

Recent Bird Records from Northeastern Colorado.—The following annotated list, based on recent field observations in north-central and northeastern Colorado, includes several species which are rare in Colorado, several which have appeared in a part of the state where previously unreported, and a few whose seasonal presence warrants mention.

Ardea herodias. Great Blue Heron. Although typically a summer resident, this bird is increasingly common in the winter months. Individuals have been observed along the Cache la Poudre River near Ft. Collins, Larimer County, in the winter of 1951 on January 4 (two), January 13, 24, and February 3. One was seen on December 2, 1950, on St. Vrain Creek near Lyons, Boulder County. In comparison, during the winter of 1947-48, no herons were seen in Boulder County between November 23 and March 17.

Centrocerus urophasianus. Sage Hen. Common in Wyoming and northwestern Colorado, this bird had not been recorded in northeastern Colorado in recent times prior to 1948-49. In that extremely severe winter, one was observed by J. Frank Cassel and myself on December 30, 1948, two miles northeast of Ft. Collins. Another was reported subsequently from Larimer County and a dead bird was found on March 6, 1949, by Glenn A. Hutson and Harold Mayfield about 25 miles north of Ft. Collins near Table Mountain. It is probable that blizzard conditions in Wyoming had forced these particular birds south.

Zenaidura macroura. Mourning Dove. This summer resident bird is periodically reported from northeastern Colorado in the winter. I photographed one individual that was sitting on a fence wire during a heavy snow storm on January 28, 1951, two miles north of Bellevue, Larimer County. The temperature at that time was below zero; within forty-eight hours it had dropped to -41°F .

Myiarchus cinerascens. Ash-throated Flycatcher. This bird is a rare summer visitor to northeastern Colorado. One was observed flying from fence post to fence post along a country road about eight miles north of Ft. Collins in early May, 1948.

Cyanocitta cristata. Blue Jay. Long recognized as a resident in the extreme eastern portion of the state, this bird is recorded to the westward only as a straggler. One was noted in a river bottom area three miles southwest of Ft. Collins on April 30, 1949. Two were observed in the Ft. Collins city cemetery on January 5 and one on February 20, 1951. In comparison, seven were seen in the eastern state-line community of Wray, Yuma County, on May 20, 1950.

Aphelocoma coerulescens. Scrub Jay. This foothills brushland bird is a common resident in southern and western Colorado but seems to be only a straggler to the northeast. Three were observed with Steller Jays in an orchard east of Lyons, Boulder County, on November 8, 1950. R. A. Ryder and J. H. Wampole counted three in Bellevue, Larimer County, on December 29, 1950, and a single individual was observed one mile northwest of Bellevue in foothills brush on February 2, 8, and 10, 1951.

Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus. Piñon Jay. These jays are nesting birds of the southern Colorado piñon-juniper woodlands, but straggle erratically into northeastern Colorado. A flock of twenty-nine was observed in company with Steller Jays on January 15, 1951, in an open ponderosa pine stand south of the entrance to Spring Canyon, five miles southwest of Ft. Collins.

Thryomanes bewickii. Bewick Wren. This rare Colorado species was observed in a cottonwood river bottom three miles southeast of Ft. Collins on May 14, 1949.

Dendroica graciae. Grace Warbler. This southwestern warbler is encountered only rarely in northeastern Colorado. A solitary male was seen in a cottonwood creek bottom at the entrance to Spring Canyon, five miles southwest of Ft. Collins, about May 15, 1950.

Seiurus noveboracensis. Northern Water-thrush. A rare migrant, this species was observed about May 15, 1950, in a cottonwood creek bottom at the entrance to Spring Canyon, five miles southwest of Ft. Collins. This is the same area in which W. L. Burnett (Condor, 17, 1915:148-151) collected a specimen thirty-five years ago.

Sturnella magna. Eastern Meadowlark. A singing individual was observed in a grassy field on the western edge of Wray, Yuma County, on May 20, 1950, together with several individuals of the more common Western Meadowlark.

Icterus spurius. Orchard Oriole. A male was observed on May 20, 1950, and a pair on May 21, 1950, in trees along the North Fork of the Republican River at the west edge of Wray, Yuma County. This species is apparently not uncommon in the extreme eastern part of the state.

