

Phænicopterus ruber. One was seen at Cameron, La., Dec. 6, 1910. Apparently the first definite record for Louisiana.

Querquedula cyanoptera. Dr. A. K. Fisher sends me notes on this and the following species. A Cinnamon Teal was killed by Mr. John Dymond at the Delta Duck Club, La., Jan. 15, 1911, and Mr. F. M. Miller, President of the Board of Game Commissioners, says that the species is not uncommon in Louisiana this year, he having reports of about 20 specimens taken.

Melopelia leucoptera. One of a pair was collected by Mr. Gus Smith at Venice, La., about Nov. 20, 1910.—W. L. McATEE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Enormous Death Rate among Water Fowl near Salt Lake City, Utah, Fall of 1910.—In reply to a letter of inquiry I am in receipt of some interesting information (dated Dec. 10, 1910) from the State Game and Fish Commissioner of Utah, Mr. Fred W. Chambers of Salt Lake City: “. . . will state that early in September, 1910, a malady came amongst the ducks and wild water fowl of this section, which has proven very disastrous, it being estimated that over two hundred thousand (200,000) have died from this disease. Mr. J. H. Mohler, Chief of Division of Pathology, Washington, D. C., who took the matter up, states that the disease is intestinal coccidiosis — which from appearances is a sort of cholera. On account of having scarcely any rain during the past season, the water was very low, and was to a great extent used for irrigation purposes. The ducks nested and hatched in the various sloughs, and the young being unable to fly, subsisted in the waters of said sloughs, which from long drought had become stagnant and filthy. The disease is supposed to have started in this way. Conditions have cleared up and very few sick ducks can now be found. The disease is not infectious to animals and people, as has been reported.” — HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

Notes on Some Species from Eastern Oregon.—The winter of 1909–1910 was perhaps the most severe that has been experienced in eastern Oregon during the past 20 years. The unusual amount of snow, as well as the long continued cold, caused the death of many birds and to some extent forced others to change their normal habits.

A flock of a dozen *Oreortyx* was several times seen feeding on stable refuse hauled out from the town of Vale, Malheur County. Just where these wanderers came from would be a problem, as the nearest body of timber, the natural home of the species, is about 75 miles to the westward, and so far as I can learn the species is not found there.

The unusually deep snow handicapped the jackrabbits, which were very abundant at this time, rendering their capture by the ever hungry coyote merely a matter of a moment's effort. Early in the winter I began to notice that a small company of Magpies accompanied each and every

coyote. A scattered flock, flying from sage-bush to greese-wood, across the hills, was, in almost every instance, preceded by a "Government Dog," and the killing of a rabbit several times per day was the inducement to the feathered escort, which shared freely in the leavings of the wolf.

Early in the spring of 1910 a male English Sparrow was seen 12 miles from Vale, in the sage-brush, vainly attempting to induce a female Brewer Blackbird to begin housekeeping with him. So far was the wanderer from his fellows in Vale that I was surprised, never having seen one even half a mile from town before. No more strays were seen until in the fall, when on the upper Willow Creek, near the base of the Burnt River Mountains, I found a small flock of from four to ten on every ranch. This region is some 40 miles from the railroad, the nearest point being Huntington, where the sparrows are abundant. To reach the ranches mentioned a mountain range must be crossed and long miles of sage plains and lava mesas, a region as little to their liking as a wood-yard to a tramp. It is more likely that they found their way up the valley from Ontario, some 70 miles, but through country that is entirely unsuited to the requirements of this species as we have regarded them in the past. The ranchers told me that they had not seen any sparrows until a month or so before, a statement that was likely true, since only small flocks were seen, and there was no evidence of their having been long resident.

In the spring of 1909 a pair of Bullock Orioles, migrating through the sage plains of eastern Oregon, paused to rest on the derrick of an oil well, several miles from the nearest tree or shrub, save the ever present *Artemisia*. The drill was temporarily idle and hanging from one of the timbers of the derrick was a frayed rope, resembling the end of a cow's tail. This was taken as a homestead and the nest hung from the loose fibers. Meantime an Arkansas Kingbird selected the end of the huge walking beam as a summer home and built. Before the eggs were hatched it became time to renew operations on the drill and the nests were in danger of destruction. The rope was cut and the end with the oriole's nest fastened to the corner of the derrick out of harm's way, while the Kingbird's nest was removed to a shelf some ten feet distant. Neither species objected in the least, and the young birds were raised amid the clatter of machinery and smoke of forge. In the spring of 1910 the kingbird returned and took possession of the same nesting site, but the rope had been removed and the oriole selected the branches of a sage-bush at the foot of the derrick, where the young were raised in a nest only two feet from the ground.—A. W. ANTHONY, *Portland, Oregon.*

Notes on Some Birds Rare or New to Wisconsin.—In a neat little pamphlet of 51 pages, entitled "Birds of Oconto County," dated October 27, 1902, Mr. A. J. Schoenebeck of Kelley Brook, Wis., gives a list of some 254 species, "identified, captured or seen" by him, most of which are in his collection. This list contains the first authentic record of the Water