

**Notes on Birds Observed in the Colorado Desert in Winter.**—We arrived at Boregas Spring Dec. 20, 1889. This spring lies about 25 miles northeast of Warner's Pass, in a western arm of the desert, and about 10 miles from the foot of the mountains on either side. It is a barren part of the desert. A few small mesquit trees are scattered around in the least arid part of the valley, and stunted *larrea* bushes grow a few yards apart over the entire region. Cactuses are scarce, the soil being too poor for their growth. Below the spring is a considerable patch of arrow-weed. A stay of a week proved that birds were scarce, thirteen species only being noted. I found several species of the smaller mammals tolerably well represented, principally pocket rats and allied species. The birds noted were:—

*Circus hudsonius*. One seen.

*Sayornis saya*. One seen.

*Corvus corax sinuatus*. One seen occasionally, perhaps different individuals.

*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. Rather common.

*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. Several seen.

*Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia*. Common.

*Amphispiza belli nevadensis*. Several seen.

*Phainopepla nitens*. Several seen.

*Harporhynchus lecontei*. Two shot, another seen.

*Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus*. Two seen in clay cliffs.

*Auriparus flaviceps*. Several seen. One caught in its nest about sunrise. This species sleeps in its nest most of the year.

*Polioptila plumbea*. Six shot, others seen. In winter plumage.

*Sialia mexicana*. Several seen.

From Boregas Spring our course was east 20 miles to turn a spur of the mountains, then northwest 15 miles to a spring known by the Indians as La Carisita de Laguna Salada. A heavy rain had fallen two weeks previously and we found water in pools in three places. Usually there is no water to be found in this 35 miles of barren desert, which is nearly impassable with a wagon. No road exists, and much deep sand and many bad washes occur, so that with our light spring wagon we were nearly three days going from one spring to the other, our principal trouble being to find places to cross the washes.

Over this 35 miles of desert the only birds I saw were a pair of *Harporhynchus lecontei*, and a small flock of *Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia* at a rain-water pool off the point of the mountain. As the water of the Carisita spring was too alkaline to be palatable we went on the next morning six miles to the first of a series of springs called by the Indians Agua Dulce (sweet water). Here was an old Indian village, deserted except by one family. This proved a good collecting ground. From there to Indio, a station on the Southern Pacific Railroad, the soil was good in places, with plenty of good-sized mesquit trees, and a few species of birds were moderately abundant. Birds of the Sonoran Province mingled with northern birds driven down by the snow from the adjacent mountains. The birds noted from this part of the desert were:—

- Anas carolinensis*. Four seen at the Carisita Spring.  
*Callipepla gambeli*. Several coveys seen. Six shot.  
*Zenaidura macroura*. Rare.  
*Circus hudsonius*. Occasional.  
*Buteo borealis calurus*. Occasional.  
*Falco sparverius*. Two seen.  
*Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. One seen.  
*Dryobates scalaris bairdii*. Three shot.  
*Colaptes cafer*. Several seen.  
*Micropus melanoleucus*. Common.  
*Sayornis saya*. Occasional.  
*Corvus corax sinuatus*. Rather common.  
*Agelaius phœniceus*? One female seen.  
*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. Common.  
*Spinus psaltria*. Several seen.  
*Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia*. Abundant.  
*Junco hyemalis oregonus*. One seen.  
*Amphispiza belli nevadensis*. Several seen.  
*Ampelis cedrorum*. Small flock seen.  
*Pipilo aberti*. Three taken, others seen. Shy as usual.  
*Phainopepla nitens*. Common.  
*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*. Several seen; one shot.  
*Dendroica auduboni*. Several seen.  
*Oroscoptes montanus*. One shot January 7, 1890.  
*Mimus polyglottos*. Two seen.  
*Harporhynchus lecontei*. Several seen.  
*Harporhynchus crissalis*. One shot, others seen. In full song.  
*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*. Occasional.  
*Troglodytes ædon aztecus*. Several seen.  
*Cistothorus palustris paludicola*. Several seen at the springs.  
*Auriparus flaviceps*. Occasional.  
*Polioptila plumbea*. Rather common.  
*Merula migratoria propinqua*. Several seen.  
*Sialia mexicana*. Common.

From Indio we went north to the palm groves in the cañons opening on the desert from the foot-hills on the north side. In these palm groves were a few birds of common species. The only bird of any interest that I saw was a female *Myadestes townsendi*, shot January 10.

Soon after leaving the palm groves I saw a small flock of *Otocoris* and shot a female, which appears to be *O. a. chrysolæma*. We left the desert by way of the San Gorgonio Pass, January 17.

The principal results of the trip, as far as birds were concerned, were the extension of the known range of *Harporhynchus crissalis* west to Indio, and the finding that this species, *Pipilo aberti*, *Auriparus flaviceps*, *Polioptila plumbea*, *Oroscoptes montanus*, and *Myadestes townsendi* all winter in the desert. The last two should probably be considered as stragglers.—F. STEPHENS, *Santa Ysabel, Cal.*