

Having secured the notes on fox ranching and other data which we desired, I decided to push back to Chitina as rapidly as possible. We left Chistochina December 20, and mushed the thirty-six miles to Gokona. The woods were beautiful with new-fallen snow, there was not a sound to be heard and not a bird was seen. In fact, in the last two days we had covered sixty-six miles on foot, without having seen a bird or mammal. Our return to Chitina was of no especial interest, as we followed the Fairbanks trail back from Gulkana.

The ornithological notes of our trip are chiefly important because of the lack of species and individuals noted. We covered about 160 miles of trail each way, mostly on foot, and kept a careful watch at all times for birds. Ptarmigan and grouse tracks were seen occasionally, but the birds were so scarce that the natives did not hunt them. When talking to men along the trail, the sight of a ptarmigan or grouse a month previously was thought of enough interest to tell.

The following notes were made between December 7 and 27, 1919, in the Copper River Valley.

Alaska Three-toed Woodpecker. *Picoides americanus fasciatus*. Woodpeckers were rare, especially when it is remembered that the entire trip was made through a wooded region. The fact that a great part of the flats was burned over might be one cause for their scarcity. Only three woodpeckers were seen and one of these collected. The specimen secured was an adult male taken December 24 at Kenny Lake. It was in a burned-over tract of cottonwood.

American Magpie. *Pica pica hudsonia*. Restricted to the vicinity of the villages; quite common at Chitina. One was seen at Tonsina, and two at the Batzunita Indian village, at the end of our outbound journey. I collected an adult female at Tonsina December 25 which had half of the upper mandible missing.

Alaska Jay. *Perisoreus canadensis fumifrons*. The commonest birds noted. They frequent the whole region visited and are usually to be found about the trading posts, where they secure an easy living.

Northern Raven. *Corvus corax principalis*. Only two seen on the trip, one the first day out as it sailed high over the mountains, circling buzzard-like among the clouds, the other at Gulkana. This one followed us for miles and when we thought we had lost it we would suddenly hear the raucous croak and he would then sail ahead and alight.

Alaska Pine Grosbeak. *Pinicola enucleator alascensis*. Very scarce, five specimens only being seen and all of them between Tonsina and Chitina. An adult female was collected December 26 near Chitina.

White-winged Crossbill. *Loxia leucoptera*. Abundant throughout the wooded portion of the first eighty miles. Not seen in the very favorable places around the Chistochina and the Salina rivers. The birds fed in large flocks; they were wild, and as they remained in the highest trees they were difficult to collect.

Hoary Redpoll. *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*. Common Redpoll. *Acanthis linaria linaria*. Redpolls were abundant for the first fifteen miles from Chitina, being seen on both the out and the return trip. A flock of fifty or more was seen at Chistochina on December 14. Both species occurred in the same flock, although the Hoary Redpoll was in the minority. They were very wild, flying away at the slightest noise; but if I remained stationary, they would approach within a few feet so that I could determine the species. Specimens of both species were collected.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, November 17, 1924.*

American Egrets near Benicia.—On November 16, 1925, while driving between Benicia and Cordelia, California, along the paved highway skirting the Suisun marshes, I observed twelve American Egrets (*Casmerodius egretta*) standing in shallow water some fifty yards from the highway. These large white birds, approaching the size of the Great Blue Heron, were a beautiful sight and identification was unquestionable. Since that date and until the present writing I have seen individual birds at different points in the marsh, but this is my first observation of as many as a dozen together.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, February 14, 1926.*

Least Flycatcher in Kansas in Summer.—On July 28, 1921, I collected a Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) in a ten-acre grove of trees on the Mendenhall ranch which is five and one-half miles southeast of Gove, Gove County, Kansas. The skin,

which is now in the collection of the University of Kansas Museum, was identified by Dr. A. Wetmore. Several other individuals of this species, which has been recorded as a transient in all the published lists of the birds of the state, were seen between July 28 and August 2 in the grove in which this specimen was taken. The presence of this species at this location and at this time of year indicates that the Least Flycatcher may be found nesting in western Kansas.—JEAN LINSDALE, *Berkeley, California, April 28, 1926.*

Moving the Nest of the Killdeer.—Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) are quite common on our ranch near Buena Park, California, and have been the basis of some very interesting observations. The birds seem to know that every possible means will be used to protect their nests during the breeding season.

On June 19, 1925, a nest with four fresh eggs was found in the orange grove while the latter was being ridged preparatory to irrigation. It was, therefore, necessary to move the nest or see it destroyed. A mound of earth a foot high was scooped up by hand, a hollow made on the top, the pebbles and sticks of the original nest were placed in the hollow and then the eggs were lifted and placed in the new location in the same position as in the old nest. The parent hovered near during the time the nest was being changed, going through all the broken-wing performances it could invent. Immediately upon my withdrawal the bird returned to the eggs, investigated, and seemed satisfied.

On the following day the grove was irrigated. The parent sat on the nest, except when disturbed. On June 26, when the grove was cultivated, the bird was still sitting upon the mound and continued to do so until July 1, when it made a new nest at the foot of the mound and trailed the eggs down the side into the new nest. The trail was one-quarter inch deep and on an easy slope. On July 19, three of the eggs were hatched and we were able to capture one of the young and give it band no. 330661.

This is the third year that we have successfully moved a nest of this species. Late in May, 1924, a nest was moved six feet to the foot of a young orange tree. These eggs were slightly incubated. The nest was placed upon an eight inch elevation in its new location and all four eggs were hatched.

While plowing a field early in June, 1923, a nest of four eggs was found directly in the path of the plow. With the aid of a shovel the nest was moved out of the way each time the plow came around, thus allowing the parent to return between times and see that all was well. In this way the nest was finally moved to the foot of a young tree ten feet away. In this case, also, the parent continued to sit upon the eggs until they hatched.

From these observations it would seem that the Killdeer is not easily disturbed when nesting.—JAMES A. CALDER, *Buena Park, California, October 30, 1925.*

A New Race of Acorn-storing Woodpecker, from Lower California.—The collections of birds accumulating in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from the San Pedro Martir "section" of the Lower California peninsula are bringing to light quite a number of undescribed and satisfactorily distinguishable subspecies. It is now in order to diagnose a well-marked new member of the series of Acorn-storing Woodpeckers (Genus *Balanosphyra*). This we do, as follows:

Balanosphyra formicivora martirensis, new subspecies

San Pedro Martir Acorn-storing Woodpecker

Type.—Female; no. 46252, Mus. Vert. Zool.; La Jolla ("La Joya"), 6200 feet altitude, Sierra San Pedro Martir, Lower California, Mexico; October 16, 1925; collected by Chester C. Lamb; original no. 5066.

Distinguishing characters.—Most nearly like *B. f. bairdi*. Distinguished from that subspecies primarily by shorter wing, and by slightly shorter and notably weaker, more slender bill; also by average differences in head markings as set forth below and in fig. 50.

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS (AVERAGE, MINIMUM, MAXIMUM)

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
<i>Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi</i>			
10 males from west-central California.....	142.0 (138.0-148.0)	78.7 (70.5-85.0)	28.7 (27.0-30.5)
<i>Balanosphyra formicivora martirensis</i>			
5 males	138.2 (132.0-144.0)	78.5 (72.0-82.0)	27.8 (25.5-29.0)
5 females	141.1 (135.0-145.0)	81.6 (78.0-84.0)	26.8 (25.0-28.0)