding chiefly on pine needles, supplemented with other vegetable growth from among the aspen copses. No young birds were noted at this date. Old birds on being flushed almost invariably flew into a nearby tree and sat stupidly watching me until I was out of sight. In the autumn this grouse was still fairly common about its spring haunts, but was found most commonly in large flocks high up on the timbered ridges. During the fall it appeared to be feeding on pine needles largely, supplemented with partridge berries. The birds were not at all shy and I secured a fine specimen by knocking it out of a tree with a rock. The crop of a bird killed the preceding fall was literally packed with pine needles nipped off in very equal lengths of three-fourths of an inch each. It is my belief that these birds would soon become exterminated if we did not have long closed seasons, for it would be possible to shoot entire families, owing to their extreme fearlessness.

Western Mourning Dove. *Zenaidura macroura marginella*. Fairly common in the entire region but found chiefly on the more open ridges. They were just beginning to nest at this altitude, while many were nesting in and about Wheatland by May 15. None was seen during the fall trip.

Golden Eagle. *Aquila chrysaetos*. One was noted on the morning of the second day of the spring trip. I was up at sunrise, and having climbed to the top of a nearby ridge was listening to the bird notes and songs, when suddenly I was aware of a "zooming" sound. Glancing up I saw an object dropping like a plummet from the sky, to finally alight upon a cliff about a half mile distant. On closer investigation I found it to be a fine Golden Eagle. This is the first time I have ever noted such a performance by one of these birds.

Pale Horned Owl. *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*. This bird was not noted on the spring trip, but one was seen at camp in the early morning of the first day of the autumn trip.

Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker. *Dryobates villosus monticola*. Two pairs were noted during the spring trip and a single individual was seen in the fall. All were among the small aspens of the water courses.

Williamson Sapsucker. *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*. During the spring trip one pair was noted on an old stub due west of the peak, in a rather well-timbered and mixed-timbered section. Evidently they were going to nest, as they entered several old holes in the stub, and the male seemed very solicitous.

Lewis Woodpecker. *Asyndesmus lewisi*. This is the most common woodpecker of the region in the spring. Some dozen pairs were seen in all types of country. Very evidently they were not nesting at this date and none was noted in the fall.

Red-shafted Flicker. *Colaptes cafer collaris*. A few pairs were seen in the spring, but although they should have been nesting, no nests were found. Individuals were seen in all parts of the country in October.

Poor-will. *Phalaenoptilus nuttalli nuttalli*. Although none of these birds was actually seen, during the fore parts of the nights of the spring trip they called continuously from the tops of the rocky ridges that had some down timber on them. They seem to prefer rather open ridges and I have known them to keep up their eerie calls continuously through a clear night.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird. *Selasphorus platycercus*. During the spring trip, Broad-tails were seen quite commonly along the water courses where there was plenty of willow growth, and where there were steep hillsides nearby more or less covered with pine. This must have been in or near their nesting areas, as the males were executing their courting flights. They would rise to a height of 150 to 200 feet, and descend vertically almost to the ground in an astonishingly rapid flight, producing a peculiar twittering sound, but how produced I could not say. I noted one bird while flying in large undulations producing the sound continuously. Often the sound produced reminded me of a light stick being applied to the spokes of a rapidly moving

buggy wheel. They were seen to perch frequently on a prominent dead twig of a pine and from this chosen perch the bird would leave to perform his aerial flight. None was noted on the autumn trip.

Magpie. *Pica pica hudsonia*. None was noted on the spring trip, but several were seen during the autumn where hill and plain country come together. They are birds that are chiefly seen along lightly wooded streams of the plains country.

Clark Nutcracker. *Nucifraga columbiana*. Common, both fall and spring, but no nests were found. It was evident that the birds were nesting on the west side of Laramie Peak, as they were noted feeding in the creek bottoms and flying to and from the big timber at all times of the day. Judging by their actions, young were in the nests. In the fall these birds were leisurely feeding in the tops of the pines. They are never easy to approach closely, seemingly shy of man; but they are always pleasing to encounter, active and business-like of manner, and very cheerily calling to one another. Only once have I witnessed one of their wonderful plunge flights. While hunting deer in October, 1923, on the east side of Laramie Peak, one of these birds came over the top of the peak, and while yet a thousand feet or more above the valley floor, nose-dived almost to the ground, when he turned upward to check his speed, causing a plainly audible roar of wings. I should consider this the second commonest bird of the region, running a close second to the Dusky Grouse.

Pinyon Jay. *Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*. A few stragglers were noted along some of the more open ridges during the spring trip. None was seen in the autumn.

Thick-billed Redwing. *Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*. In the spring a few pairs were observed along the water courses where meadows were adjacent.

Western Meadowlark. *Sturnella neglecta*. Scattering pairs were noted both spring and fall in the meadows that were large enough to offer shelter to the birds.

White-crowned Sparrow. *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*. This is a fairly common species along the water courses, and in May the birds were in full song. One beautiful scene that I shall long remember met my view as I was standing on the bank of a large beaver pond on Bear Creek just at sundown. The shadow of the mountain had struck across the pond. From its quiet depths a trout rose occasionally, not thirty feet from me five beaver were playing about as though I did not exist, and in the tops of the adjoining willows the White-crowns were singing their melodious vespers.

