

own doorway are those given here. In taking such a census it is difficult to say, for example, whether one sees several Meadowlarks, or sees the same bird several times, therefore I number only those of a species that were observed at the same time. They were: 1 Mourning Dove, 4 Flickers, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker, 1 female Hummingbird, a pair of Kingbirds nesting, 1 male Phoebe, numerous Bobolinks, 4 male Red-winged Blackbirds, 1 Meadowlark, 2 male and 2 female Goldfinches, Chipping Sparrows, a pair of Song Sparrows having nest with four eggs, 1 male Dickcissel, numerous Swallows, 3 White-rumped Shrikes, 1 Warbling Vireo, 2 male Maryland Yellow-throats, a pair of Catbirds nesting, a pair of Wrens with nestlings, numerous Robins, a pair of Bluebirds, nesting. Twenty-one species in all and on days closely following Bobwhites, Cowbirds, Purple Grackles and Brown Thrashers were seen.

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## COMMON BIRDS OF WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA.

BY ESTHER CRAIGMILE.

Whittier is located fourteen miles southeast of Los Angeles, and twenty miles from the Pacific Ocean. It is a hillside town standing on the mesa of the Puente Hills, which bound it on the north and east, and commands a fine view of the rich valley to the south and west. Beyond the hills lies the San Gabriel Valley bounded on the north by the Sierra Madre range. From the summit of the Puentes one gets a good view of the patchwork effect of the valley ranches with the variegated foliage which orange, lemon, olive, and walnut produce.

Pepper and Eucalyptus trees are conspicuous in town, while live oaks and sycamores are found in the canyons. The hills are green after the rains begin. Bright yellow mustard assuming the proportions of small trees covers all uncultivated regions. Weeds of all kinds thrive during the rainy season. These weed patches are an eye-sore, yet they afford desirable shelter for birds and abundant food during the dry season.

This list is taken from my notes which date from November

7, 1905, to May 7, 1906. It covers observations in Whittier, the Puente Hills, San Gabriel valley and the beach. Mrs. Bailey's Birds of Western United States, Mrs. Wheelock's Birds of California, and a short interview with Professor Joseph Grinnell, were the sources of my authority.

#### Residents.

**Sayornis nigricans.** Black Phoebe.—Common Nesting on porches.

**Scolecophagus cyanocephalus.** Brewer's Blackbird.—Abundant.

**Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis.** House Finch.—Abundant.—Destructive to fruit buds.

**Zenaidura macroura.** Mourning Dove.—Common, especially in the hills and canyons.

**Lanius ludovicianus gambeli.** California Shrike.—Especially common in town.

**Pipilo fuscus senicula.** Anthony's Towhee.—Abundant in towns, hills, and valley.

**Astragalinus psaltria.** Arkansas Goldfinch.—Abundant.

**Astragalinus tristis salicamans.** Willow Goldfinch.

**Poliopitila californica.** Black-tailed Gnatcatcher.

**Cathartes aura.** Turkey Vulture.—A constant sight soaring above hills.

**Calypte anna.** Anna's Hummingbird.—Common.

**Falco sparverius phalœna.** Desert Sparrow Hawk.—Common in the hills.

**Mimus polyglottos leucopterus.** Western Mockingbird.—Not much in evidence in fall and early winter. Adorning almost every chimney in spring when they sing jubilantly.

**Sturnella magna neglecta.** Western Meadowlark.—Common.

**Aphelocoma californica.** California Jay.—Common in canyon trees, rare in town.

**Colaptes cafer collaris.** Red-shafted Flicker.—Common in trees of canyons, rare in town.

**Catherpes mexicanus conspersus.** Canyon Wren.—Three records in canyon walks.

**Chondestes grammacus strigatus.** Western Lark Sparrow.—Found in large and small flocks in winter, in pairs in spring.

**Anthus pensilvanicus.** Pipit.—Two records. Solitary birds in ranch fields.

**Dryobates nuttalli.** Nuttall's Woodpecker.—Rare in canyon trees.

**Larus occidentalis.** Western Gull.—Abundant on the beach.

**Larus delawarensis.** Ring-billed Gull.—Rare. Only two records on the beach.

*Geococcyx californianus*. Road-runner.—Two records. Seen in the valley from the electric car window.

*Fulica americana*. American Coot.—Commonly seen from November until May. They may nest in this locality.

*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. Black Tern.—One doubtful record on the beach.

*Melospiza cinerea cooperi*. San Diego Song Sparrow.—Common.

*Corvus americanus hesperis*. California Crow.—Fairly common.

*Parus inornatus*. Plain Titmouse.—In trees of canyons.

*Lophortyx californicus vallicola*. Valley Partridge.—Abundant in hills and canyons.

*Toxostoma redivivum pasadenense*. Pasadena Thrasher.—Common resident.

*Xenopicus albolarvatus*. White-headed Woodpecker.—Rare in large sycamores in canyons.

*Heleodytes brunneicapillus*. Cactus Wren.—One record, in dry San Gabriel river bed.

*Poœcetes gramineus confinis*. Western Vesper Sparrow.—Rare. One small flock in the valley is the only record.

*Agelaius phœniceus neutralis*. San Diego Red-wing.—Abundant in the marshes.

*Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. Burrowing Owl.—Common. Nesting in holes in the ground.

*Psaltriparus minimus californicus*. California Bush Tit. Rare in my records.

