

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

White-tailed Ptarmigan in the Mission Mountains, Montana.—Saunders (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 14, 1921:58) records the White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*) from several of the mountain ranges in Montana but does not mention its occurrence in the Mission Mountains in Lake and Missoula counties. In the course of a collecting trip to these little explored mountains, an adult female was collected on August 1, 1949, on the south side of McDonald Peak (highest peak in the range) above timberline at about 7500 feet. We returned to this site the following day and observed four two-thirds grown young which were unattended. We obtained movies of the young at close range. It seemed probable that these young comprised the brood of the female taken the previous day. The specimen, which apparently represents the first one of this species to be preserved from these mountains, is now in the Montana State University Biological Station collection at Missoula.—**PHILIP L. WRIGHT and CLINTON H. CONAWAY**, *Montana State University Biological Station, Bigfork, Montana, and Department of Zoology, Montana State University, Missoula, Montana, March 22, 1950.*

Amphibia in Robin's Diet.—A recent note by Gullion (Condor, 52, 1950:46), adding a member of the Class Reptilia to the diet of the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), reminds me of having observed a Robin feeding on an amphibian. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 196, 1949:25-28, 48, 50-51, 57-59) makes no mention of any amphibians taken as food by the Robin.

By mid-July the shallow margins of some ponds in western Oregon possess thick, emergent stands of spatterdock (*Nuphar polysepalum*) with the flat, table-like leaves as much as three feet above the water surface. These stands of pond lily persist until the first fall frosts and storms. During the late summer the upper surfaces of these leaves prove attractive to a great variety of insects. The insects, in turn, attract tree frogs (*Hyla regilla*) which use the pond lily leaves as dining tables. I have never seen more than one tree frog on a pond lily leaf, and these only on pond lilies in shaded, or semi-shaded areas during the morning hours.

Twice on the morning of August 26, 1946, at a small pond in Linn County, about three miles east of Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon, I watched a Robin take a tree frog from the upper surface of a pond lily leaf and carry it to a fledgling perched in an Oregon ash at the edge of the pond. In one instance the frog was carried by a hind leg, and in the other, by a shoulder. Although these observations were made about one hour apart, the captures were probably made by the same Robin, or pair of Robins, since a fledgling in the same ash tree was the recipient both times.—**FRED G. EVENDEN, JR.**, *Sacramento, California, January 30, 1950.*

Bird Records from Western Montana.—Incidental to a study of the Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) in western Montana from October, 1946, to July, 1948, I kept records of other avian species encountered. The notes presented herein supplement Saunders' distributional list of the birds of Montana (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 14, 1921), and to the best of my knowledge, as indicated by perusal of The Auk, The Condor, and The Murrelet, represent previously unrecorded information. They increase our knowledge of the distribution or seasonal occurrence of the several species within Montana. Except as noted, birds collected are deposited in the Montana State University Zoological Museum.

Ardea herodias. Great Blue Heron. No previous winter records for Montana. One seen on February 4, 1948, at 3300 feet in the Bitterroot Valley near Stevensville, Ravalli County.

Cygnus columbianus. Whistling Swan. Not previously recorded for Missoula County. A flock of 21, including 7 gray non-adults, seen April 9, 1948, on a slough near Lolo, Bitterroot Valley, Missoula County.

Cathartes aura. Turkey Vulture. Not previously recorded for Missoula County. Seen three times, all in Missoula County: one, July 29, 1947, 4000 feet, Pattee Canyon; three, April 25, 1948, 3200 feet, Fort Missoula; one, May 13, 1948, 4100 feet, Bitterroot Mountains at Carlton Creek.

Falco sparverius. Sparrow Hawk. The only previous winter record for Montana is cited by Saunders as February 28, 1910, in the Bitterroot Valley. One was seen on January 21, 1948, and two on January 31, 1948, both records at about 3200 feet near Lolo, Bitterroot Valley, Missoula County.

Rallus limicola. Virginia Rail. There are few previous records for Montana. Dr. D. S. Farner