

RECORDS OF OCCURRENCE OF SOME SOUTHWESTERN BIRDS

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The following data, gathered in the course of preparing a list of the birds of Arizona, are published separately at this time for the purpose of establishing correct ranges and other important facts. These are placed on record for the use of the committee of the American Ornithologists' Union now preparing a new edition of the Check-list of North American birds. Records are for Arizona unless otherwise stated.

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Colymbus dominicus. Least Grebe. One seen by Foerster and Ross J. Thornburg at City Farms, four miles northwest of Tucson on December 28, 1941. Local ornithologists questioned this identification, and the bird was therefore reported in the Audubon Magazine "Christmas Census" as a Pied-billed Grebe. On September 19, 1943, Foerster, accompanied by Milam B. Cater, again saw a Least Grebe, this time at a pond six miles northeast of Tucson; he again found it there on September 21, and on September 26, at his suggestion, Hargrave took the bird, which was identified as *C. d. bangsi* by A. J. van Rossem. This is the northernmost specimen of the species yet taken, but Mearns' journals at the National Museum mention a bird seen at Camp Verde on July 29 and October 8 and 9, 1885.

Buteo albicaudatus. White-tailed Hawk. A "female" from Phoenix, taken by Breninger, is in the Museum of Northern Arizona. It bears no date and may be a different specimen from the "male" recorded by Breninger (Auk, 16, 1899:352). The latter, according to files of the Fish and Wildlife Service, was taken on January 15, 1899. The specimen in the Museum of Northern Arizona is the only one I have seen from Arizona; it came to the Museum from Mr. Randolph Jenks, who found it among some mounted birds in the possession of Mrs. Breninger. Inasmuch as none of these birds was from Texas or Mexico, the authenticity of the specimen appears to be beyond question.

Capella delicata. Wilson Snipe. Doubtless breeds south to near Springerville, central-eastern Arizona, where it was taken on July 5, 1936, by Frank G. Watson and on August 4 and 12, 1937, by Alvah W. Sanborn and Hustace H. Poor. Two were also seen there by Hargrave on July 14, 1946.

Colaptes auratus nanus. Flicker. The flickers breeding along the Rio Grande into southern New Mexico seem nearest this race. A female in the American Museum collected in June at Fort Hancock, Texas, measures: wing, 149 mm.; tail, 105. Two winter males in the same collection from La Mesa, New Mexico, measure: wing, 154.0 mm., 155.5; tail, 110, 110. Two of the three specimens are pale above, with the fore-crown cinnamon (almost as in *C. a. mearnsi*). All the North American forms of flickers intergrade wherever their ranges meet, and all should therefore stand as races of *C. auratus*.

Empidonax wrightii (= *E. griseus*). Gray Flycatcher. Breeds south and east to New Mexico, where it is one of the most widespread of the breeding small flycatchers: Alto and Inscription Rock (Amer. Mus.); Fort Wingate (U. S. Nat. Mus.); Reserve (Peet Coll.); eight miles east of Zuni, and probably (juvenile, August 2) two miles east of Quemado, Catron County (taken by Sanborn and Poor). In Arizona it breeds south to the vicinity of Fort Apache, where a male with enlarged testes was taken on July 23, 1937 (S. L. Green), while a juvenile male (U. S. Nat. Mus.) taken as late as September 4, 1873, is so young that it must have been raised there.

To the north, the species probably does not range regularly beyond Fort Bridger, Wyoming (Univ. Mich.), but a straggler was taken five miles north of Cody, Wyoming, on July 2, 1910 (Fish and Wildl. Serv.). It is apparently rare north of Colorado, as I have seen only two specimens from Wyoming.

Empidonax oberholseri (= *E. wrightii* of current literature). Wright Flycatcher. Southernmost specimens examined are in the collection of the Fish and Wildlife Service from Guerrero (Tlapa, December 3, 1894; Omilteme, May 16, 1903). Probably ranges south to Oaxaca, but the two specimens from that state, taken in October, 1894 (Fish and Wildl. Serv.), are both molting their primaries, and I cannot be certain of their identification. Specimens from Guatemala which I have examined have all proved referable to other species.

