

NOTES ON COLORADO BIRDS

BY ALFRED M. BAILEY AND ROBERT J. NIEDRACH

IN going over the collection of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, we have found a few birds which should be recorded, among them some old specimens secured from the State Historical Society's collection.

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer immer*.—Published records from Colorado probably refer to *elasson* described by Bishop (1921). We have examined skins in various State collections, and all that we have measured have been this small western form, except one in our own series, an unsexed immature (C. M. N. H. no. 7807), taken at Brighton, Adams County, November 7, 1922, by F. J. Smith. It measures as follows: wing, 380 mm.; culmen, 78; depth of bill at base, 25; tarsus, 85. It is such a large bird that it greatly resembles the immature *adamsi* except for the shape of its culmen.

WESTERN GREBE, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*.—Bergtold (1928) lists this as a rare migrant and mentions six records, apparently on the basis of the list compiled by Sclater (1912). While there are comparatively few specimens in collections, the birds are not as rare as has been indicated. From the Historical Society's collection we have the first record for the State (C. M. N. H. no. 15401) taken at Denver, October 25, 1888 (Smith, 1895). In addition, we have five other birds from the State: a male (no. 391) was collected in Huerfano County, on November 28, 1908, by A. W. Scarlet and another (no. 6021) was taken on Mud Lake, Adams County, October 29, 1916, by E. H. Osler; a female (no. 7514) was killed by a hunter in Weld County, November 16, 1919, and another (no. 9362), an interesting winter record, was collected on December 27, 1921, at Ault, Weld County, by G. J. Rants; R. L. Landberg, of the Museum Staff, collected a female (no. 12241) at Fort Morgan, Morgan County, September 3, 1932, and R. B. Rockwell and the undersigned saw a mated pair at Barr Lake, Adams County, on May 24, 1936. Niedrach observed one in the same locality April 24, 1937.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*.—Cormorants have been considered rare birds in Colorado and there are few in State collections. We have but four specimens as follows: immature male (no. 2134), taken at Barr, Adams County, on September 14, 1913; immature male (no. 9882), taken at Deertrail, Arapahoe County, on October 15, 1922; adult female (no. 12391), taken at Barr, Adams County, April 22, 1935; and adult male (no. 12250) taken at Barr, Adams County, on June 1, 1931. The last mentioned was collected with a set of eggs by Niedrach and Rockwell, and is the first nesting record for Colorado. There were eight occupied

neys, and at least five pairs succeeded in rearing their young. Three young were captured and placed in the lake at the City Park Zoo. Two were killed, however, because they developed the habit of eating young ducks, according to the keeper, who said the cormorants would dive and pull the young ducks from sight.

WOOD IBIS, *Mycteria americana*.—There are few records of this straggler. Selater recorded the first specimens for the State, taken by L. L. Llewellyn: an unsexed bird and an immature male collected August 30, 1902, near Fort Logan, Arapahoe County. These are now in our collection and are numbered 7417 and 14711, respectively. F. G. Brandenburg and G. P. Young, of the Museum staff, collected an immature female (no. 12379) near Aurora, Adams County, July 25, 1934.

AMERICAN EGRET, *Casmerodius albus egretta*.—An adult female was taken at Barr, Adams County, on April 29, 1933 (no. 12368). This is a rare species in the State, apparently, and this specimen is the only one from Colorado in our collection.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, *Melanitta deglandi*.—There are five specimens of this straggler in our collection from Colorado, as follows: immature female (no. 2989), Longmont, Boulder County, November 15, 1913, collected by W. S. Hurd; adult female (no. 6865), Denver, October 21, 1917, collected by V. N. Borchardt; immature male (no. 14189), immature female (no. 14190), and immature male (no. 14191), Red Feather Lakes, Larimer County, November 5, 1927, collected by Floyd Phipps.