Richmondia cardinalis. Cardinal. A pair of these uncommon Colorado visitors was observed in a wild plum thicket along Black Wolf Creek one mile north of Beecher Island, Yuma County, on March 25, 1950. Unfortunately, it was impossible to check the area later in the season to see whether the pair nested.

Pipilo maculatus. Spotted Towhee. On January 10, 1951, a bird of this species was noted in a thicket of a cottonwood creek bottom at the entrance of Spring Canyon, five miles southwest of Ft. Collins. On February 17, 1951, a towhee, perhaps the same individual, was seen in a bush on a nearby hillside. Presence of the species in winter, although not rare, is worthy of note. Spotted Towhees are known to nest in this same area in the spring.—RICHARD G. BEIDLEMAN, *Zoology Department, Colorado A. and M. College, Fort Collins, Colorado, February 20, 1951.*

Sitka Crossbill in Kansas.—The exceptionally severe storms which lashed the Pacific Northwest during late October, 1950, might be expected to have caused some irregular wanderings of birds. The first of the several storms moved inland from the Pacific Ocean on October 26, striking British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and northern California with gale-force winds. On October 27, a pronounced cold front moved inland over Oregon and Washington; this cold front then swept eastward across the continent, reaching eastern Kansas about 7:30 a.m. on November 1.

Late in the afternoon of November 1, Manuel J. Vélez found an adult male Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) on the University of Kansas campus, in Lawrence, Douglas County. Although the bird was still alive, it was emaciated and too weak to fly. Olin L. Webb saw three or four other crossbills, evidently of the same species, feeding in conifers near the same spot just before dusk on November 1. The captured bird died before dawn, November 2, and was brought to me for preparation as a skin. I found no sign of injury or organic disorder. The bird simply appeared to have died from starvation and exhaustion. Its gizzard contained a few tiny seeds and several bits of grit.

I have identified the specimen (no. 29846 Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist.) as *Loxia curvirostra sikkensis* Grinnell (= *minor* in Griscom, cited below), the breeding Red Crossbill of the "humid coastal strip of the northwestern Pacific coast district from southern Alaska south . . . to the coastal ranges of Washington and northwestern Oregon" (Griscom, Proc. Boston Nat. Hist., 41, 1937:121). Although the plumage of the specimen is only slightly worn, its wing measures 79.4 mm., which is a smaller wing measurement for an adult male than any recorded by Griscom (*loc. cit.*) for this "smallest of New World crossbills." Other measurements are: tail, 46.0 mm.; tarsus, 15.6; culmen, 15.0; bill depth, 8.7. In color of the body plumage, the specimen is primarily red (Dragon's-blood Red on crown and back, Coral Red on under parts, except abdomen, which is Coral Pink), with many greenish-yellow feathers interspersed. It was not molting. The testes were not enlarged.

There is, of course, no proof that the crossbills recorded here actually moved out of their normal breeding range as a direct result of the storms mentioned above. However, the severity of those storms, the unseasonably warm weather over much of the United States preceding the storms, the breeding range of the subspecies represented by the specimen captured, and the emaciated condition of the specimen all seem to indicate that the storms were probably responsible for this flight.

This is the earliest fall record (by eight days) for any crossbill in Kansas, and the second time that the subspecies *sikkensis* has been taken in this state. The previous record is of three males and three females collected on January 25, 1920, at Lawrence.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF, *University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, November 8, 1950.*

Caprimulgus ridgwayi in Michoacán, México.—One of the most interesting birds Roger Hurd and I encountered during our brief sojourn along the Rio de la Alberca, near Chupio, about 12 kilometers south of Tacámbaro, Michoacán, in the early spring of 1949, was the Collared Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus ridgwayi*). We noted the species daily from March 5 to 9, finding it invariably in dry gorge bottoms. Although we made a point of listening for it at night, we never heard it. On two occasions we flushed two birds at once, but none of the four specimens collected (one male and three females) was in breeding condition.

Our four specimens closely resemble Nelson's type of "*Antrostomus ridgwayi*" in both size and color. As a series they are quite uniform, none of them exhibiting paleness of crown at all comparable to that of Nelson's type of "*Antrostomus goldmani*," which possibly is a variant of *ridgwayi*