

Sphyrapicus varius ruber. Red-breasted Sapsucker. The southernmost record of this type of sapsucker in the interior of British Columbia has been Indianpoint Lake (Munro and Cowan, *op. cit.*: 141). I have taken a juvenal specimen and seen both adults and juveniles along the Beaver Valley road near Horsefly, in July, 1951.

Picoides arcticus. Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. Not previously recorded from the Cariboo Parklands but now known to occur as a winter visitant. Specimens were taken at Williams Lake on December 24, 1949, and on January 11, 1951.

Picoides tridactylus fasciatus. American Three-toed Woodpecker. Not previously known from the Cariboo, but like the last, occurs as a winter visitant, with some individuals remaining throughout the year at higher elevations. Specimens taken at Williams Lake on January 12, 1951.

Euphagus carolinus. Rusty Blackbird. This species has been reported as a transient in the area but has not been known to nest there. On July 20, 1951, I collected a young bird, still being fed by the parents, at Likely and saw other birds on the same date at Spanish Lake, seven miles north of Likely.—LEO JOBIN, *Williams Lake, British Columbia, December 10, 1951*.

Comments on the Check-list of the Birds of Idaho.—The note by Porter (Condor, 53, 1951: 257-258) on the rough-legged hawks in Idaho has emphasized the need for an explanation of the status of our knowledge of the birds of that state. Arvey (Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist., 1, 1947:193-216) presented a check-list of Idaho birds which does not represent an adequate summarization of known facts. His list recorded 265 species (minus Hutton Vireo, see Arvey, Condor, 52, 1950:275). In his preface he stated "In all, 292 kinds of birds are recorded." Of this total, the accounts of approximately one-fourth are quite inaccurate. Examples of inaccuracies still uncorrected by Arvey (*op. cit.*, 1950):

Species that breed in Idaho but were not indicated as doing so: Red-necked Grebe, Redhead Duck, Ruddy Duck, Lesser Scaup Duck, Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk (corrected by Porter, *op. cit.*), Willet and Wilson Phalarope.

Species indicated as breeding but which are not now known to: Common Loon, Horned Grebe, American Golden-eye Duck, American Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Phalarope, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, and Tree Sparrow.

Species for which the status was not defined at all: Red-breasted Merganser, Harlequin Duck (Arvey misidentified two juveniles of this species taken on the St. Joe River by Engler; Arvey, MS 1940:9), and Band-tailed Pigeon.

Species for which the status is confused or in error: Rough-winged and Bank swallows, Raven, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Water-thrush (to cite only a few of about 50 species).

Species indicated as occurring in the state in the bibliography but not in the text: Upland Plover, Least Tern, Western Flycatcher, Eastern Blue Jay (Arvey's own note), Grasshopper Sparrow, McCown Longspur.

Species overlooked in the literature: Parasitic Jaeger, Ancient Murrelet.

Species omitted but known to Arvey: Mountain Plover.

Typographical errors: the subspecies *phaia* and *umbelloides* of the Ruffed Grouse are switched; the range of *phaia* is with *umbelloides* and vice versa.

The many inadequacies of Arvey's list and the addition of about twenty species make it imperative that another check-list be prepared. Such a check-list was begun three years ago and a mimeographed preliminary version was distributed. This mimeographed list was at the disposal of Levy for his account of the birds of southern Idaho (Murrelet, 31, 1950:2-8) and of Arvey for his correction of the original check-list (*op. cit.*, 1950).

Regarding the note by Porter, it should be pointed out that the Ferruginous Rough-leg was generally assumed to breed in southern Idaho as this area lies in about the middle of the breeding range of this species. The only earlier reference to summer residence in Idaho of which I am aware is that of Kenagy (Condor, 16, 1914:120). Kenagy, as an egg collector, probably observed the nest of this species on several occasions in the Rupert area.