Breeds south, as I have previously stated, to the White and San Francisco mountains of Arizona. Most of the supposed breeding records for New Mexico are erroneous, but a female (Fish and Wildl. Serv.) was taken at Lake Burford, June 11, 1918. Even as a transient it is singularly scarce in New Mexico, considering its common occurrence in Trans-Pecos Texas, north to the New Mexican border. The easternmost record is for a point fifty miles north of Roswell, September 22, 1902 (Fish and Wildl. Serv.).

Empidonax hammondi. Hammond Flycatcher. Breeds south to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico (Amer. Mus.): Taos Peak (8500 to 9000 feet) and Elizabethtown. The birds found breeding near Taos on July 18, 1904, were also of this species (Fish and Wildl. Serv.).

Empidonax minimus. Least Flycatcher. Ranges west in migration to extreme western Texas. Immatures taken at Fort Davis on September 5, 1916, and at Madero Creek, Presidio County, on September 21, 1887 (Amer. Mus.).

Empidonax difficilis cineritius. Western Flycatcher. This race migrates at least as far as the Sonora side of the Gulf of California. A female (Amer. Mus. no. 131642) taken on Tiburon Island, April 12, 1911 (P. I. Osburn), agrees exactly with birds from the Sierra de la Laguna. On the other hand, the few migrants and winter birds examined from the lowlands of southern Baja California are of other races, mostly *E. d. difficilis*; one unsexed bird taken by Belding at "Laguna" on February 2, 1883 (U. S. Nat. Mus.) measures: wing, 70.0 mm.; tail, 63.2. The latter is thus a male of the interior race, *E. d. hellmayri*.

Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni. Olive-backed Thrush. Ranges west, rarely, to central Arizona in migration. The only authentic records known to me are specimens taken in May at Tucson (Ariz. State Mus.), and from Camp Verde and the Chiricahua Mountains (Amer. Mus.). These three are indistinguishable from eastern specimens. Peculiarly enough, the weakly characterized race *almae* (which is decidedly less satisfactory than *H. u. oedica*) is apparently only casual as a migrant in Arizona but will probably prove to breed on San Francisco Mountain, where thrushes presumably of that race were heard singing on July 24, 25 and 26, 1933 (Phillips, H. I. Cone, C. W. Quaintance) but could not be obtained. The main migration route of *almae* is evidently east of New Mexico.

Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola. Veery. The southern limit of the breeding range is on the Little Colorado River southwest of Springerville, central-eastern Arizona, where singing males with greatly enlarged testes were taken on July 3 and 4, 1936 (Poor, Watson, and Jenks). This is still another thrush that moves more east than south on migration; published records for southern Arizona are probably due to confusion with *H. u. ustulata*. The migration route lies entirely east of New Mexico.

Anthus spinoletta. Water Pipit. The southernmost breeding station is on the White Mountains of Arizona, where a female and male were taken July 12 and 23, 1936, by Poor and Watson.

Peucedramus olivaceus. Olive Warbler. Occurrence of this warbler northeast to central-western New Mexico is substantiated by a male taken at Reserve on September 17, 1927 (Peeet Coll.).

Dendroica occidentalis. Hermit Warbler. Migrates east, at least in fall, to western New Mexico: Reserve, September 13 and 18, 1927 (Peeet Coll.); Animas Peak, August 3, 1908 (Fish and Wildl. Serv.); also three specimens from San Luis Mountains on the border and in Chihuahua (U. S. Nat. Mus.; Fish and Wildl. Serv.).

Geothlypis trichas occidentalis. Yellow-throat. Males of the type series from Truckee River, Nevada (Mus. Comp. Zool.), are bright birds measuring: wing, 58.0 mm. (type), 59.2; tail, 55.1 (type; shot, so measurement is approximate), 55.6. I cannot distinguish them from *scirpicola*. (Compare the measurements given by Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 12, 1914:203, for *scirpicola*.) The name *arizela* should therefore be restored to the small, dull coastal and Canadian race now improperly called *occidentalis*.

Setophaga ruticilla. American Redstart. Probably breeds southwest to central-eastern Arizona, as a male with greatly enlarged testes was taken on the Little Colorado River southwest of Springerville on July 3, 1936 (Jenks).

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Bobolink. Probably breeds southwest to Showlow, Navajo County, Arizona, where a male with greatly enlarged testes was taken on July 11, 1937 (Poor).

