

Contributions to Knowledge, no. 985, 1895, p. 327) gave February, 1888, as the date of disappearance of *Alauda arvensis* from Long Island, following a blizzard. A few must have survived, however, for Dr. Phillips (U. S. Dept. Agr. Tech. Bull. no. 61, 1928, p. 50) gives 1899 as "the last notice of their presence" in that area. Harvie-Brown (Proc. Nat. Hist. Soc. Glasgow, vol. 4, 1879, pp. 164-165) described the effect of prolonged cold weather on this species in Scotland, where they "disappeared except where fed," but he notes also observations by Robert Service: "An increase during the breeding season of 1879 was observed in S. W. Scotland, where of late years they have been on the decrease." Presumably this increase was the result of a concentration of survivors from the colder northern and eastern parts of Scotland. The climatic conditions in the vicinity of South Vancouver Island, and especially at Victoria and on Saanich Peninsula, may therefore be considered favorable, and if the present methods of farming be continued, there seems to be no reason why the Skylarks should not continue to hold their own, or even, as the timber becomes cleared to the west, extend their range.

Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, August 18, 1936.

BIRDS OF THE COALINGA AREA, FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

By JOHN R. ARNOLD

The following is a list of birds positively identified within Pleasant Valley, Fresno County, California, in which valley the town of Coalinga is situated. Observations were made here by me from September, 1933, to June, 1934, from September, 1934, to June, 1935, and from September, 1935, to May, 1936. A number of additional observations were made from time to time by Dudley DeGroot and John G. Tyler, and these I have been permitted to use.

This area is in the Lower Sonoran Life-zone; elevations range from 550 feet to 800 feet. The area has the following incomplete natural boundaries: Anticline Ridge on the northeast; Guijarral Hills on the east; Kettleman Hills and Plains on the southeast; and the Kreyenhagen Range and the Coast Range on the south, west and north. For most of the place-names here employed see Coalinga sheet, United States Geological Survey.

Colymbus nigricollis californicus. Eared Grebe. Fall resident, from September 9 (1934) to December 4 (1933), in groups of four to nine; also observed on May 4, 1934.

Ardea herodias hyperonca. California Great Blue Heron. Recorded November 11, 1933, and April 18, 1934, at the stock farm near the Guijarral Hills.

Egretta thula brewsteri. Snowy Egret. Seven seen on April 18, 1934, at the stock farm.

Butorides virescens anthonyi. Anthony Green Heron. Observed on October 9, 1933, May 5, 1934, and May 8, 1935.

Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli. Black-crowned Night Heron. Four birds recorded on April 28, 1934.

Plegadis guarauna. White-faced Glossy Ibis. One bird recorded on April 27, 1934.

Anser albifrons albifrons. White-fronted Goose. Observed twice in the area: March 7, 1934, seven birds; March 9, 1934, twelve.

Anas platyrhynchos. Mallard. An occasional visitor; does not remain long.

Mareca americana. Baldpate. Seen on November 12, 1934.

Querquedula cyanoptera. Cinnamon Teal. Observed during December, February, and March. The largest group, twenty-eight birds, was seen on March 9, 1934.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. A male and a female were observed on January 27, 1935.

Erismatura jamaicensis rubida. Ruddy Duck. On May 4, 1934, a male and a female were found dead in the road beside a reservoir.

