

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Black-and-white Warbler, Dickcissel, and Tree Sparrow in Nevada.—We report here-with observations on three species that are rare or little known in the state of Nevada. All observations were made in Clark County in the southern part of the state.

Mniotilta varia. Black-and-white Warbler. On September 30, 1951, Allan R. Phillips found an immature female of this species foraging in a cottonwood tree in Boulder City. Gullion observed a full plumaged bird at his residence on January 21, 1952. This bird was feeding on the ground, foraging on the lawn and among fallen leaves much as Chipping Sparrows do. Pulich watched one of these warblers on February 9, 1952, feeding nervously from the smaller branches and along the main trunk of a cottonwood. The bird fed capably upside down but it did not work up or down the bark of the tree. After feeding at a particular spot it would fly off and return to another spot on the tree trunk. On the following day, February 10, this bird was collected and proved to be an adult male. These records and specimens supplement the previous sight record reported by M. Sullivan for Boulder City (Monson, Audubon Field Notes, 1950:256).

Spiza americana. Dickcissel. Mrs. Nora Poyser first recorded a flock of about six Dickcissels at her residence near the Boulder Boat Dock on the shores of Lake Mead on September 18, 1949. These birds remained around her house for several days. On September 6, 1951, Mrs. Poyser again reported the presence of six Dickcissels at her residence. She had first seen this flock the day before. One bird was trapped and banded and was carefully examined in hand by Pulich. This small flock of birds remained around the banding station until September 8, but unfortunately no others were captured. These two occurrences mark the first report of the Dickcissel in Nevada.

Spizella arborea. Tree Sparrow. Two of these sparrows were seen by Gullion on April 11, 1951, near Sheep Spring at 4000 feet elevation on the northwest side of the Virgin Mountains. On January 24, 1952, Mrs. Poyser reported the presence of a Tree Sparrow at her residence. This sparrow was taken by Pulich on January 27 and proved to be a male of the race *S. a. ochracea*. Subsequently, Mrs. Poyser reported the occurrence of a lone Tree Sparrow from March 19 through April 5, 1952, at Boulder City. These reports of the Tree Sparrow are the first records for Clark County.

We are sincerely grateful to Mrs. Nora Poyser and Allan R. Phillips for making their records available to us.—WARREN M. PULICH and GORDON W. GULLION, *Boulder City, Nevada, July 1, 1952.*

Second Record of the Vermilion Flycatcher in Colorado.—On the morning of October 11, 1952, at Barr Lake, Adams County, an artificial irrigation reservoir situated 20 miles northeast of Denver, Colorado, I saw a small flycatcher that was unfamiliar to me. The bird sat in a good light for several minutes and I was able to identify it as an immature male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). The first record of this species in Colorado (Ryder, Condor, 54, 1952:318) was a female collected near Monte Vista, Rio Grande County, on May 16, 1952.

On the following day I returned to the lake with John L. Chapin and Donald M. Thatcher. The bird was again found and observed at close range. On October 13, A. Lang Baily observed the bird at close range. Despite rain and snow, and sub-freezing temperatures on October 15, I again found the bird at the lake on October 18.—JOHN W. FLAVIN, JR., *Denver, Colorado, November 24, 1952.*

Northward Extension of the Range of the California Road-runner in California.—On March 8, 1952, a California Road-runner (*Geococcyx californianus*) was observed about one-quarter of a mile above Idlewild Resort on the Smith River, Del Norte County (Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 4 East, H B & M). The bird crossed the highway, made a stiff-legged jump to a low bank where it briefly hesitated while raising its tail, and then moved into the brush.

This is a distinct extension of the Road-runner's known range, as the northernmost record stations in the coastal region of California are the Navarro River ten miles from the seacoast and "below" Willets, both in Mendocino County (Grinnell and Miller, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:187).