Icterus pustulatus. Scarlet-headed Oriole. Immature male (Ariz. State Mus. no. 802) taken by Herbert Brown at Tucson on December 19, 1886. This specimen is referred to the race *microstictus* by Oberholser.

Tangavivus aeneus milleri. Red-eyed Cowbird. Now a permanent resident about Tucson, although still uncommon in winter. Male found dying on February 6, 1940, by Dr. William L. Holt, and others seen the same winter.

Piranga ludoviciana. Western Tanager. This is one of several birds, such as the Yellow-headed Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, and certain flycatchers, that migrate both late in spring and early in fall. Many June and July records, therefore, are for points well away from the breeding grounds. That the Western Tanager breeds below the ponderosa pines (Transition Zone) is doubtful, in my opinion. I found it fairly common in the upper Santa Catalina Mountains, Arizona,

throughout June and early July, 1934, and it doubtless breeds there, as well as in the Guadalupe Mountains of Texas (see Burleigh and Lowery, Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. La. State Univ., 8, 1940:137). Breeding in the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, seems probable also (see Willard, Condor, 20, 1918:168). But certain supposed breeding localities farther south seem to me very doubtful; its breeding in Brewster County, Texas, is not established by specimens taken on June 1 and July 18; the earliest in a series of specimens from Rancho la Arizona, northern Sonora, was taken July 24 (Peet Coll.).

Spinus pinus macropterus. Pine Siskin. The vagrant habits of siskins seem to be nearly as pronounced as those of crossbills. A series of seven winter birds from the San Francisco Mountains (Williams to Flagstaff, November 24 to March 14) prove without exception larger, particularly in tail length, than *S. p. pinus*. Measurements of the series, which is in the Museum of Northern Arizona, are: wing, males 73.3 mm. and 77.0, females 71.5 to 73.0; tail, males 49.0 and 50.0, females 47.4 to 49.7 mm. In color the Arizona birds are more like northern birds than like those of southern Mexico, but northern birds are smaller, the maxima for wing and tail of males being 75.0 and 48.7 mm., respectively, whereas in females, these seldom exceed 73.0 and 46.0 (maxima in large number examined, was 74.5 and 47.0). Average measurements of northern birds are: male 73.0 and 46.0; female 70.0 and 44.0. Northern limits of the range of *macropterus* are the San Francisco Mountains and, in New Mexico, Taos (Amer. Mus.), Arroyo Seco, and Questa (both Fish and Wildl. Serv.), on the basis of specimens measured. The majority of summer birds, however, are of the small race, and the only birds marked as breeding are of that race, except for a male from Cloudcroft, New Mexico (Amer. Mus.) and two specimens from the Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona (Cornell Univ.), which I now place with *macropterus*. The breeding range of the small race extends south at least to the Mogollon Plateau, Arizona, and the two specimens seen from the Sierra San Pedro Mártir, Baja California, are likewise small, although in the current literature they are designated as *macropterus*; they measure: male 75.1 mm. and 45.8, female 70.0 and approximately 45.2 mm. (Amer. Mus.).

Siskins taken from the same flock vary far more in color than in size, in my experience, and I am inclined to suspect that Aldrich (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 59, 1946:133-135) has placed too much reliance on color and not enough on size in identifying races. Specimens from Arroyo Seco, New Mexico, are a case in point: these three males measure as follows: wing, 73.5 mm., 74.5, and 77; tail, 49.5, 48.2, and 50.2.

Spizella atrogularis evura. Black-chinned Sparrow. Winters fairly commonly, although perhaps locally, in the scattered brush of hillsides in high Lower Sonoran and low Upper Sonoran zones, north as far as the south slope of the Natanes Plateau, Gila County, Arizona, where I took five specimens in January, 1937. It thus winters within a few miles of its breeding range, as well as in the mountains farther south and west.

Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha. White-crowned Sparrow. This is another boreal bird that breeds south to the White Mountains, Arizona, where a singing male with greatly enlarged testes was taken on July 11, 1936 (Poor). The bird was found at timberline.

Passerella iliaca altivagans. Fox Sparrow. Ranges east on migration, at least casually, to the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona (one specimen, Sanford Coll.).

Passerella iliaca schistacea. Slate-colored Fox Sparrow. Winters southeast to Las Vegas, New Mexico (December 5, 1915; Mus. Comp. Zool.).

Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona, November 9, 1946.