

eating beans in a field. Threading the pods through the bill, the jaeger shelled the beans, then ate them from the ground.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*). On July 8, 1934, I saw this bird flying about box elders at Kayenta, 5880 feet, Navajo County (Upper Sonoran Zone). The bird was in molt, one side of the tail being much longer than the other. Mr. H. N. Russell, Jr., obliged me by shooting the bird, which I then prepared. It proved to be an adult ♂ (Z8.355) with testes 4 by 2 mm. Mr. Milton Wetherill said an individual of this species had been seen about the place for several days.

On July 12, 1935, I saw this species at Sahuaro Lake, on Salt River, Maricopa County. Although seen from a distance of only about 30 feet, I was unable to collect it. The nearest point of record seems to be near Carlsbad, in extreme southeastern New Mexico (Bailey, Birds of New Mexico, 1928, p. 422).

Oregon Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris lamprochroma*). Three specimens of horned larks taken by me from one flock in grassland, Upper Sonoran Zone at about 6000 feet, near Citadel Pueblo, Wupatki National Monument, have been identified as of this race by Dr. Oberholser. These birds (nos. 3486-3488) were taken on January 9, 1931.

Olive-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*). An adult, Z8.136, was taken by Lewis D. Yaeger on May 22, 1933, in his yard at Phoenix, Maricopa County. This bird has been identified by McCabe who states positively that it is the eastern form, *swainsoni*. Anderson (Condor, 36, 1934, p. 83) assigned this race to the hypothetical list because the only known Arizona specimen was identified by Oberholser as "decidedly intermediate."

Alaska Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa*). There are in the Museum collection 32 specimens of *Dendroica aestiva* that have been identified by McCabe as *rubiginosa*. The series includes immature and adult birds of both sexes, taken in the Tsegi Canyon and Oraibi Wash, Navajo County, and from the Upper Sonoran Zone of the San Francisco Mountains and the Little Colorado River Valley, Coconino County. This race is an abundant migrant on the Wupatki National Monument. All are fall specimens.

Modoc Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia fisherella*). An adult male (no. 3563) was taken by Yaeger, on January 17, 1933, in bottomland of Salt River at Tempe, Maricopa County. Identification made by Wetmore.—LYNDON L. HARGRAVE, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, January 10, 1936.*

Noteworthy Records from San Diego County, California.—White Ibis (*Guara alba*). On the afternoon of November 15, 1935, I was invited to view the spectacular flight of American Egrets into their roost on the grounds of J. W. Sefton, Jr. I happened to arrive half an hour ahead of my host, and while I was stalking to get as close to the roosting trees as possible, I recognized among the egrets an unmistakable White Ibis. Upon Sefton's arrival, we secured a gun from the house but were unable to find the bird again. The Sunday following, November 17, the ibis again came in with the egrets and Sefton took an unsuccessful shot at it, as it flushed from the roost. However, the bird returned and, on the evening of November 20, Sefton secured it. Dissection and plumage revealed the specimen to be an immature female. It is now in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History (no. 17099), and is the first representative of this species taken in California.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus flammeus*). While making a local Christmas bird census in company with other members of the San Diego Society of Natural History, I have not failed for the past five years to observe one or two Vermilion Flycatchers. In every case the birds were close to a pond formed by the excavation of gravel in the bed of the Sweetwater River about three miles west of Bonita. In addition to the Christmas-time date, I found, at the same place, two of the flycatchers on October 9, 1935, and one on January 8, 1936. The regularity of this species' occurrence west of the coast range mountains in California seems worthy of record.

Scott Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*). On January 8, 1936, on an afternoon afield in the San Diego region with Theed Pearse, a visitor from Courtenay, British Columbia, I was surprised to see an adult male Scott Oriole hop up from a prickly-pear cactus, where it had been feeding on cactus fruit. The spot was close to where we had just observed the Vermilion Flycatcher. The bird gave us an excellent view within fifty feet as it posed for a few moments on the uppermost bit of cactus before flying. As far as can be ascertained, this is the first winter record for the species in California.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, March 11, 1936.*

Occurrence of Young Dusky Grouse in an Alfalfa Field.—While mowing alfalfa hay, June 21, 1935, I observed a small grouse chick standing perfectly still beneath an alfalfa plant.

