

castle, Wyoming. In Spearfish Canyon, above Spearfish, South Dakota, he collected an adult male on August 2 and a young male on August 6. We saw others at both localities, but owing to the wildness of the birds and the difficulty of recovering them from the talus, no more could be obtained. The Canyon Wren is new to South Dakota and has seldom been recorded from Wyoming.—PIERCE BRODKORB AND THOMAS D. HINSHAW, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

**Unusual waterbirds in El Paso County, Colorado.**—The following observations were made on the high plains of El Paso County, about twenty-five miles east of Colorado Springs. In certain places where springs or subsurface water has made it possible, ponds have been constructed for the purpose of irrigating farmland or impounding water for livestock. These ponds are very attractive to waterbirds in an otherwise dry country, and many species which were formerly rare are now locally common, or pass through quite regularly.

**HOODED MERGANSER, *Lophodytes cucullatus*.**—On April 20, 1937, a pair of these ducks was seen on a pond on the C. E. Orr ranch near Falcon. Aiken and Warren ('Birds of El Paso County, Colorado,' Colorado Coll. Pub., Sci. Series, 12: 455-496, 1914) record only one specimen taken or seen in the county previous to that time.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, *Charadrius semipalmatus*.**—A single individual was seen in company with several Killdeer and some Least Sandpipers near a pond on the E. E. Zanger ranch, two miles south of Peyton, on May 3, 1937. Aiken and Warren do not record it.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, *Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus*.**—On May 3, 1937, a flock of nine dowitchers was seen about the ponds on the E. E. Zanger ranch, two miles south of Peyton. They showed little fear of an automobile, and fed unconcernedly as I drove within fifty feet and watched them. The flock was seen repeatedly at two different ponds. On May 5, a single individual was seen feeding on a mud flat on the Banning-Lewis ranch near Falcon, and on May 12, another one was flying about with a flock of Wilson's Phalaropes on the C. E. Orr ranch.

**MARBLED GODWIT, *Limosa fedoa*.**—On May 1, 1937, a dozen of these large waders were present on mud flats about the ponds on the C. I. Anderson farm, where they stayed for several days in a large mixed flock of several species of shorebirds. Another was seen on the E. E. Zanger farm on May 3, and two more were with a flock of Western Willets on the C. E. Orr ranch on May 4.

**NORTHERN PHALAROPE, *Lobipes lobatus*.**—A Northern Phalarope was seen on a pond on the Fred Herman farm three miles south of Peyton, on October 23, 1936. The water was frozen for several feet from the shore line, but the bird was picking up insect food from the surface of the open water in the typical phalarope manner. Aiken and Warren record this bird as a rare spring migrant, but do not mention any fall records.—W. S. LONG, 830 E. Platte Ave., Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Three noteworthy stragglers in northern Alaska.**—Through the kindness of Charles D. Brower, of Barrow, Alaska, the San Diego Society of Natural History has recently come into possession of three stragglings bird migrants, of which two are of exceptional interest. These birds were not secured by the collector's gun, but were the victims of their own wandering and, by good fortune, fell into the hands of a person who appreciated their value from a scientific standpoint and preserved them.

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD, *Sialia currucoides*.**—A female was found in an exhausted condition near the settlement of Barrow on May 20, 1937. All three specimens of

this species so far listed (see Program of Activities of Chicago Academy of Sciences, vol. 4, no. 2, April, 1933) from Point Barrow have been females.

SIBERIAN BANK SWALLOW, *Riparia riparia ijimae*.—This specimen was sent to J. L. Peters of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy for identification. He marked it *ijimae*(?). His comments were as follows: "Your bird is just as dark as the very darkest *ijimae* examined, and the breast band is even darker. The reason I feel a little doubtful about saying it is *ijimae* is because it is a remade salted skin, and I do not know what effect this processing may have on the normal mouse color of the Bank Swallow." Regarding the salt, the writer examined this specimen when it was received and found that but little salt had been used in its preservation and, further, the time elapsed between its skinning and salting and when it was desalted and prepared as a cabinet specimen was less than six months. Hence the salt could have had but slight effect. This specimen is No. 17638 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History, an adult male, found on June 8, 1937, at Barrow, Alaska. The only other record of this form for North America is also a specimen from Barrow, identified by the late Outram Bangs (see same list cited above). This record bird was in all probability compared with the same series of Siberian specimens as was the bird we sent Mr. Peters. Mr. Bangs also commented on the dark color of the specimen he handled.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, *Loxia leucoptera leucoptera*.—This is perhaps the most surprising specimen to be taken in that far-northern land that the writer has ever had the chance to examine, and even more surprising is the time of year it was collected—January! The specimen was picked up by a native at Demarcation Point in January, 1937, and brought to Mr. Brower in the flesh. When the writer first saw the label he questioned the month for, although in Mr. Brower's handwriting, it was abbreviated, and it was taken to be June. However, Mr. Brower recently paid a visit to the Natural History Museum at San Diego and we conversed at length on the peculiar phenomenon of this bird's wandering such a great distance from the coniferous forest belt, and ending its journey of life on the tundra so far within the Arctic Circle in the dead of winter!—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California.*