*Troglodytes ædon parkmanii*. Pacific House Wren. Singing wildly from February through spring. Nesting in hollow trees or in holes in the canyon.

*Geothlypis trichas arizela*. Pacific Yellow-throat.—Commonly seen from February. Perhaps resident.

*Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*. Spurred Towhee.—Common in weedy fields or orchards.

*Pelecanus californicus*. California Brown Pelican.—Common at Long Beach in spring.

*Larus hermanni*. Hermann's Gull.—The most common gull on the beach.

*Numenius sp.?* Curlew.—A flock of nine long billed specimens were seen at Long Beach in April, but the species could not be determined.

*Larus californicus*. California Gull.—Rare.

*Otocoris alpestris actia*. California Horned Lark. Reported as common, but I have but one record.

*Vireo huttoni*. Hutton's Vireo.

*Dryobates pubescens gairdnerii*. Gairdner's Woodpecker.—Common in lowlands willows.

*Chamæa fasciata*. Wren-tit.—Rare.

**Polioptila cærulea obscura.** Western Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.—Found in winter in large flocks feeding among weeds along arroyos.

#### Winter Visitants.

**Sialia mexicana occidentalis.** Western Bluebird.—Found in small flocks during the winter.

**Dendroica auduboni.** Audubon's Warbler.—Abundant.

**Regulus calendula.** Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—Abundant.

**Buteo borealis.** Red-tailed Hawk.—Possibly a resident.

**Merula migratoria propinqua.** Western Robin.—Common in flocks. Found in parks, in town, or in canyon trees.

**Oidemia deglandi.** White-winged Scoter.—Abundant in surf at Santa Monica and Venice in November. Possibly a resident.

**Gavia pacifica.** Pacific Loon.—Common on the beach in November.

**Mareca americana.** Baldpate.—Possibly resident.

**Querquedula discors.** Blue-winged Teal.—Common. Possibly resident.

**Anas boschas.** Mallard.—Common.

**Junco hyemalis thurberi.** Thurber's Junco.—One large flock recorded in San Gabriel Valley. Rare in town.

**Columba fasciata.** Band-tailed Pigeon.—One record of four in a canyon.

**Sayornis saya.** Say's Phoebe.—Commonly found in fields all winter.

**Astragalinus lawrencei.** Lawrence's Goldfinch.—Rare.

**Zonotrichia coronata.** Golden-crowned Sparrow.

**Oidemia perspicillata.** Surf Scoter.—Abundant in the surf at Long Beach in April. Perhaps resident.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli.** Gambel's Sparrow.—Abundant.

#### Summer Residents.

**Tyrannis verticalis.** Arkansas Kingbird.—Common.

**Tachycineta thalassina lepida.** Northern Violet Green Swallow.

**Icterus bullocki.** Bullock's Oriole.—Common after the last of March. Nests largely in canyon trees.

**Phainopepla nitens.** Phainopepla.—Common in small flocks among pepper trees after the middle of March.

**Petrochelidon lunifrons.** Cliff Swallow.—Common, nesting inside of barns and under eaves.

**Riparia riparia.** Bank Swallow.—Abundant, nesting in high banks along the ocean at Long Beach.

**Stelgidopteryx serripennis.** Rough-winged Swallow.—Common, nesting in the banks at Long Beach.

- Dendroica æstiva*. Yellow Warbler.—Common.  
*Zamelodia melanocephala*. Black-headed Grosbeak.  
*Chordeiles acutipennis texensis*. Texas Nighthawk.—Common.  
*Cyanospiza amœna*. Lazuli Bunting.—Common in Puente Hills.  
*Myiarchus cinerascens*. Ash-throated Flycatcher.—Common.  
*Trochilus alexandri*. Black-chinned Hummingbird.—Most common hummer in summer.  
*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*. Arizona Hooded Oriole.—A common town bird, nesting on the under side of palm leaves.  
*Wilsonia pusilla chryseola*. Golden Pileolated Warbler.—Common among scrubby willows.  
*Empidonax difficilis*. Western Flycatcher.—Recorded on May day.  
*Icteria virens longicaudus*. Long-tailed Chat.—Singing among willows on May first.  
*Empidonax traillii*. Traill's Flycatcher.—Common in canyon trees.  
*Hylocichla ustulatus*. Russet-backed Thrush.—One May record.

#### Transients.

- Chen hyperborea*. Lesser Snow Goose.—Migrating in February.  
*Hylocichla ustulatus auduboni*. Audubon's Hermit Thrush.—Two records in the spring migration.  
*Ceryle alcyon*. Belted Kingfisher.—One record on the beach.  
*Oxyechus vocifera*. Killdeer.—A flock of fifteen recorded in November.  
*Ampelis cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing.—Two records: One flock of twenty in the live oaks on the first of January, and a flock of five in Whittier Park in March.  
*Selasphorus rufus*. Rufus Hummingbird.—Common in the spring migrations after March 31.  
*Chætura vauxi*. Vaux's Swift.—Commonly seen during April and May.  
*Piranga ludoviciana*. Louisiana Tanager.—Two records in May.

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## A PURPLE MARTIN ROOST.

BY P. A. TAVERNER.

The Purple Martin is a strange bird and one that my experience points out as a slowly vanishing race. Outside of the late cases in the east where their local extinction was clearly due to the inclement weather, they seem to be on the downward path. Old established colonies are being reported deserted without, as far as I can discern, any adequate increase in other