

*ic-ic towée, towée* (often *two-lée, two-lée*—more musical), *ic-ic, téw, ic-ic towée, towée . . .*” These songs, with minor variations, were given throughout the season.

As the days lengthened, the bluebirds began their morning singing at earlier hours, about two and one-half hours before sunrise, always well before daylight. At the time of the summer solstice, on the night of June 21-22, I remained awake until the first song was given, at 3:29 a. m., Mountain Standard Time. (As Fortine is less than 50 miles from the western border of the Mountain time zone, the corrected local time would be much earlier.) Generally the Western Bluebird was the second species to begin singing, being preceded only by the Tree Swallow, and being followed closely by the Mountain Bluebird. Singing usually continued for thirty to sixty minutes, but shorter series of song were sometimes given as late as 7 a. m. Frequently, but not regularly, the birds sang spasmodically during the twilight hours of evening. Singing ceased about July 15, soon after the second broods of young had hatched.

The singing of these birds resembled the usual song of the Western Robin even more closely than does the song of the Mountain Bluebird as observed in this locality. In the darkness I often found it difficult to tell whether a song was given by a Western Bluebird a few hundred feet away or by a Western Robin at a greater distance. To me the Western Bluebird's singing, from a musical standpoint, is less enjoyable than that of its quieter relative, the song of the Mountain Bluebird being softer, more subdued, and more pleasingly modulated.

During the early part of the season, in April, while the Western Bluebirds were pairing and selecting houses, the males during the day frequently gave a double note that was not heard later in the season. This was a musical *pa-wée*, much resembling a goldfinch's call. This was also coupled with the common call note to form a series of phrases which perhaps constituted a “mating song”: *Pa-wée, few few. Few few fa-wée. Fa-wée. Few few fa-wée. Pa-wée. Pa-wée, few, few . . .* Another phrase sometimes given at this season I noted as *etherick tée*, the first double note resembling a common phrase of the Western Robin's song.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana, September 4, 1934.*

**Another Cross-billed Blackbird.**—In reading the Condor (35, 1933, p. 234) the note “A Cross-billed Blackbird”, by E. A. Stoner, reminded me of a like experience which I had here at Florence Lake.

On September 26, 1926, I trapped a female Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) with crossed mandibles. It did not occur to me to sketch this deformity, but if I remember correctly the lower mandible was bent slightly to the left, the upper more sharply to the right. I do not recall a bluntness of either mandible or that there was any bump such as Mr. Stoner found on the upper mandible of the blackbird he sketched. In other words there was no abnormal feature other than the peculiar crossing of the bill.

So far as I could see, the bird was healthy and in good condition. After placing band number 258272, I released her. Shortly after this our Brewer Blackbirds migrated and though I watched especially for the cross-bill, the next and succeeding seasons, to my knowledge she never returned.—LILA M. LOFBERG, *Florence Lake, Big Creek, California, April 23, 1934.*

**The New Mexico Race of Plain Titmouse.**—Major Allan Brooks has placed at my disposal eight specimens of Plain Titmouse collected by himself in the vicinity of Silver City, New Mexico. These form the prime basis of the description now offered, of a new subspecies the existence of which has long been suspected by both Major Brooks and myself. The bird I select as type has been presented by him to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

*Baeolophus inornatus plumbescens*, new subspecies. Lead-colored Plain Titmouse.

*Type.*—Male, no. 65010, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico; March 29, 1933; collected by Allan Brooks, orig. no. 7373.

*Diagnosis.*—As compared with *Baeolophus inornatus griseus*, from the eastern part of the Great Basin region, north of the Colorado River: similar in general fea-

tures, but bill smaller, especially shorter; tail shorter; coloration darker, more leaden hued, this tone most pronounced dorsally but pervading the lower parts also. Color of back, close to Deep Mouse Gray (of Ridgway, 1912, pl. LI).

*Measurements.*—Of type: Wing, 72.4 mm.; tail, 58.5; tarsus, 21.0; hind toe with claw, 13.7; culmen, 11.4; bill from nostril, 10.0; depth of bill at base, 5.4.

*Geographic Range.*—New Mexico (at least southwestern) and parts of Arizona south of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers. Localities of the seventeen specimens examined, additional to typical series: Stanley, Graham Co., Ariz., collected by Alden H. Miller; Deadman Flat (6400 ft.), northeast base of San Francisco Mountain, Coconino Co., Ariz., collected by Harry S. Swarth. These latter specimens differ slightly in color tone from the Silver City series, but they are fall-collected and state of plumage may have something to do with this difference.

*Remarks.*—The racial features of "gray" titmouses from the Great Basin proper are being worked out by Dr. Jean M. Linsdale. The results of his studies will likely shed light upon the general relationships of the form now named.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 16, 1934.*

**The Black-chinned Hummingbird in Oregon.**—While collecting in the Warner Valley region of Lake County, Oregon, I obtained a female Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) in the MC ranch orchard near Adel post office, June 7, 1925. This specimen (orig. no. 1159) later passed into the hands of the late Donald R. Dickey. There appears to be no previous authentic record of this species from Oregon.—ALEX. WALKER, *Tillamook, Oregon, March 25, 1934.*

**Winter Occurrences of Saw-whet Owl and Nuttall Woodpecker in Desert Areas.**—Two unusual instances of winter distribution recently have come to my attention which involve departures of species from their customary zonal and associational surroundings.

Through Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., a mummified Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*) was submitted to me for identification. This bird was found by Miss Frances Carter at Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino County, California, January 29, 1934. It had been dead probably for several weeks when it arrived in Berkeley, February 5. The plumage of the dorsal surface and wings was in good condition. It is now preserved as a partial skin and complete skeleton (no. 63664, Mus. Vert. Zool.).

Hardly less surprising than the original known occurrence of this owl in the Colorado Desert (L. Miller, *Condor*, 34, 1932, p. 258) is this second record. It leads one to suspect that the species is not adverse to moving in winter from its breeding grounds in coniferous forests to the open desert. In Montana (Saunders, *Pacific Coast Avifauna* no. 14, 1921, p. 69) the Saw-whet has been found in winter in plains country at Miles City and "regularly at Kalispell." Mr. W. B. Davis tells me he has seen them frequently in winter in the sagebrush plains of the Snake River at Rupert, Idaho. The occurrence of the birds in the much more arid deserts of southern California is, however, a point of considerable interest.

On December 28, 1933, Dr. Loye Miller and I encountered Nuttall Woodpeckers (*Dryobates nuttallii*) in the cottonwoods and willows at Olancho on the west side of Owens Lake, Inyo County, California. This woodpecker has not been found before in Owens Valley and previously has been considered limited to the west-side drainage of the Sierra Nevada. Nuttall Woodpeckers break across the mountain divide to the south to follow the Mohave River on to the desert at Victorville (Grinnell, *Pac. Coast Avif.* no. 11, 1915, p. 79). The Sierra west of Owens Lake would seem to me to present a barrier of high zonal character not to be traversed by these woodpeckers. Likewise it is not clear how they might find their way along the desert face of the mountains, which are lacking in adequate stream-side cover, from Walker Pass, where they are known to breed, to Owens Valley. Since the species is non-migratory, one does not readily visualize these birds making long flights over treeless land to widely detached wintering grounds. It is not impossible that a breeding colony now exists in Owens Valley. Several individuals were seen by us at the Lake and three birds were collected, one of which is now no. 64505, Mus. Vert. Zool.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 11, 1934.*