The upper Smith River canyon is steep sided, with little flat area in the bottom and with almost continuous brush and trees. There are a few open rocky slopes but very little grass land with edges of chaparral, which is characteristic road-runner habitat. The main vegetational types were Douglas fir, madroño, poison oak, tan oak, and several species of *Ceanothus*. Although not evident in the

canyon, the "bald hills" country so common in the interior of Humboldt and Mendocino counties also occurs to a limited extent in the interior of Del Norte County. This type of country has the mixed open ground and tracts of brush which the Road-runner prefers and the bird observed in the canyon may have wandered from such an area. Several people living at a nearby resort said they had occasionally seen Road-runners. Further observations in the north coast area of California may show this bird's range to be continuous with the interior "bald hills" country.—J. BRUCE KIMSEY, *California Department of Fish and Game, Eureka, California, December 18, 1952.*

Unusual Records from Western Colorado.—A number of unusual occurrences of birds in Gunnison County, Colorado, were recorded in the year 1952.

Pyrocephalus rubinus flammeus. Vermilion Flycatcher. A female was taken on the very late date of November 18, 1952. The temperature was close to freezing and had been far below that the previous night. The bird was catching a few belated insects that managed to survive by flying low over a running stream, about five miles west of Gunnison.

Toxostoma rufum. Brown Thrasher. One individual of this species was seen in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River a few miles below Sapinero on October 12. It immediately flew across the river and therefore could not be collected.

Compsothlypis americana. Parula Warbler. An adult male in full song was taken from a clump of cottonwood trees about four miles southwest of Gunnison on May 24.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Bobolink. Three pairs were thought to be nesting in clover fields north and west of Gunnison. One nest with five eggs was found on July 1 and was watched to a successful conclusion by Mrs. Idonia Carrington. The Bobolink had also been noted in small numbers in previous years.

Calamospiza melanocorys. Lark Bunting. Usually seen here in very small numbers, most often in August; from two to six birds were seen on four different dates from April 28 to May 25, inclusive. Two were taken on the first date.

Passerherbulus caudacutus. Leconte Sparrow. An adult male was taken in a restricted area of long marsh grass on May 6, about one and one-half miles south of Gunnison. Another one was seen about the same place on October 23. What was presumably the same bird was collected on October 24 and proved to be a subadult male. In view of a record for Idaho of long standing, a previous record at Breckenridge, Colorado (Sclater, *Birds of Colorado*, 1912:361) and of recent records from western Montana by Davis (*Condor*, 54, 1952:115-116), this species may prove to be more common in the intermountain region than was formerly supposed.

Zonotrichia querula. Harris Sparrow. An immature male was taken from among a flock of Tree Sparrows (*Spizella monticola ochracea*) on November 5, 1952, about one and one-half miles south of Gunnison.

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. One was seen and watched for several minutes at close range about one-half mile southwest of Gunnison on November 22.

Passerella iliaca schistacea. Fox Sparrow. In view of the paucity of records of this species from Colorado, it seems well to report one heard in song on May 25 along Cochetopa Creek, about fourteen miles southeast of Gunnison. This was in Saguache County, near the Gunnison County line. Two others were heard singing in heavy thickets along Ohio Creek, ten or twelve miles north of Gunnison on July 13. A specimen was taken along the Gunnison River just west of Gunnison on May 11, 1951.

Calcarius lapponicus alascensis. Lapland Longspur. The distinctive note of this bird was first heard here by me on September 24, 1949. On November 15, 1952, their notes were heard coming from a flock of birds that were mostly Horned Larks near Delta, Delta County, Colorado. A longspur was taken at this place on November 29. The note was heard and the bird seen flying south near Gunnison on December 15.

All the specimens taken are in the collection of Western State College, Gunnison.

These occurrences are interesting in indicating that several species of eastern birds do not find the high elevations of 10,000 to 12,000 feet along the Continental Divide insurmountable barriers. There is no access to the Gunnison Valley (7800 feet) of less than 10,000 feet from the north, east or south. The unusual spring records, that is, those of the Parula Warbler and Leconte Sparrow, are significant in view of the fact that the snowfall of 1951-52 was extremely heavy and did not break up until late April.—A. SIDNEY HYDE, *Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado, December 16, 1952.*