

it was referred to the latter race by Dr. Miller with the following comment (letter of August 20, 1942): "I can match the color of your bird among specimens from areas typical for each of these forms. Since your bird is fairly large, and since this is a characteristic of *occidentalis* on the average, I should call it this rather than *pacificus*. It seems to me quite possible that birds from the normal range of *occidentalis* . . . might drift over to the coast in winter. This is much more likely than that they would move north from California."—J. W. SLIPP, *Tacoma, Washington, October 8, 1942.*

A White Meadowlark in Eastern Montana.—I was much surprised when a conspicuously white bird rose from a dense stand of western wheatgrass to perch on a sage bush and whistle the clear melodious notes of the Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*. It was at noon on July 1, 1942, that I first saw this unusual individual at a point about 10 miles southwest of Miles City, Montana, on the experimental sheep range at the United States Range Livestock Experiment Station. Equipped with an 8-power binocular I pursued and observed this bird for an hour. My closest approach was about thirty feet. Not a trace of yellow or gray was seen in the plumage; it appeared entirely white. In manner this bird was shy and wary, noticeably more so than the normally colored meadowlarks with which it was associated. No evidence of impaired or faulty sight was observed even in the dazzling light of a mid-summer day on the plains. Numerous flights to the topmost twig of a distant sage were made with accuracy and perfect balance. Its song was unmistakably that of a Western Meadowlark.

On July 8 two field assistants and I saw this white meadowlark for the second time in the same vicinity. Each of us observed the bird through binoculars and concurred in my first observation of color, song and manner. Preparations were made to collect the specimen on the next trip to the locality but it was not seen again.—E. J. WOOLFOLK, *Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Experiment Station, Missoula, Montana, December 23, 1942.*

Hooded Merganser in San Diego County, California.—The random bag of a duck hunter has placed in the scientific collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History a desirable specimen in the form of a female Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). The bird was shot on December 5, 1942, at Sweetwater Reservoir, an artificial body of water situated some 7 miles southeast of the city of San Diego. It was taken by Alvin G. Crawford, auditor for the California Water and Telephone Company, which controls the reservoir. Mr. Crawford turned over to the museum, for nature-study purposes, the ducks which he took on that morning, without realizing that there was a rarity among them.—CHARLES F. HARBISON, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, December 31, 1942.*

Bird Notes from Southwestern Utah.—So little is known regarding the status of many bird species in southwestern Utah that the following observations are thought to be worthy of record. These records have been accumulated over a period of one year, and are not restricted to one area alone. Of the localities listed below, Zion National Park, Springdale, Rockville and Hurricane are in Washington County; Hatch is in Garfield County; Duck Creek and Strawberry Creek are in Kane County; and Cedar Breaks National Monument is in Iron County. For simplification all records are given in chronological order and are for the year 1942.

On January 16 I was on ski patrol en route to Cedar Breaks National Monument and the trail took me past Duck Creek in the Dixie National Forest on the Markagunt Plateau. Here at an elevation of 8550 feet a large pond, spring fed, remains as open water throughout the winter months. It is surrounded by a heavy forest of aspen, white fir and Engelmann spruce. On that day the following birds were noted on this pond: 24 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), 9 Pintail Ducks (*Dafila acuta*), 33 Green-winged Teals (*Nettion carolinense*), 8 Blue-winged Teals (*Querquedula discors*), 5 Cinnamon Teals (*Querquedula cyanoptera*), and 6 Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Insofar as I can determine, these constitute new altitudinal and winter records for these species in southwestern Utah.

The following day a number of winter bird records were obtained at Cedar Breaks National Monument at an elevation of between 10,300 feet and 11,000 feet. Here the forest of Engelmann spruce and alpine fir is broken by broad meadows as one approaches timber line. The following species were noted:

Penthestes gambeli. Mountain Chickadee. This bird was especially numerous throughout the forested zone and groups of five to ten were frequently observed.