Porter's views regarding the abundance of this species are open to question. At best it is only locally common (pair seen regularly in the vicinity of a nest), not common in terms of birds per unit area of country. In 1949, Earl Larrison and I spent one week in the juniper country of Cassia

County and did not once record this species although I do not doubt that it does occur sparingly there.

The comments of Weydemeyer (Condor, 35, 1933:121), cited by Porter, concerning the breeding of the American Rough-legged Hawk in northwestern Montana are not verified by specimens nor do they sound convincing to me (identification of two "young" birds on the wing on August 8, 1922). It would seem to me that Swainson Hawks are probably referred to (I have seen them myself in similar situations in northern Idaho). There is no real evidence to extend the breeding range of the American Rough-leg into northern Idaho or northwestern Montana.—MALCOLM JOLLIE, *University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, January 12, 1952.*

Song in Hand-reared Birds.—The present writer has twice written on the subject of song in hand-reared birds, although the statements have been brief. In 1921 (Condor, 23:43) the call note and the first song or tribal song of the House Finch or Linnet (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) were both considered to be inherited and free from the influence of associated sounds. That the more finished performance of the adult male might be modified by association was conceded to be possible or even probable.

Some years later I became acquainted with a hand-reared male Linnet in Los Angeles which was so very aberrant in its song as to lead me to comment as follows (Condor, 31, 1929:221): "He was struggling with a voluble performance that was all his own! It was not like any other bird song I ever heard, and was apparently not imitated." This bird was a great pet that had only human associates who fed him any and everything that he could be induced to take from the hand or from the table. It was known to the indulgent household as "Tweetie."

Since publication of this second note my attention has been more carefully directed to the subject of the linnet's notes in the field with the result that one wild male was heard at El Segundo, California, who had in his song a tone quality that duplicated the tone, as registered by the ear, which characterized "Tweetie's" vocal efforts. It is the only wild linnet that I have ever heard produce such a tone. The song pattern, however, was that of the average wild bird.

"Tweetie" did not live to a ripe old age on his highly artificial diet and was sent to me to be converted into a specimen showing the yellow plumage induced by cage conditions. The body was found to be markedly pathologic, with nodular masses of fatty tissue unevenly distributed beneath the skin and among the viscera. Unfortunately a microdissection of the syrinx was not made.

After the passing of "Tweetie," a hand-reared linnet was presented to me by a student. This bird, "Ricardo," was of course in yellow plumage but seemed to be in quite normal health although perhaps slightly less than normal in size. Ricardo was fed only on commercial bird seed with addition of fresh lettuce, dandelion, and fruits. His song was voluble and it almost perfectly duplicated that of wild birds. It was carefully noted by myself and by one of my equally critical colleagues in ornithology but we could see no greater aberration than is evident in shifting from one local population to another in southern California. Unfortunately I have no subsequent history of this bird since he died in my absence from Los Angeles. It had, however, been under observation for a number of months.

W. E. D. Scott (Science, n.s., 14, 1901:524-526) indicates that hand-reared Baltimore Orioles did not sing the oriole's song. Mrs. M. M. Nice informs me that her hand-reared meadowlarks do not sing the normal song of the species. I would suggest that both orioles and meadowlarks are perhaps more difficult to handle in dietary matters than is the fairly strictly vegetarian linnet or of course the long domesticated "canaries" of the pet trade. I am strongly tempted therefore to postulate that the aberrant vocalizations of certain cage bred individuals of native species are possibly due to malformations resulting from our inability to duplicate the normal diet and the tireless devotion of normal parents in their upbringing. The "miracle" is that we sometimes achieve so nearly natural results in that delicately balanced, anatomic, physiologic, and psychologic complex that blossoms into the bird's natural song.—LOYE MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 5, 1951.*

Current Status of the Starling in North-central Colorado.—While the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) continues to expand its range into the Pacific Coast states, it appears to have settled permanently in Colorado. The first record of the species in this state was in 1938, the first positive breeding