

freshly killed spruce. The Downy Woodpecker is the most specialized species, feeding on insects in the bark of smaller branches and twigs of freshly killed spruce and, to a lesser extent, subalpine fir. Neither the Northern Three-toed nor the Hairy Woodpecker foraged to any extent on the trunks of freshly killed subalpine fir, presumably because of the high pitch content of fir.

Northern Three-toed and Downy Woodpeckers remained on the study area throughout the fall and winter of 1964-1965. Hairy Woodpeckers declined steadily after September 1964 and disappeared altogether between December 1964 and April 1965. The disappearance of the Hairy Woodpecker was probably related to a decline in available insect prey, conceivably as a result of its inability to compete effectively with the more specialized Northern Three-toed and Downy Woodpeckers for insect prey remaining in the fire-killed trees. The later disappearance of the Downy Woodpecker and the decrease in density of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker during May and June 1965 were undoubtedly related to the decline in food supply and to the onset of breeding season.

SUMMARY

During the fall of 1964 resident populations of Northern Three-toed, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers concentrated upon bark beetles attracted to 10 acres of northern Colorado subalpine forest killed by a fire in 1962. The numerical response of the woodpeckers was graded; that of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was the most pronounced and that of the Downy Woodpecker least pronounced. Evidence is presented suggesting that the graded response was related to the foraging adaptations of each species of woodpecker.

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OBSERVATIONS OF THE NUTHATCH-LIKE WHITE-THROATED TREERUNNER (*PYGARRHICHAS ALBOGULARIS*) IN ARGENTINA

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The monotypic furnariid White-throated Treerunner (*Pygarrhichas albobularis*) of the southern Andean and Patagonian forests of Chile and Argentina is remarkable for its similarity in appearance and behavior to nuthatches (Sittidae) of the genus *Sitta* (A. W. Johnson, *The Birds of Chile*, Vol. II, p. 199, 1967). In view of this apparent case of convergence, the following information is offered concerning its habits. I observed this species briefly on several occasions during late November 1967 in southern or

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false beech (*Nothofagus*) forest in the lower Andes Mountains of western Neuquén and Río Negro, Argentina.

The White-throated Treerunner feeds by creeping over the bark of large to small trees (usually species of *Nothofagus*), generally moving up the trunk and out the branches. Its movements involve sidling, frequent abrupt, jerky shifts of the body, and changes in direction of movement. Actual feeding is by probing into all manner of crevices and under rough edges of the bark, and occasionally by light, woodpecker-like tapping. Individuals progress rapidly up the trunks of larger trees, and spend much of their time in smaller branches working around the bases of leaf petioles. North of San Martín de los Andes, Neuquén, I encountered pairs of White-throated Treerunners as commonly in second growth woodland (trees to 15 ft high and 6 inches in diameter) as in nearly mature forest. On one occasion (20 November, 4 km NE of San Martín de los Andes) I noted an

individual moving with no apparent difficulty *downward* on the trunk of a large tree. Except for its brown rather than blue-gray coloration, there is a striking resemblance of this bird to a feeding individual of *Sitta carolinensis*.

The White-throated Treerunner often responds to a human intruder by flying to a conspicuous perch and calling. Its call, a loud "peet, peet," is emitted as the bird jerkily swings its head to one side, pauses, then swings far in the opposite direction, in the manner of displaying Downy Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos pubescens*, pers. observation).

BIRD RECORDS FROM NEVADA

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Ruby Valley, a 75-mile-long hydrologically closed basin, lies in a land of high, rugged mountains and large, flat valleys in Elko County, northeastern Nevada. The southern portion of the valley is fringed by the Butte Range to the east and the majestic Ruby Mountains on the west. Nine peaks in the Rubies reach elevations of 11,000 ft or more.

