

and subsequently on twenty-three different occasions. He would apparently disappear from the park for short intervals, once for a period of two weeks, as I was on the watch for him and visited the park almost daily without seeing him. On December 19 he came to me for the first time for peanuts, and after that always came to my hand freely and without fear. On May 10, 1905, I saw a female of the same species with him, and also several other Brown Thrashers. As this was the last time I saw him, he probably accompanied the other Brown Thrashers when they left the park.—LILLIAN W. LEWIS, *New York City*.

An addition to the Avifauna of Cuba.—On October 16, 1903, at the Morro Castle, Santiago, Cuba, I took a specimen of *Saxicola œnanthe leucorhoa* (Gmel.). It was a female in good condition. It was feeding in the scanty grass in company with a large straggling flock of Palm Warblers.—WIRT ROBINSON, *Capt. U. S. A., Ft. Totten, N. Y.*

Note on *Lagopus leucurus* and *Leucosticte australis*.—In Volume V, Zoölogy of the Wheeler Survey, published in 1875, mention is made of two specimens of *Leucosticte australis* collected by C. E. Aiken on Mount Blanco, New Mexico, Sept. 3, 1874, with the remark that "this is perhaps near the limit of its southward range."

On page 439 of the same volume are recorded six specimens of *Lagopus leucurus* collected by Aiken on Mount Blaine, Colorado, Sept. 3, 1874. As the two localities are several hundred miles apart, and as the specimens of the two species are recorded as having been collected on the same day by the same collector (who, moreover, never visited Mount Blanco), it is evident that the records involve a mistake. Inquiry discloses the fact that they involve two mistakes.

A letter recently at hand from Mr. Aiken states that the specimens of both *Leucosticte* and *Lagopus* were secured by him on the mountain in southern Colorado known upon present maps as "Summit Peak." At the time of his visit, however, no name for the peak was known to Mr. Aiken, but he was informed that it was to receive the name of Mount Blaine. Hence the name of the latter in the record of the ptarmigan and on the labels of the specimens. The name Mount Blaine was not bestowed by the Wheeler Survey upon the "Summit Peak," but subsequently was given to a high mountain in Ouray County which appears on the Hayden and other maps as Mount Sneffels. How the specimens of *L. australis* came to be wrongly labeled Mount Blanco, New Mexico, and so recorded in the volume above mentioned, will probably never be known; nor does it much matter.

It is important that Summit Peak be recorded as the true locality of Aiken's specimens of *Leucosticte australis* and *Lagopus leucurus*, since the latter have been taken as the types of *Lagopus leucurus altipetens* (Auk, XVIII, p. 180, 1901) and credited to Mount Blaine; while there is

no record to show that *Leucosticte australis* has ever been taken in New Mexico, Summit Peak, southern Colorado being at present its southern recorded limit. — H. W. HENSHAW, *Washington, D. C.*

Notes from Northern New Mexico. — The present status of *Lagopus l. altipetens* in the southern Rocky Mountains has been one of the interesting questions of our Biological Survey bird work in New Mexico. In the summer of 1903 we obtained old records of a few Ptarmigan seen in Mora Pass and on the peaks above the Upper Pecos, and in the winter of 1904 a specimen was collected in the Taos Mountains above Twining, about thirty miles south of the Colorado line, this being the first skin to substantiate the New Mexico records.¹ On July 19, 1904, we entered the mountains at Twining and proceeded to work the highest parts of the range between Taos and the Colorado line. The crest of the range between Taos and Twining runs far above timberline, by our aneroid readings averaging about 13,000 feet, with Taos as a base station at 7,000 feet. The highest point, known locally as Wheeler Peak, averaged with five readings 13,700 feet, which would make it the highest peak in New Mexico. In this group of mountains, although most of the snow melts in summer, Ptarmigan evidently were common before the advent of miners and sheep men. Our Indian camp man told us that twenty years before he had seen 'whole-lot-ta,' and now the birds are still common enough to be familiarly known by the Indians who see a few every year. At the time of our visit, however, large bands of sheep were running over the crest of the range, and although our party made six different trips to the peaks, only four Ptarmigan were seen. Two of these were secured by Sun-Elk, our Indian, who found them among the peaks above 13,000 feet, where he had seen them in previous years. Three primaries that he discovered on the trail followed by the sheep men suggested the probability that the sheep scared up the birds and the herders killed them with stones. Large bands of sheep were running over the crest of Costilla Peak just south of the Colorado line when we reached there on August 20. On the peak at 13,200 and 13,300 feet by the barometer, Mr. Bailey found evidence of Ptarmigan in piles of winter sign, considerable accumulations being found in some places. Two Mexicans he met on the mountain reported killing four of the birds that day, and a hunter from the neighborhood spoke of them familiarly. He generally found them in small flocks, he said, but sometimes saw as many as fifty together. He called them snowbirds, saying that they were usually found sitting around on the little benches near a large snowbank on the northeast side of the peak at about 13,200 feet. He added that the birds were very tame and that the males called in the mornings like a hawk. While only three

¹ Additional Notes on the Birds of the Upper Pecos. *The Auk*, 1904, pp. 351, 352.