- Mergus merganser americanus*. American Merganser. A female was observed on April 28, 1934.
- Cathartes aura teter*. Turkey Vulture. Observed every month from February to September, but never from September to February.
- Accipiter velox*. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Observed on September 15, 1933, December 4, 1933, October 14, 1934, and December 8, 1934.
- Accipiter cooperii*. Cooper Hawk. Recorded on September 11, 1933, March 4, 1934, December 8, 1934, January 13, 1935, October 10, 1935, and on March 29, 1936, on which latter date DeGroot found it apparently nesting at the stock farm.
- Buteo borealis calurus*. Western Red-tailed Hawk. A resident species in this area.
- Buteo swainsoni*. Swainson Hawk. Formerly an abundant spring migrant and breeding species; now seldom seen. A melanistic individual was seen May 23, 1934.
- Buteo regalis*. Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk. This species has been recorded on September 21, 1935, October 22 and 23, 1933, November 13, 1935, January 10 and 15, 1934, February 14, 1934, and March 4 and 7, 1934.
- Aquila chrysaëtos canadensis*. Golden Eagle. Although a pair formerly nested in the area covered by this report, the eagle now visits the area only during the colder months.
- Circus hudsonius*. Marsh Hawk. Records show a continuous residence in this area from September to the last of April; but the bird may remain longer.
- Falco mexicanus*. Prairie Falcon. Observed on October 6, 1933, February 18, 1934, and November 12, 1934.
- Falco columbarius* ssp. Pigeon Hawk. Seen on February 26, 1934, and on January 1, 1933.
- Falco sparverius*. Sparrow Hawk. Abundant throughout most of the year, but many individuals seem to ascend to the pine belt to nest. A nest with eggs was found at the stock farm on March 28, 1936, by DeGroot and Tyler.
- Lophortyx californica vallicola*. Valley Quail. An abundant resident in this area.
- Fulica americana*. American Coot. Earliest record, November 7, 1933; latest record February 8, 1936.
- Eupoda montana*. Mountain Plover. A winter resident in small flocks. Often shot by hunters.
- Oxyechus vociferus*. Killdeer. Common resident.
- Capella delicata*. Wilson Snipe. Winter visitor, the largest group recorded being seven, November 2, 1935. One spring record, March 29, 1936 (DeGroot).
- Actitis macularia*. Spotted Sandpiper. Recorded during April, May and September. Usually single birds were observed, but three were seen on May 5, 1934.
- Totanus melanoleucus*. Greater Yellow-legs. One record, a male, March 23, 1935 (Arnold collection no. 385).
- Pisobia minutilla*. Least Sandpiper. Observed during March, April, May, and September; the largest group, ten, was noted on April 29, 1934.
- Ereunetes mauri*. Western Sandpiper. Recorded during April, May, and September; fifteen seen on September 9, 1934.
- Recurvirostra americana*. Avocet. On May 4, 1934, twelve Avocets were seen at a reservoir.
- Lobipes lobatus*. Northern Phalarope. Often found feeding in the reservoirs during September, October, and November.
- Sterna forsteri*. Forster Tern. Four terns were seen at a reservoir on September 9, 1934.
- Zenaidura macroura marginella*. Western Mourning Dove. A common resident, gathering in large flocks in winter. It frequently nests on the ground.
- Geococcyx californianus*. Road-runner. A common resident of the areas of taller "sage brush" in this region.
- Tyto alba pratincola*. Barn Owl. A common resident, frequenting and nesting in holes in the mud banks. Its chief food appears to be kangaroo rats and gophers. Six eggs were taken on February 23, 1935, from a pad of fur derived from pellets, in a hole that extended four feet into a bank.
- Otus asio bendirei*. California Screech Owl. The resident race here seems to be intermediate between the coastal and desert types (316 ♂, Arnold coll., October 11, 1935). Found nesting in the willow thickets March 29, 1936, by DeGroot.
- Bubo virginianus pacificus*. Pacific Horned Owl. Food pellets of this resident bird indicate little harmful activity in this area.
- Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*. Western Burrowing Owl. This owl has been nearly exterminated in Pleasant Valley by indiscriminate .22-rifle artists, only a few pairs remaining.
- Asio wilsonianus*. Long-eared Owl. As many as fifteen of these resident owls have been found roosting in one willow clump. DeGroot found them nesting March 29, 1936, in these same willows.

Asio flammeus flammeus. Short-eared Owl. A common winter resident in the "sage brush" and alfalfa fields.

Chordeiles acutipennis texensis. Texas Nighthawk. One record, April 18, 1934.

Aëronautes saxatalis saxatalis. White-throated Swift. On December 17, 1933, a group of twelve was noted that seemed to have come from Jacalitos Canyon.

Archilochus alexandri. Black-chinned Hummingbird. Recorded on September 10 and 11, 1933, by Arnold and Tyler.

Calypte anna. Anna Hummingbird. Common throughout most of the year, including the nesting season; but it has never been found nesting.

Selasphorus rufus. Rufous Hummingbird. One record; a male found dead in the high school gymnasium, April 20, 1936.

Magaceryle alcyon caurina. Western Belted Kingfisher. A pair recorded frequently from October 9, 1933, to May 5, 1935, but not seen since.

Colaptes cafer collaris. Red-shafted Flicker. An abundant resident bird; often seen in holes in dirt banks, as well as on trees.

Dryobates villosus hyloscopus. Cabanis Woodpecker. An occasional winter visitor.

Dryobates nuttallii. Nuttall Woodpecker. Fairly common in the willow-cottonwood association throughout most of the year.

Tyrannus verticalis. Arkansas Kingbird. A nesting bird in this area, with the earliest date of record, March 20, 1936, and the latest, September 5, 1933.

Tyrannus vociferans. Cassin Kingbird. Earliest record, March 7, 1933, latest, December 8, 1934. None was recorded during September or October.

Myiarchus cinerascens. Ash-throated Flycatcher. Recorded during April, May, and October, but probably occurs in other months.

Sayornis nigricans. Black Phoebe. A few pairs resident about the more permanent water sources.