Loxia curvirostra. Red Crossbill. Two large flocks were observed. One of these groups numbered at least thirty individuals. Others were heard in the region.

Myadestes townsendi. Townsend Solitaire. It was somewhat astonishing to find this bird in rela-

tively large numbers throughout the Monument and surrounding region. Equally interesting was the fact that many of these birds were singing as enthusiastically as though spring were at hand instead of many weeks of severe winter.

Spinus pinus. Pine Siskin. These tiny birds were everywhere to be seen and were the commonest species recorded.

Carpodacus cassinii. Cassin Purple Finch. A total of eleven of these birds was noted. For the most part they were rather quiet, only occasionally breaking the silence with call notes.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clark Nutcracker. Commonly observed throughout the forested area.

Dryobates villosus. Hairy Woodpecker. Only two of these were noted and they were ranging together. They were located in a rather dense forested growth in an area well protected from the strong winds.

Dryobates pubescens. Downy Woodpecker. A total of four of these birds were observed and all were noted in a protected grove of alpine fir.

Dendragapus obscurus. Dusky Grouse. Seven of these birds were flushed from the depths of a dense grove of Engelmann spruce. They refused to fly far, taking shelter as soon as possible.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. There were large numbers of these birds on the snow in the open meadows. They were observed working back and forth on the snow picking up something as they went. Investigation showed that the snow was literally alive with tiny insects. These proved to be some variety of horntail (*Sirex* sp.).

On February 1, two Winter Wrens (*Nannus hiemalis*) were observed in Birch Creek Canyon in Zion National Park. This constituted the first recorded occurrence of this species in the park since January, 1936, and the fourth record for the area.

Several migratory species were observed on the Sevier River near Hatch on February 14. Large numbers of American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) were seen scattered for several miles along the stream, while 7 Barrow Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta islandica*), 5 Lesser Scaup Ducks (*Nyroca affinis*), 1 Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), and 1 Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) were also noted in the same locality.

A California Gull (*Larus californicus*) was noted on a sandbar along the Virgin River near Springdale on April 23. This may have been a straggler from the Lake Mead region to the southwest. This is apparently the first record of this bird from Washington County.

On April 29, what is believed to be a Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) was studied at close range in the town of Rockville near Zion National Park. This bird was definitely not a member of the *cafer* group as the shafts of its feathers were distinctly yellow instead of reddish, and the red band on the back of the head was prominent. This is believed to be the first record of this bird for southern Utah.

On July 17, a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was observed on Strawberry Creek on the Markagunt Plateau. This is at an elevation of approximately 8000 feet. Previous records from southwestern Utah are for winter or early spring months, and there are none from such an elevation.

Near Hurricane, an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) was recorded on August 29. This is believed to be the first record of this bird for southern Utah.

On September 27 a Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) was seen at Cedar Breaks National Monument at an elevation of approximately 10,500 feet. This constitutes the first record of this species from the area.

On September 30 a forest fire took me to the rim of Great West Canyon in Zion National Park. Several species of birds were flying around, obviously alarmed by the pall of smoke. Among these was a total of 18 Band-tailed Pigeons (*Columba fasciata*). While there have been a few records of this species from the Zion region in past years, never have such large numbers been noted before.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Zion National Park, Springdale, Utah, January 18, 1943.*

Birds Found Dead on the Beach in San Diego County, California.—The following is a list of birds found dead on certain beaches of San Diego County between October 20, 1941, and January 15, 1942 (a total of eighty-eight days). For the most part the records were kept for the sandy stretch of beach immediately south of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla. This was covered for a distance of half to three-quarters of a mile often enough that practically every bird washed up was counted. Also, several observations were made on the beach near the entrance to Mission Bay and on the Silver Strand near Coronado. Great care was taken not to count individuals more than once.

Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>), January 22.....	1
Pacific Loon (<i>Gavia arctica pacifica</i>), October 24 (2), December 10, 28, January 10, 15....	6
Eared Grebe (<i>Colymbus nigricollis californicus</i>), November 10, December 28.....	2