

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The San Blas Jay in Arizona.**—On December 19, 1937, Mr. and Mrs. William X. Foerster, William T. Hudspeth, and the writer saw a flock of at least six (probably about eight) jays moving gradually eastward among the mesquite bushes along an irrigation ditch in the Rillito valley some six miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. With Hudspeth's assistance, I secured two of these birds, which proved to be immature San Blas Jays (*Cissilopha san-blasiana nelsoni*). No others were seen on subsequent trips there that winter nor in the following summer. Twice I walked east a mile or more, but saw nothing of them. On December 18, 1938, however, an adult male was discovered about two miles east of our point of observation by Edouard C. Jacot, who was participating in a "Christmas bird census"; this bird was collected the next day. Shortly thereafter, on January 15, 1939, I took another adult male in the Rillito bottoms at old Fort Lowell, halfway between the other two points of occurrence. This closed the history of the flight. None was detected on a number of trips to the original site, nor on occasional trips to the Fort, in the course of the next 18 months, nor have any been seen since my departure in 1940. At no time did they appear elsewhere in the Tucson valley.

Because of the great distance to Tucson from the normal range of these supposedly non-migratory jays in western Mexico, it was logical to suspect human agency in their occurrence. All lines of inquiry have proved fruitless, however; I have found no possible source of escape nor probability of transportation by man. Furthermore, the first two birds were young of the year in unworn plumage, and none of the birds showed any evidence of having been in captivity.

A striking fact about these jays was the varying shapes of their crests. The two immatures had a tuft of long, bushy feathers growing forward somewhat as in *Lophortyx*, but closer to the bill and less slender. The adults, on the other hand, had only a very slight crest of a few short, thin feathers, which were appressed to the crown instead of pointing forward. If such structural differences are purely matters of age, they give strong support to the contention of Amadon (Am. Mus. Novitates 1251, 1944) that most of our alleged genera of jays should be united; in fact, my own impression is that Amadon did not go quite far enough. It is time we recognized that color is not a generic character.

For racial identification of these jays, I am indebted to Dr. Herbert Friedmann, at whose suggestion this note is written.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona, August 9, 1949.*

**Bibliographical Notes on the Birds of Washington, by Dawson and Bowles.**—The "Birds of Washington," by William Leon Dawson, assisted by John Hooper Bowles, was distributed to subscribers in August of 1909 after a long delay in preparation. At the time of publication it was the most impressive bird book that had ever been printed describing the birds of any small territorial section of the United States. The many beautiful bindings in the numerous editions covered the descriptions of all forms of bird life then known in the state of Washington. It should be remembered that the population of Washington State in 1909 was not large and Mr. Dawson ordered 1250 copies of all his so-called editions, deeming that number enough to satisfy the demands for some time.

Reviewers were so extravagant with their praises of Dawson's descriptive writings, of the color work of Major Brooks, the photogravures and original photographs, and the beautiful bindings that the books immediately sold out and became book collectors' items.

There has been much controversy about the different editions, such that I have been tempted to try to clear up this situation. I was not acquainted with Dawson at the time of publication of these volumes but was very friendly with him in the later years after he came to California to work on "The Birds of California." Mrs. Dawson has recently given me all assistance possible in this undertaking.

The entire edition of all formats was printed at one time, a run of the press continuously until finished. The printed page of each so-called edition is identical with the corresponding page of every other, having been printed from the same undisturbed forms, and in this sense there is, of course, but one edition. The number of color-plates, photogravures, the Roman numeral pages containing lists of the subscribers and illustrations for some de luxe editions, along with the authors' signatures, the number of the copy, and the slight edition change on the title page make up the only differences in the editions. Paging continues through the two volumes: volume 1, 1-458; volume 2, 459-997; all the two-volume editions are alike in this respect.

The authors advertised and collected advance subscriptions for the following de luxe editions: Patrons', Tacoma, Artemisia, V(ictoria) and V(ancouver), and Stockholders'. These de luxe editions are the only ones that have all the color-plates, photogravures and tipped-in photographs, and they are printed on Strathmore Japan, all-rag paper. All have the printed lists of subscribers for the particular edition and are numbered and signed by the authors. These are bound in full leather and each edition is designed to please the most fastidious taste. Dawson states that the Artemisia Edition is a sage brush color leather to match the color of the eastern Washington plains. The Tacoma Edition De Luxe was bound in full crushed Levant leather, in blue, inlaid by hand with a special design of the White-tailed Ptarmigan, symbolical of bird life on Mount Tacoma. One set of the de luxe type was bound up for John E. Thayer of Lancaster, Massachusetts. This set was additionally illustrated with 16 original color plates bound in.

All the de luxe editions are royal quarto ( $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  inches), with bird end-papers and with birds in gold by hand in special designs both on the spines and the front cover. Mrs. Dawson states that the binders had a real problem in locating all the colors of leather that were used in carrying out Mr. Dawson's instructions.

In order to reach out for more subscriptions at lower prices, Dawson issued what he called the large paper editions and sold copies of them for about half the price of the de luxe editions. The large paper editions were the same size as the de luxe editions but were printed on a cheaper grade of paper and were bound in two volumes in heavy gray binding boards. They contained all the color-plates and all the photogravures as in the de luxe editions but only about half of the inserted photographs. The large paper copies appeared in two so-called editions: (1) Large Paper Edition, and (2) V(ictoria) and V(ancouver) Large Paper Edition. These issues were signed and numbered by the authors, but I have noted some copies that were unsigned by Bowles.

Dawson's popular editions of the "Birds of Washington" were somewhat smaller in size; being  $7\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$  inches and were issued in two volumes in three bindings: plain buckram,  $\frac{3}{4}$  leather, and full leather in many color combinations. These cheaper editions were beautifully bound, for Dawson's esthetic taste would not tolerate anything but the best the money afforded. These editions only contained 12 color-plates and only two photographs and retailed at prices from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

The popular editions were published under three names: British Columbia, Original, and Authors' Edition. As far as I have been able to learn the Authors' Edition is the only one of this group that is supposed to be autographed, but these smaller format editions are numbered. They are not all autographed by both authors; some few copies are not numbered.

A Teachers' Edition of 200 copies was bound in one volume in a cheap buckram and contained only one color plate. Mr. Dawson was so disappointed in the general appearance of this one-volume edition, which he had earmarked to sell at \$5.00, that after withdrawing a few copies for his collector friends, the entire balance was consigned to the furnace.

The following are the numbers issued of all the so-called editions:

Patrons' De Luxe	85		
Tacoma De Luxe	19		
Artemisia De Luxe	21		
Stockholders' De Luxe	34		
V(ictoria) and V(ancouver)	22	total de luxe sets	181
Large Paper	192		
Large Paper V and V	11	total large paper sets	203
British Columbia	55		
Authors'	250		
Original	350	total smaller format	655
Teachers' [200 printed, only 25 (?) saved]			25
		total of all editions	1064

—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Topanga, California, August 15, 1949.*