Sayornis saya. Say Phoebe. A common resident, nesting in garages and dirt banks in Pleasant Valley, although much of the population seems to go higher to nest.

Empidonax traillii ssp. Little Flycatcher. Several field records.

Myiochanes richardsonii richardsonii. Western Wood Pewee. Recorded May 16, 1935, one bird; May 30, 1935, two birds.

Otocoris alpestris actia. California Horned Lark. An abundant resident species, augmented in winter by migrants of this and other subspecies.

Iridoprocne bicolor. Tree Swallow. Only two records: March 14, 1934, and April 28, 1934.

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis. Rough-winged Swallow. A common bird during April and May. Recorded April 10, 1935, and May 30, 1935; nest with young found April 28, 1935.

Hirundo erythrogaster. Barn Swallow. Only two records: October 7, 1933, and March 13, 1934.

Aphelocoma californica californica. California Jay. One record, a jay killed six miles north of Coalinga on October 10, 1933.

Corvus corax sinuatus. American Raven. Common resident, often seen feeding on the larvae of the alfalfa butterfly. Earliest record of breeding is of young in the nest on March 25, 1934.

Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis. Western Crow. Recorded on September 5, 11, and 13, 1933, and on December 8, 1934.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clark Nutcracker. One record, October 15, 1935, by Mackall Fultz.

Psaltriparus minimus californicus. California Bush-tit. Resident of willow and cottonwood thickets. A completed nest was found February 23, 1935; it was destroyed by an early March storm; a new nest and four young were found on April 10, 1935.

Troglodytes aëdon parkmanii. Western House Wren. Recorded April 28, 1934, by the author; March 29, 1936, by DeGroot.

Thryomanes bewickii correctus. San Diego Wren. Resident species in thickets. Nest with young found March 29, 1936, by DeGroot.

Telmatodytes palustris aestuarinus. Suisun Marsh Wren. Recorded through most of the year in a tule swamp at the stock farm, but no nests have been found.

Salpinctes obsoletus. Rock Wren. Recorded only on October 11, 1933, from Pleasant Valley, but it is common in the surrounding area.

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus. Western Mockingbird. Resident in small numbers in the area, nesting usually about habitations, but sometimes in the sage brush. On March 28, 1936, a nest with five eggs, well incubated, was found in a large artemisia bush. Records from one locality indicate two broods a year: April 11, 1934, one-third grown young, and May 21, 1934, nest with three eggs, the second brood.

Toxostoma redvivi *redvivi*. California Thrasher. Three pairs recorded in the atriplex thickets at the stock farm. DeGroot noted two young there ready to leave the nest on March 29, 1936.

Toxostoma lecontei lecontei. Leconte Thrasher. Fairly common in the atriplex and artemisia, nesting from February to June. Completed nest, February 23, 1935; nest and eggs, June 1, 1934.

Oreoscoptes montanus. Sage Thrasher. Recorded from September to May: September 19, 1933, January 19, 1935, February 18, 1933, May 5, 1934.

Turdus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. Abundant in certain winters (1934-35), but scarce in others (1935-36). The earliest fall record is September 5, 1933.

Ixoreus naevius naevius. Pacific Varied Thrush. One record, November 29, 1934, by Hester Hume.

Hylocichla guttata ssp. Hermit Thrush. Records on November 11, 1933, November 9, 1934, November 12, 1934, January 20, 1935, and February 23, 1935.

Hylocichla ustulata ustulata. Russet-backed Thrush. Recorded as a migrant on April 28, 1934, May 16, 1935, and May 18, 1936 (427 ♂, Arnold coll.).

Sialia mexicana occidentalis. Western Bluebird. Recorded in every season except midsummer, when the author was not in the area. Nested in a metal pipe clothes-line pole in May, 1936. Earliest date, September 2, 1933; latest, May 30, 1935.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. Known only as an irregular winter visitor.

Polioptila caerulea amoenissima. Western Gnatcatcher. Recorded at the stock farm on November 2, 1935, and on February 8, 1936.

Corthylio calendula cineraceus. Western Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Winter visitor: earliest record, October 23, 1934; latest record, April 10, 1935.

Anthus spinoletta rubescens. American Pipit. Winter visitor about water. Earliest record, November 12, 1934; latest record, March 25, 1934.

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing. Regular winter visitor, with great variation in length of stay. Earliest record, October 18, 1933; latest record, May 27, 1934.

Lanius ludovicianus gambeli. California Shrike. Specimens from this area indicate an intergradation with those from the Mohave Desert, as might be expected. A common resident, with the following nesting records: Nest and six eggs, February 8, 1936, hatched before February 15; February 23, 1935, 5 eggs; February 26, 1935, 7 eggs; March 6, 1935, 5 eggs.