Mist netting operations were carried on by Lewis in Ruby Valley during the fall migrations of 1966 and 1967 and the spring migration of 1967. The netting site was at 6000 ft elevation on Cave Creek, as it flows through the headquarters of the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Dominant plants in this area are aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), chokecherry (*Prunus*), sumac (*Rhus*), and wild rose (*Rosa*). This island of riparian habitat at the base of the Rubies is attractive to migrant birds. Observations during periods of migration indicate a pronounced mass movement northward in the spring, whereas migration in the fall is an indefinite, casual filtering of birds to the south.

All birds netted were identified, banded, and released, with the exception of those representing important records for Nevada or additions to the Refuge bird list. These were frozen and sent to the Bird and Mammal Laboratories of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife where they were prepared as specimens. All specimens, unless otherwise noted, are in the collection of the U. S. National Museum, where they were identified by Banks. More than 40 species were added to the Refuge list, including the state and regional records listed below.

Greater Scaup. *Aythya marila nearctica*. Linsdale (1951) mentioned only a single Nevada record, from Churchill County, but had previously (1936) referred to Ridgway's (1877:343, 625) statements that the species was "abundant" as a "winter visitant at Pyramid Lake." No specimen was taken by Ridgway, and at least the portion of his record concerning abundance is probably in error. Gullion (1952) recorded a specimen taken near Riverside, Clark County, and Austin and Bradley (1966) reported a sight record in Clark County in March. On 25 November

It might be noted that throughout much of its range in southern Argentina and Chile this species has few bark-feeding competitors, including the small Striped Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos lignarius*) and probably to some extent the Rayadito (*Aphrastura spinicauda*).

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1966 Lewis found a dead Greater Scaup near the Refuge Headquarters on Cave Creek. The bird was not sexed; plumage indicated that it was a female. The body was badly decomposed and only the head was saved. This appears to be the third specimen record of this duck in Nevada and the first in the northeastern sector. All the Nevada specimens were taken in November, during the hunting season; the recent sight record was in March. Additional observation in other months will probably reveal that this species is present in small numbers throughout the winter.

Band-tailed Pigeon. *Columba fasciata fasciata*. This species was considered a rare transient in Nevada by Linsdale (1951), who reported but a single record of the western race, *C. f. monilis*, from Churchill County. Linsdale apparently overlooked a second-hand sight record (Neff 1947:20) for the Duck Creek Range in eastern Nevada. More recently, Johnson (1965) reported that these pigeons occur as a breeding species in the Spring Range in Clark County, and tentatively assigned that population to the race *monilis* which is confined chiefly to the Pacific coastal drainage. Lewis collected a specimen of the Rocky Mountain race *C. f. fasciata* at Cave Creek in Ruby Valley on 25 October 1966. This bird was an adult male with testes measuring 6 × 3 mm and was moderately fat. The bird was accompanied by a single partner on the date of collection. One adult was observed in the same general area on 10 October 1967. This is the first record of this subspecies in the state, and the first report of the species in northeastern Nevada.

Saw-whet Owl. *Aegolius acadicus acadicus*. Linsdale (1936) reported a specimen taken in Thousand Springs Valley, Elko County, in 1868. More recent records of this species in Nevada (Linsdale 1951; Cottam 1954; Miller and Russell 1956) are from the western and southern portions of the state. Lewis collected a Saw-whet Owl at Refuge Headquarters on 28 October 1966. Two others, captured on 7 and 21 October 1966, were banded and released. The specimen is a male in immature plumage and is molting on the throat and crown. Measurements of the testes were 2 × 1.5 mm.

Yellow-shafted Flicker. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. This eastern race of flicker was first reported in Nevada by Ryser (1963) on the basis of a hawk-killed specimen from the Virginia Range near Sparks, Washoe County. Other records of Yellow-shafted Flickers are from the southern part of the state and have been referred to the race *C. a. borealis*. A female Yellow-shafted Flicker was collected on 16 October 1966 at the Refuge Headquarters and another was netted, banded, and released on that date. The specimen had only a trace of fat; the ovary measured 14 × 7 mm. It is referred to the subspecies *luteus*,

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