Mountain Song Sparrow. *Melospiza melodia montana*. I noted one pair in the spring and several individuals in the autumn, at this time generally distributed but always near water.

Western Tanager. *Piranga ludoviciana*. One beautiful male was seen among the tops of the aspens, where it was feeding on the opening buds.

Western Warbling Vireo. *Vireosylva gilva swainsoni*. A common species of the aspen copses. I do not believe they could have been long returned from the south. None was seen in the autumn.

Audubon Warbler. *Dendroica auduboni auduboni*. In the spring this species was seen occasionally in pine timber. The birds seemed to be feeding about the new growth of needles at the tips of the branches.

Rock Wren. *Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*. Quite commonly found on the rocky ridges, where they sang at all hours of the day but especially in the morning and evening. None was seen in the fall.

Mountain Chickadee. *Penthestes gambeli gambeli*. A few of these nomads of the forest were seen in the groups of aspens both spring and autumn, always busily engaged in hunting insects. They have many characteristics in common with their cousins, the Long-tailed and Black-capped chickadees.

Townsend Solitaire. *Myadestes townsendi*. Only one pair was noted in the spring, on a high openly timbered ridge. They were seen commonly in all sections in the fall, at which time their actions reminded me of the bluebird, as did also their weak twittering call. They occasionally struck into a strong, full song.

Western Robin. *Planesticus migratorius propinquus*. This I believe to be the third most common species of the region both spring and fall. They were in full song in the spring, and the high altitude and extreme solitude of this mountain fastness added a peculiar beauty to the song to make it remembered above all robin songs I have ever heard. Only one bird of this region had a finer, more varied, richer song, a thrush the species of which I was unable to determine. The robins sang occasionally during nights which were bright and clear. Three nests were found, one six feet from the ground in the crotch of a small aspen in a dense aspen grove, another in a small

pocket about one-third of the way up a fifty-foot cliff, and yet another on the horizontal branch of a pine, thirty feet from the ground. During the fall these birds were found feeding in all sections of the country and they were quiet except for their short calls on taking flight.

A few other species were noted, but not definitely in regard to the subspecies to which they belonged. Among these were a Pink-sided Junco, a Black-headed or Long-crested Jay, and an Olive-backed Thrush.—JAMES A. NEILSON, *Wheatland, Wyoming, December 7, 1925.*

Two Unrecorded Occurrences of the Richardson Pigeon Hawk in California.—In connection with certain work in progress at the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, it became necessary to study critically the pigeon hawks in the Museum collection, with the object of identifying specimens that were being placed on public display. The presence in the Museum collection of two specimens of *Falco columbarius richardsonii* not before recorded seems worthy of note, as this bird has to date but four authentic records from California. The birds are no. 358, collection of the Natural History Museum, female, Riverside, California, January 31, 1878, collected by Frank Stephens, and no. 360, collection of the Natural History Museum, female, San Diego, California, January 10, 1900, collector unknown, but from the collection of Frank X. Holzner, now deceased, who, at that time, was a local taxidermist. Both skins were sent to Dr. Joseph Grinnell for verification of the identification, and he in turn handed them to Harry S. Swarth, who confirmed the former findings. A specimen recorded as *Falco columbarius richardsonii* by Henry Grey (*Condor*, XXVII, January, 1925, p. 37), taken "about the end of September, 1915", and "now in the Museum in Balboa Park", is a mounted bird that was originally identified by Frank Stephens. Mr. Stephens is now convinced that this specimen is the commoner form, *Falco columbarius columbarius*, and not *Falco columbarius richardsonii*.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, December 4, 1925.*

Man-o'-war-bird in Ventura County, California.—On July 29, 1925, in company with Messrs. Parmenter, Varick and Nichols, I watched a Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata minor palmerstoni*) fly along the beach between Ventura and Hueneme. Previous records for this region are one shot at Hueneme in 1915, and one seen by W. L. Dawson near Santa Barbara on August 12, 1912, and another (or the same bird) seen by Messrs. Dawson and Torrey on August 24, 1912.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, November 14, 1925.*

Occurrence of the Roseate Spoonbill in the Colorado Delta.—While passing through Ensenada recently, I stopped in at El Museo Regional there. Sr. David Goldbaum, the curator, pointed out to me, among other things of interest, a mounted specimen of the Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaja ajaja*). This bird, he told me, had been presented by Mr. E. W. Funcke.

In due time I got in touch, through correspondence, with Mr. Funcke, who is now a resident of Tia Juana, California. He writes me under date December 31, 1925, that the bird I saw was killed by him about 24 miles south of Mexicali, on Volcano Lake. There were five of the birds together, two of which were killed. This was "about 12 years ago".

Mr. Funcke says further that although scarce, a few of these birds may be found occasionally, at Volcano Lake or on the small lagoons near the Hardy River. He recalls seeing not over 12 or 15 in the four or five years that he hunted there.

This information as to the presence of the Roseate Spoonbill on the Lower California side of the Colorado River delta supplements that given, to the same purport, by Mr. Griffing Bancroft (*Condor*, XXIV, 1922, p. 98).—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 7, 1926.*