Vireo solitarius cassinii. Cassin Vireo. Three birds seen November 2, 1935.

Vireo gilvus swainsonii. Western Warbling Vireo. Recorded on September 15, 1934.

Dendroica aestiva brewsteri. California Yellow Warbler. Common in spring. Recorded April 28, 1934; May 30, 1935.

Dendroica auduboni. Audubon Warbler. Common in winter, often in flocks of 200-300 individuals. Earliest record, October 14, 1934; latest, March 28, 1935.

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Spring migrant; April 28, 1935.

Geothlypis trichas occidentalis. Western Yellow-throat. Recorded October 22, 1933, and September 10, 1934; probably more common than records indicate.

Wilsonia pusilla chryseola. Golden Pileolated Warbler. Recorded May 5, 1934, and May 7, 1935.

Passer domesticus domesticus. English Sparrow. This foreigner is common about town and the older ranch houses, but it does not occur in the fields.

Sturnella neglecta. Western Meadowlark. Common resident throughout the year. Flocks of 400-500 often are seen during the winter and spring in the alfalfa fields. Nesting records: April 18, 1934, 4 eggs, well incubated; April 28, 1934, 3 young.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Eight birds recorded on April 26, 1934; others seen during the same week.

Agelaius phoeniceus californicus. Bicolored Red-wing. Not as common as the Brewer Blackbird. Probably breeds.

Agelaius tricolor. Tricolored Red-wing. Sporadic visitor about reservoirs and the stock farm.

Icterus bullockii. Bullock Oriole. This bird arrives by April 1, if not before, and nests about the ranch houses.

Euphagus cyanocephalus. Brewer Blackbird. A common resident, gathering in flocks in fall and winter, but remaining in smaller groups the rest of the year. The majority nest in the higher foothills, although a few remain in the valley.

Molothrus ater obscurus. Dwarf Cowbird. Fairly common about the stock farm; its eggs were found with those of the Heermann Song Sparrow, April 28, 1934, by Tyler and Arnold.

Piranga ludoviciana. Western Tanager. Recorded in town on May 7, 1935, two males and one female; four were seen on May 30, 1935, at the stock farm.

Hedymeles melanocephalus. Black-headed Grosbeak. Observed on March 14 and 28, 1935, on April 10, 1935, and on April 23, 1936.

Carpodacus cassinii. Cassin Purple Finch. A male was seen January 18, 1934, feeding on cotton-easter berries.

Carpodacus purpureus californicus. California Purple Finch. Recorded January 10, 1934.

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis. Common House Finch. A common resident of this area. March 25, 1934, nest and 5 eggs; April 18, 1934, nest and 5 eggs; and April 19, 1935, nest and 5 eggs.

Spinus tristis salicamans. Willow Goldfinch. Fairly common through most of the year, but not recorded as nesting.

Spinus psaltria hesperophilus. Green-backed Goldfinch. Fairly common through most of the year; not recorded as nesting.

Spinus lawrencei. Lawrence Goldfinch. One record, September 18, 1935, from the valley. It breeds in the surrounding hills, at about 1500 feet above sea level.

Pipilo maculatus falcinellus. Sacramento Spotted Towhee. A little-seen, sporadic resident of the underbrush. No nests recorded.

Pipilo fuscus carolae. Sacramento Brown Towhee. Only two records from the valley: December 17, 1933, and April 10, 1935.

Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus. Western Savannah Sparrow. An abundant winter resident of the alfalfa fields, from October until March.

Poocetes gramineus ssp. Vesper Sparrow. One record, October 20, 1933.

Chondestes grammacus strigatus. Western Lark Sparrow. A common winter and summer resident; nests only above the 1000-foot level in the hills.

Amphispiza nevadensis canescens. California Sage Sparrow. A resident species, more easily seen from October to March than during the breeding season. A nest with three eggs was found by De Groot on March 29, 1936, at the stock farm.

Junco oreganus ihurberi. Sierra Junco. Only an occasional visitor during the colder parts of the winter.

Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii. Gambel Sparrow. This is our most common winter resident, arriving by the middle of October and leaving after the middle of April. Latest record, April 18, 1934.

Zonotrichia coronata. Golden-crowned Sparrow. A winter visitant, usually found among the Gambel Sparrows and therefore often overlooked. Recorded February 26, 1934, and April 28, 1934.

Melospiza melodia heermanni. Heermann Song Sparrow. A resident of the swampy area known as the Stockfarm Scout Camp, where it nests in the cattails. A set of 5 eggs collected April 28, 1934, by Tyler and Arnold contained one cowbird's egg.

Ithaca, New York, October 3, 1936.