The chick displayed complete confidence in its camouflage, because it did not move until I picked it up. However, as soon as the chick was touched it began to call. The mother immediately flew out of the alfalfa cover 15 feet away and began to feign a broken wing and approached to within 10 feet of me as I held the chick.

I released the chick and later in the day the mother with five chicks was observed. The chicks were small, probably a week old. The brood was not observed again during the season. The mother was unquestionably a Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*). Later the same day she was observed in the same field by Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell University, who verified my identification.

The field in which this brood was found was situated in the center of a dry-farming area, on Sagamore Farm, about 1½ miles north of Paradise, Utah. The field was more than a mile from the nearest mountain or timberland. The mountains, which begin 1½ miles distant, constitute the regular breeding range for Dusky Grouse. I know of no instance in which this species has been known to nest so far from timber or mountains, and no instance in which it has been observed to nest in a cultivated field.—ORVILLE S. LEE, *Game Management Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, March 2, 1936.*

Further Note on the Status of Skylarks on Vancouver Island.—Not long after reading Mr. Theo. H. Scheffer's delightful account in the Condor (37, 1935, p. 256) of the history and manners of the English Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, it was my very good fortune to see some of the birds there myself. On the morning of October 8, 1935, Mrs. Grinnell and I, in company with Mr. Francis Kermodé and Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, and guided by Mr. G. D. Sprot, found ourselves in the vicinity of an old flying field in the northern environs of Victoria.

Here, partly on ground sprouting to fall-sown wheat, and partly on stubble and pasture, we found fully 40 Skylarks, scattered over an area of perhaps 15 acres. The day was mild, the sun coming out warmly at intervals, and then up would go the birds in pairs or three's, pursuing one another aloft and uttering notes to me reminding of those of the Tree Swallow with, perhaps, a suggestion of Purple Martin. A few of these performers would climb very far up, circle twittering, and then dive downward on set wings. As a bird rose in flight it would show white on the outer tail feathers; but on the ground, keeping back to the observer, its sandy color-tones were unrelieved by markings and rendered its outlines difficult for the eye to pick up. Mr. Kermodé and Mr. Sprot told us that these autumnal song-flights were incomplete or meager compared with the efforts to be witnessed in spring.

Subsequently, Mr. Sprot wrote me that he believed Mr. Scheffer in error in stating that the number of Skylarks released on Vancouver Island in 1903 was "100 pairs." The correct number, Mr. Sprot states, is 99 individuals. Mr. Scheffer's statement of numbers released in 1913 is believed by Mr. Sprot to be correct.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, January 5, 1936.*

Notes on the Birds of Nevada.—The timely report of Jean M. Linsdale (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936) fills a much needed gap in western ornithology. The following additional notes of some of the rarer birds or others not reported by him from southeastern Nevada may be of interest. While these are all sight records, the birds were observed at close range with field glasses under the most favorable circumstances. The writer taught school in Pahranaagat Valley, Nevada, from September to May for three years, 1922 to 1925.

Three Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) and two common Loons (*Gavia immer*) were seen on several occasions at Hiko Lake in December, 1923, and January, 1924.

Six White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons albifrons*) in a marsh feeding in company with about a dozen Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*) were observed some 8 miles south of Alamo on January 1, 1925. Both species probably occur in limited numbers in this valley each winter. The White-fronted Goose is not listed in Linsdale's bulletin.

A few Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis [tabida ?]*) seem to migrate down Pahranaagat Valley each fall. A flock of 15 individuals was noted 10 miles south of Alamo early in November, 1924.

Linsdale writes (*op. cit.*, p. 68) that the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was recorded only in the fall, but states that doubtless it is also present in the spring. It was noted by me at Alamo, each spring migration, late in April or early in May.

The Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is reported to be an infrequent summer resident in the northern part of the State. A specimen was observed on a number of occasions near Alamo early in May, 1925. The Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) also was seen almost daily on a vacant lot in that town in May of 1924 and 1925. It may also be reported that at least a pair of Vermilion