SURF SCOTER, *Melanitta perspicillata*.—Two old skins from Colorado recently secured from the State Historical Society's collection are: adult male (no. 14706), Barr, Adams County, October 22, 1899, collected by L. B. Meek; adult male (no. 16204), Loveland, Larimer County, October 31, 1899, collected by H. A. Flynn. Three other specimens have been added to the collection in recent years: adult female (no. 11884) and immature male (no. 11885), Milton Reservoir, Weld County, October 22, 1929, collected by H. Wilson; adult female (no. 12236), Barr, Adams County, November 6, 1932, collected by Rockwell.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, *Buteo platypterus platypterus*.—Only two specimens have been taken in the State. A female collected at Colorado Springs in May 1926, now in the Colorado College Museum (C. C. 5817), was recorded by Aiken (1927). The other specimen is an immature female (no. 12386), which was taken in City Park, Denver, by R. J. Niedrach. Three birds were observed in a grove of trees one hundred yards south of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, in City Park, by Niedrach on May 11, 1934, and they remained in the vicinity until early June; they were again seen on May 18, 1935, and they stayed until June 1, after which they were not noted. Niedrach was in Central America during the spring of

1936, but Brandenburg reported several birds in the same locality during early May.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK, *Philohela minor*.—The Woodcock has been recorded for the State only a few times. The first reference is by H. G. Smith (1886), who saw a mounted specimen in a gun store in Denver. The old mounted bird, which was taken near Denver about August 9, 1885, was recently donated to the Museum and has been made into a skin (no. 14760).

SABINE'S GULL, *Xema sabini*.—Two immatures have been secured in recent years; a female (no. 12263) from the western slope near Fraser, Grand County, October 21, 1932, and a male immature (no. 12545), from Barr Lake, Adams County, October 10, 1928.

ATLANTIC KITTIWAKE, *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*.—The occurrence of the Kittiwake in the State has been based upon unsatisfactory evidence of a specimen in Mrs. Maxwell's collection which was supposed to have been taken in Boulder County, in December, prior to 1874 (Sclater, 1912). R. L. Landberg collected the second known specimen for the State, an immature male (no. 12262), near Fort Morgan, Morgan County, on November 13, 1932.

FLAMMULATED SCREECH OWL, *Otus flammeolus*.—An adult female (no. 12700), with a set of three eggs, was collected in Eagle County, on June 6, 1933, by Don Brown.

EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER, *Dryobates villosus villosus*.—An adult female (no. 14783) was collected at Parker, Douglas County, on December 5, 1936, by F. G. Brandenburg. We have seven specimens from the eastern part of the State but this is the first from near Denver.

EASTERN PHOEBE, *Sayornis phoebe*.—This species has been recorded twice: a specimen taken by G. Thorne at Fort Lyon, Boulder County, April 20, 1884 (Sclater, 1912), and a male taken in Pueblo County, April 5, 1896 (W. P. Lowe, 1914). G. P. Young and F. G. Brandenburg collected a third specimen, a male (no. 12353), on April 26, 1933, in Adams County, close to Denver.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *Muscivora forficata*.—Bergtold (1928) gives "two dubious records; sight identification." We have two females (nos. 16348, 16349) as the first definite records for the State, taken in Baca County, near Campo, on May 31 and June 1, 1923, respectively, by R. J. Niedrach.

GRAY VIREO, *Vireo vicinior*.—The only record for the State is that of H. G. Smith (1908), who collected two pairs in Prowers County between May 16 and 20, 1907. Three of these were obtained by the Museum when the State Historical Society's collection was distributed (nos. 12735, 14583, 14584).

LITERATURE CITED

- AIKEN, C. E. H.
1927. Three records for Colorado. *Auk*, **44**: 432.
- BERGTOLD, W. H.
1928. A guide to Colorado birds. (Privately printed.)
- BISHOP, L. B.
1921. Description of a new loon. *Auk*, **38**: 365.
- LOWE, W. P.
1914. Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) in Colorado. *Auk*, **31**: 102.
- SCLATER, W. L.
1912. A history of the birds of Colorado. Witherby and Co., London.
- SMITH, H. G.
1886. Some additions to the avifauna of Colorado. *Auk*, **8**: 284.
1895. Some birds new to Colorado. *Nidologist*, **3**: 48.
1908. Random notes on the distribution of some Colorado birds, with additions to the State avifauna. *Auk*, **25**: 184-191.

Colorado Museum of Natural History
Denver, Colorado