

Cyanocitta stelleri annectens. Steller Jay. These jays, usually in pairs, were seen in many places and at various times throughout both winters. They are considered a nuisance by the marten trappers because they spring many "bait set" traps. One skin was made up from a bird caught in this manner.

Pica pica hudsonia. Black-billed Magpie. The magpie presents an interesting local seasonal distribution in this area. No birds were seen above approximately 3000 feet during the spring and summer period—March to August. Neither were their conspicuously built nests found in the higher areas. However, a small number of birds apparently rove throughout the higher country during the winter months. In the first winter a group of five magpies fed on elk carcasses at Swanholm Creek during January and February. In the fall of 1939 the first magpies were observed on October 12 and 13. A group of eleven was seen feeding on grasshoppers on November 27 and five remained in the immediate vicinity of Deer Park throughout the winter. During both winters one or two birds were often seen near timberline. These "mountain" birds are a minority, as very large flocks occurred during both winters in agricultural areas below 3000 feet in elevation.

Linsdale (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 25, 1937:57-58) cites several records of upward movement of these birds into mountainous areas but apparently there are no records of their remaining at the higher elevations throughout the winter.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clark Nutcracker. These birds were commonly noted in two's and three's at elevations of from 4000 to 7000 feet in both winters.

Penthestes gambeli. Mountain Chickadee. This was apparently the most abundant bird in the area during both winters. Flocks of ten to fifteen were common though they were difficult to count as they moved in an ill-defined group through the trees. In general most of their feeding was done in the Douglas fir timber. The Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Golden-crowned Kinglet were often associated with them. A few times chickadees were noted in "pure" flocks but usually two or three species were seen moving through the woods together.

Sitta carolinensis. White-breasted Nuthatch. Individual birds, with mixed flocks of other small birds, were seen frequently during both winters. The remains of a fresh kill made by a pine marten were found on the morning of March 1, 1939, under a large Douglas fir tree.

Sitta canadensis. Red-breasted Nuthatch. On several occasions two or three Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen in company with other small birds as noted above.

Certhia familiaris. Brown Creeper. A single bird was seen foraging on Douglas fir trees in the protective type at the head of Trail Creek, on February 22, 1940, and one individual was seen in ponderosa pines on Swanholm Creek on February 13, 1939.

Cinclus mexicanus. Water Ouzel. The movements of this bird in relation to cold spells and subsequent freezing and thawing of the rivers and streams were of interest. During the winter of 1938-39 no ouzels were seen on the Middle Fork above 4400 feet and none on the North Fork or smaller streams. They were, however, found below the 4400 feet elevation on the Middle Fork at an estimated density of two per mile of stream. This elevation represented about the line of the freezing-over of the Middle Fork, which varied over a one-mile stretch of the river. During cold spells the uppermost birds would be forced down the river, but as the short thaws came on there were always two or three that followed the "ice line" up the river. At the first sign of a general thaw early in March, ouzels were seen on Swanholm and Trail creeks where small stretches of rapidly running water opened up. In the following winter when the North Fork did not freeze over, a few pairs remained on this river all winter. One bird frequented Hunter Creek where none was seen the previous winter. The ouzel was again present at many places on the Middle Fork. These differences in occurrence correspond closely with those noted for the kingfisher.

Troglodytes troglodytes. Winter Wren. One wren, undoubtedly the same individual, was closely observed on February 5, 1940, and again in the same bushes on February 14 on Hunter Creek.

Regulus satrapa. Golden-crowned Kinglet. Flocks of these birds, usually in company of other small birds, were often seen in the area in both winters.

Pinicola enucleator. Pine Grosbeak. One individual, a female or young male, was seen at very close range in the same area in the Trail Creek drainage on January 31 and February 16, 1939. No other birds of this species were observed in the two winters.—WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, *University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, May 4, 1945.*

Some Records of Birds in Utah.—Because of the paucity of records, it seems appropriate to report that C. M. Aldous and S. E. Aldous found a dead Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at the Desert Range Experiment Station west of Milford, Beaver County, Utah, on September 1, 1942. These men observed no other birds of this species.

On June 2, 1943, C. S. Williams and G. H. Jensen observed a Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder County.

A Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) was found dead on the H-line of Unit 2 of the Bear River Refuge on August 29, 1944, by C. C. Sperry. The bird had probably died of botulism. Dr. J. W. Aldrich examined the specimen critically and confirmed the identification.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, May 14, 1945.*

Evening Grosbeaks Feeding on Russian Olive Berries.—On March 21, 1945, at 5:00 p.m., I observed 23 Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) feeding on Russian olive berries in Taos, Taos County, New Mexico, at an elevation of approximately 7000 feet. These birds were observed again the next day at noon feeding in the same trees. On both occasions the grosbeaks were feeding with Robins. The feeding site was a row of nine Russian olive trees that were heavily loaded with fruit. After the birds were gone there were no berries left on any of the trees.

At the time of these observations a snow storm was in progress on the mountains around Taos, and on the night of March 21 some snow fell in Taos and the vicinity.—R. FRANK HEDGES, *Soil Conservation Service, Taos, New Mexico, May 30, 1945.*

Field Damage by Cedar Waxwings.—On April 25, 1945, the Agricultural Commissioner's office of Ventura County, California, was notified that large flocks of birds were eating Zinnia seeds that had just been planted and which had started to sprout. I was asked to go with the Deputy Commissioner to the locality where damage was occurring. The ranch, about six miles south of Saticoy, consists of open fields bordered by eucalyptus wind-breaks. These fields are planted to different kinds of vegetables and flowers that are to be harvested for seed. We drove up to one of the wind-breaks and a large flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) flew away. The ranch foreman said that these were the birds that were doing the damage and that they came to the fields just before sundown in flocks that must number at least a thousand birds. We examined the rows where the birds had been working and found that nearly every seed that had been planted in a field of three acres had been dug up, hulled and eaten. Only the seeds that were freshly sprouted and had not yet pushed through the ground were taken. After the plants were above the ground they were not touched, and the Zinnia seed was the only kind that was bothered.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, May 22, 1945.*