

as northern Minnesota. However, specimens from the northern part of Michigan are scarcely larger than those from the southernmost counties. Eleven adults from the upper peninsula of Michigan, including Isle Royale, have the wing 149–162 mm. Fifteen from the northern part of the lower peninsula, including the islands in Lake Michigan, also measure 149–162 mm. The wings of twenty-three birds from southern Michigan vary between 146–161 mm. Since these measurements are all well within the range of *Colaptes auratus luteus*, the breeding Flicker throughout the state of Michigan must be referred to that race.

Two autumn specimens are remarkable for their large size. One of them, a male with the wing 171 mm. long, was collected by J. B. Steere at Ionia, Ionia County, Michigan, during October, 1876. The other, also a male, has a wing length of 167 mm. It was taken by J. Claire Wood in Ecorse Township, Wayne County, Michigan, on September 30, 1893. These two birds are as large as breeding specimens of *Colaptes auratus borealis* from northern British Columbia and are without doubt migrants of that race. Other fall and winter specimens examined are all referable to *luteus*.

The Boreal Flicker has not previously been recorded from Michigan.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Notes from Northeastern Oregon.—The Blue Mountain region of northeastern Oregon has received relatively little attention ornithologically. The following contributions are offered with the idea of adding to the splendid introductory data contained in Gabrielson and Jewett's "Birds of Oregon" (1940).

La Grande, Union County, in the vicinity of which most of these observations were made, lies at the west edge of the Grande Ronde Valley, at an elevation of 2,700 feet. A tongue of the Upper Sonoran Zone vegetation, characterized by greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), occupies the valley floor where it is not planted to wheat or other crops. Almost as soon as the surrounding hills begin to rise the ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) of the Transition zone dominate up to an elevation of 5,000 feet or more, at which point they give place to Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) of the Canadian Zone which extends up to 6,000 feet, the highest point (Mount Emily) in the vicinity of La Grande.

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus columbianus*).—In early January, 1940, Dr. Elmo Stevenson, then of Eastern Oregon College, showed me a flock of about a dozen some 25 miles northeast of La Grande, near Elgin. The birds had their headquarters among scattered Douglas firs in a gully surrounded by wheat and other farm land. On February 15, 1941, after an all day search, two other observers and I glimpsed five of these birds flushed just at sunset, in the same vicinity. The farmers of the region have co-operated with the State Game Commission in creating a preserve in an attempt to save this, one of the few remaining bands of Sharp-tails in Oregon.

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*).—On June 29, 1940, I located a pair feeding two young recently out of the nest in a dense thicket near an irrigation ditch in the Valley about five miles southeast of La Grande. After some searching the nest was found in a shrub about five feet above the ground. It contained a punctured Catbird egg which I collected along with the adult male. Several other pairs of Catbirds were located in the vicinity of La Grande. Natives who know the bird say it has occurred here for at least 25 years. Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*, p. 462) say that it "undoubtedly breeds, although there are no actual breeding records."

Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*).—Judging from last winter and this one, Audubon's Warbler may be expected much later in the fall in eastern Oregon than has previously been supposed. Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*, p. 504) mention "a single straggling record" for Wasco County, January 2, 1917. Otherwise

their latest date for the region east of the Cascades is October 24. To this I should like to add the following sight records (and the unmistakable call-note heard): November 3, 1940, one at Pendleton; and for La Grande four occurrences—November 11, 1940, one; November 26, 1941, two; December 1, 1941, one; December 30, 1941, one.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*).—A female or immature bird was watched at a distance of about twenty feet for about a minute in fir woods at an elevation of about 4,500 feet near Mount Emily on August 3, 1940. On the basis of two specimens taken in worn breeding plumage in September, Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*, p. 541) state that *P. e. montana* "probably breeds" in the higher Wallows.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Oberholseria chlorura*).—An adult accompanied by an immature bird seen on a brushy hillside in the lower portion of the Transition zone near La Grande, and adults in song in the springs of 1940 and 1941 indicate that the bird is a regular breeder in Union County. Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*, p. 551) record it from Baker, the county adjoining Union County on the south.

Western Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea ochracea*).—On December 8, 1940, I studied a Tree Sparrow for five minutes at close range in a brushy, weedy area in the Valley four miles east of La Grande. Another was seen near Elgin on February 15, 1940. One was seen to fine advantage in the Valley about five miles east of town on December 26, 1941. Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*, p. 573) record specimens from Baker and Wallowa counties, which adjoin Union County on the south and east, respectively.—A SIDNEY HYDE, *Eastern Oregon College of Education, La Grande, Oregon*.

A Rock Wren Specimen from Michigan.—My friend, Dr. Max M. Peet, recently remarked to me that he had once seen in Michigan a species of bird which he felt sure was not represented by a Michigan specimen in the University collection. The bird, it turned out, was a Rock Wren which he saw unmistakably from a railway train which was drawing very slowly into the Detroit station. He was familiar with the species in the West and recognized it instantly. The bird was tame and he had a very good look at it for several minutes. This happened in the fall "five or six years ago" but he had not made any note of it because it seemed to him so obviously a stray that had been accidentally transported from the West in a freight car.

This incident caused me to bring out from the collection and restudy a Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) which had long lain there, at first not recognized and later not taken seriously. The specimen came to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology by gift of Bryant Walker after J. Claire Wood's death in 1916 and was catalogued No. 50838. It is a normal specimen of Rock Wren in somewhat worn and soiled plumage. It is typical of the J. Claire Wood "make" of bird skin and bears the original label with the following data in his handwriting: "Carolina Wren. ♂, Oct. 31, 1910. From pile of railroad ties at D. S. Crossing, Sec. 24, Monguagon Township, Wayne County, Mich." His brother, Walter C. Wood, writes me from Detroit that that entry occurs in the original catalogue now in his possession. The only other birds taken that day were Pine Siskins and a Red-tailed Hawk.

Several facts have a bearing on this erroneous identification of the specimen. J. Claire Wood was not familiar with the Rock Wren and had none in his collection. P. A. Taverner calls my attention to the fact that the Carolina Wren "was just extending into Michigan" at that time and Wood's associates had recently taken specimens. (See *Auk*, 27, 1910:141; *Auk*, 29, 1912:107; *Wilson Bull.*, 24, 1912:129). He was therefore interested in and looking for Carolina Wrens. In the papers of James B. Purdy we find a letter of February 28, 1911 from J. Claire Wood asking for Purdy's Wayne County records of the Carolina Wren, adding that as "soon as I hear from you I will prepare my notes for the Auk." Apparently the note was never published.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.