

FURTHER NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE BABOQUÍVARI MOUNTAINS, ARIZONA

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Mr. Stephen C. Bruner's "Notes on the Birds of the Baboquívari Mountains, Arizona" (Condor, 28, 1926, pp. 231-238) is the only ornithological paper of note on this short desert range. The present offering consists mainly of additions to that list.

The Baboquívari Mountains lie in southern Pima County, extending from near the Mexican border north for about thirty miles. Like Mr. Bruner, I stayed at Fresnal Ranch in the northern part of the range. This ranch is about 4000 feet above sea level. Baboquívari Peak, the highest mountain in the chain, is a nearly barren mass of precipitous rock jutting up from a low ridge several miles southwest of the ranch. The second greatest altitude is attained by Fresnal "Hill," which adjoins Baboquívari Peak on the north; well forested above, it reaches an elevation of roughly 7000 feet.

My observations were almost entirely limited to the lower parts of the northern fifth of the range, and most of the birds were seen near the ranch in Otero Canyon. This canyon and its tributaries are well forested along the water-courses of their northern slopes. The commonest trees are mesquite, live oak, juniper, and pinyon. There was plenty of water in the mountains throughout my stay.

My work, which was greatly facilitated by Mr. Bryan Peters, owner of Fresnal Ranch, was done mainly between December 20, 1931, and June 3, 1932, though a few records were obtained as early as October 1, 1931. No birds were collected. The preparation of these notes was made possible through the extreme kindness of Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey.

All the birds listed by Mr. Bruner were again found except six: California Brown Pelican, Wilson Phalarope, Whitney Elf Owl, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Long-tailed Chat, and Painted Redstart.

Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos. Common Mallard. A drake was flushed from the reservoir west of the divide on December 30, 1931.

Anas diazi novimexicana. New Mexican Duck. A pair was seen at a represo (an earth-dammed pond or "tank") in Altar Valley, five miles east of the ranch, on October 18. A pair was also reported there on December 20. Ducks are fairly common in the fall, according to the ranchers.

Accipiter velox velox. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Fairly common from October 4 until April.

Accipiter cooperii. Cooper Hawk. A fairly common resident. Two nests were found and destroyed.

Circus hudsonius. Marsh Hawk. A fairly common winter resident, more frequently seen in Altar Valley and about the foothills than in the canyon. Noted from October 18 (foothills) to April 3 (Altar Valley) and April 15 (Otero Canyon).

Callipepla squamata pallida. Arizona Scaled Quail. A pair was seen on June 1 in the corrals a mile and three-fourths below the ranch. The next day one was noted in Altar Valley three miles east of the ranch.

Fulica americana americana. American Coot. A single bird was seen in a puddle by the roadside, some twenty miles northeast of the ranch, on October 1.

Oxyechus vociferus vociferus. Killdeer. A fairly common resident at the reservoir to the west. A nest found there on May 8 contained one egg and three newly hatched young. One bird was seen on March 27 at a represo two miles north, and one on May 27 at a running stream less than a hundred yards from there. Two were noted on April 3 at a represo in Altar Valley seven miles east of the ranch.

Capella delicata. Wilson Snipe. Single birds were flushed from damp ground just up Fresnal Canyon from the reservoir on December 28 and March 6. Another was flushed from a dry hillside five miles south-southeast of the ranch on January 10.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. One was seen at the reservoir on May 8.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater Yellow-legs. One was studied at the reservoir on March 6.

Pisobia minutilla. Least Sandpiper. Apparently a fairly common winter resident at the reservoir. Several were seen there from November 1 to March 6.

Columba fasciata fasciata. Band-tailed Pigeon. A single bird was seen among the oaks up a side canyon on January 7.

Melopelia asiatica mearnsi. Western White-winged Dove. A lone individual, noted on six occasions between January 1 and March 4, was seen daily after March 18, but was not joined by others until April 22.

Tyto alba pratincola. Barn Owl. A freshly killed bird was examined on April 3 in Altar Valley at a ranch some seven miles east of Fresnal Ranch.

Otus asio subsp.? Screech Owl. On December 13, between the ranch house and the corrals, a ring of excited small birds attracted me to a Screech Owl roosting in a small hackberry tree. It matched the gray color of the bark to perfection. Another was flushed several times on April 30, up a side canyon.

Asio flammeus flammeus. Short-eared Owl. A party of riders, when almost six miles east of the ranch on March 6, flushed an owl from the ground. It flew low over their heads and alighted a short distance farther on. Their descriptions clearly indicated this species.

Chaetura vauxi. Vaux Swift. A single individual was seen with Cliff Swallows near the corrals on April 26.

Selasphorus platycercus platycercus. Broad-tailed Hummingbird. A male was seen a mile and a fourth up the canyon on April 2.

Balanosphyra formicivora aculeata. Mearns Woodpecker. One or possibly two individuals were seen a mile and three-fourths southwest of the ranch on May 28 and 31, and June 1. They frequented the live oaks in a canyon bottom.

Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens. Ash-throated Flycatcher. A single, silent Ash-throat was noted on January 1 and February 8. Small Empidonaces were also seen on December 1 and 20, January 28, February 20, and March 3 and 4.

Myiochanes richardsonii richardsonii. Western Wood Pewee. A rather rare migrant, but noted regularly from May 3 to June 1.

Petrochelidon albifrons subsp.? Cliff Swallow. A few were noted on April 26, 27, and 28.

Troglodytes aëdon parkmanii. Western House Wren. An uncommon transient. Fall dates were October 10 and 23. One was noted four miles northwest on March 12. They were seen near the ranch on March 17, 18, and 26, April 7, and May 14. No more than one was ever seen in a day.

Sialia mexicana bairdi. Chestnut-backed Bluebird. An abundant winter resident from December to March 16. After mid-February found mainly near the crests of the ridges.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. An irregular winter wanderer. One was accurately described to me on December 1. Many were seen five miles south of the ranch on January 10. Others were noted on January 24 and February 17.

Anthus spinoletta rubescens. American Pipit. Six pipits were seen on March 6, three and a half miles west of the ranch, feeding on the shores of the reservoir.

Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps. Bohemian Waxwing. Two stragglers reached the Baboquivaris in the winter's invasion. From February 10 to 12 they stayed about the corrals, where they often perched in a group of sycamores. They fed in nearby hackberry trees and once offered each other berries. After two refusals, the third was accepted. The birds associated with robins. On February 13 the waxwings vanished, and for the next two days storms prevented all observation. February 16 was a day of contrasts, with pinks blossoming two hundred feet from the snow. A short search was no sooner abandoned than the now familiar call was drawled from the hackberry tree directly ahead, and not ten feet away sat the two. And close by was a beautiful Black-throated Gray! This was a fourth of a mile up the canyon; the waxwings

were again seen there the next day. They disappeared during the storm of February 18 to 20, but were found a hundred yards above the corrals on the 25th.

Though Cedar Waxwings were present during the period, no direct comparison was obtained until February 27, when two were seen sitting less than a foot from the two Bohemian Waxwings, directly behind and slightly above them. The birds were studied at close range through binoculars and the various differences noted at leisure. The Bohemians were last seen in one of the ranch mesquite trees at 7:00 a. m. on March 10. Thus, eight records were obtained between February 10 and March 10.

Vireo huttoni stephensi. Stephens Vireo. Occasional during migration and in winter. Single birds were seen on October 14, December 20 and 27, February 20, and March 16.

Vermivora celata lutescens. Lutescent Warbler. Warblers of apparently this subspecies were seen on October 30 and December 20.

Dendroica coronata. Myrtle Warbler. Five birds were seen in the canyon on March 1, and four more three-fourths of a mile south on March 26.

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Occasional in winter. Males in full plumage were noted on December 20 and February 16, 23, and 27. A female seen on March 8 may well have been a migrant.

Sturnella sp.? Meadowlark. Common from October 18 to April 3. Seen mostly in Altar Valley.

Agelaius phoeniceus sonoriensis. Sonora Red-wing. A flock of thirty was seen on April 3, some seven miles east of the ranch in Altar Valley. The birds were feeding with Dwarf Cowbirds in some fields near a resero.

Pyrhuloxia sinuata sinuata. Arizona Pyrrhuloxia. Common in the canyon in winter, but quite shy, and more so in the spring. Noted from October 21 to April 7, coming in numbers to feed in the corrals when the horses left in the evening. A female was seen on April 15, a male on May 2 and 3, and two males on May 12 and 22, all near the northernmost ranch building. They probably bred in nearby thorny thickets.

Passerina amoena. Lazuli Bunting. Two birds were seen on December 29, nearly two miles southwest of the divide in a low valley tenanted by a Papago rancher. They attracted my attention by their finch-like notes as they sat in a low bush.

Hesperiphona vespertina subsp.? Evening Grosbeak. A lone male appeared on October 12 in a ranch mesquite tree with Cedar Waxwings.

Spinus tristis pallidus. Pale Goldfinch. A male was seen on May 15 a mile and three-fourths to the east.

Pipilo maculatus montanus. Spurred Towhee. Common from December to March 18, with two birds lingering until April 2. The last records were all obtained in a large brush patch a mile and a fourth up the canyon.

Poocetes gramineus confinis. Western Vesper Sparrow. A common winter resident, mainly in Altar Valley, where the first were seen on October 18.

Junco oreganus shufeldti. Shufeldt Junco. The common junco of the lower regions, but found up to 4300 feet. Noted from October 30 to March 16 and April 1.

Junco mearnsi. Pink-sided Junco. Found from the crests of the ridges to the canyon bottoms, but commonest in the live oak belt. Here the last were seen on March 16 and April 9.

Melospiza melodia subsp.? Song Sparrow. Noted in the live oak belt on February 16 and 20, and April 2 and 9.

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