

### Avifauna of a 100-Acre Ranch.

BY H. S. SWARTH, LOS ANGELES.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club.]

*Concluded from last issue.*

66. BELTED KINGFISHER. *Ceryle alcyon*. A regular and rather common migrant, seen sometimes but rarely in the winter.

67. GAIRDNER'S WOODPECKER. *Dryobates pubescens gairdneri*. In six years I have shot one bird and seen one other. Each of these was in the fall migration.

68. NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER. *Dryobates nuttalli*. On Aug. 7, 1897 I shot an immature male, the only time I have seen an individual of this species about here.

69. RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER. *Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*. A female adult shot Oct. 17, 1899.

70. RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER. *Sphyrapicus ruber*. A winter visitant of rare and irregular occurrence.

71. CALIFORNIAN WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi*. I have seen just one bird in the vicinity, and was unable to get it.

72. RED-SHAFTED FLICKER. *Colaptes cafer*. These birds arrive about the end of September and are very common all through the winter and until late in the spring.

73. DUSKY POOR-WILL. *Phalacroptilus nuttalli nitidus*. On Sept. 30, 1898 I shot an adult female. I saw another on Oct. 25 but was unable to get it.

74. TEXAN NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles acutipennis texensis*. A common migrant, the young birds usually appearing by the middle of July. I have never known them to breed in the immediate vicinity.

75. VAUX'S SWIFT. *Chetura vauxii*. A migrant, far more common in the fall than in the spring, and more numerous in some years than in others.

76. WHITE-THROATED SWIFT. *Aeronautes melanoleucus*. Seen during the migrations and often in the winter.

77. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD. *Trochilus alexandri*. A rather rare migrant. I have seldom seen more than two or three during a migration.

78. ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD. *Calypte anna*. Very common every month in the year.

79. COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD. *Calypte costæ*. A very rare spring migrant.

80. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD. *Selasphorus rufus*. A common migrant. In August and September the young birds are especially numerous.

81. CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD. *Stellula calliope*. A rare migrant. One fall an adult male was seen by Mr. G. F. Morcom, feeding on some flowers in the garden. I saw a male April 22, 1898 but was unable to get it.

82. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus verticalis*. A common summer resident.

83. CASSIN'S KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus vociferans*. Common during the fall migration and often seen through the winter. Seen occasionally in the spring.

84. ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER. *Myiarchus cinerascens*. A regular and rather abundant migrant.

85. SAY'S PHOEBE. *Sayornis saya*. A common winter resident. I shot one as late as April 6, 1898.

86. BLACK PHOEBE. *Sayornis nigricans*. A common resident.

87. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. *Contopus borealis*. A regular but not abundant migrant.

88. WESTERN WOOD PEWEE. *Contopus richardsonii*. A common migrant.

89. WESTERN FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax difficilis*. Usually an abundant migrant. I shot a male on March 21, 1899, which was unusually early and did not see another bird during the migration. In the fall the immature birds are generally quite abundant.

- 90 TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax trailli*. A common migrant.
- 91 HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax hammondi*. I shot one April 30, 1898. This is the only one I have seen in the vicinity.
- 92 GRAY FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax griseus*. A rare migrant. I shot one on Nov. 5, 1897, and secured two on April 22 and 24, 1898.
- 93 VERMILION FLYCATCHER. *Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicana*. On Oct. 17, 1895, Mr. G. F. Morcom shot an immature female.
- 94 MEXICAN HORNED LARK. *Otocoris alpestris chrysolæma*. An abundant resident in less than half a mile in almost any direction, but seldom alights within the territory included in these notes.
- 95 BELDING'S JAY. *Aphelocoma californica obscura*. Of rare and irregular occurrence. I have seen but two or three altogether.
- 96 AMERICAN RAVEN. *Corvus corax sinuatus*. Frequently seen during the migrations.
- 97 AMERICAN CROW. *Corvus americanus*. A common migrant.
- 98 YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. An irregular spring migrant; some years abundant and in others entirely absent.
- 99 REDWINGED BLACKBIRD. *Agelaius phœniceus*. A common resident.
- 100 TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD. *Agelaius tricolor*. During the spring migration Tricolored Blackbirds are occasionally seen in the flocks of Redwings.
- 101 WESTERN MEADOWLARK. *Sturnella magna neglecta*. A common resident.
- 102 ARIZONA HOODED ORIOLE. *Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*. Rather common during the migrations; a few pairs breed in the vicinity.
- 103 BULLOCK'S ORIOLE. *Icterus bullocki*. A common summer resident.
- 104 BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*. A few pair breed here late in the season. After the breeding season is over they gather in large flocks and remain here while moulting. Soon after the moult is completed they disappear.
- 105 CALIFORNIA PURPLE FINCH. *Carpodacus purpureus californica*. Occasionally, but rarely, seen during the winter.
- 106 HOUSE FINCH. *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. One of the most abundant residents.
- 107 WILLOW GOLDFINCH. *Spinus tristis salicamans*. A fairly common resident.
- 108 ARKANSAS GOLDFINCH. *Spinus psaltria*. After raising their first brood here, most of the Arkansas Goldfinches go to the hills and are not seen here again until the breeding season is over. They remain here during the winter but not in any great numbers.
- 109 LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH. *Spinus lawrencei*. Arrive about the first of March and breed in comparative abundance, but disappear before almost any of the summer residents.
- 110 PINE SISKIN. *Spinus pinus*. During the winter of 1898-99 siskins appeared irregularly in small flocks. I saw one as late as March 23, 1899.
- 111 WESTERN SAVANNA SPARROW. *Ammodramus alaudinus sandwichensis*. An exceedingly common winter resident, arriving early and departing late.
- 112 WESTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. *Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus*. On April 30, 1895, Mr. G. F. Morcom shot a male. On October 15, 1898, I secured a female.
- 113 WESTERN LARK SPARROW. *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. Next to the House Finch this is probably the most abundant resident.
- 114 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. On April 22, 1898, I secured a female. I shot another, also a female, April 26, 1899, and saw still another that I did not get, on March 29, 1899.
- 115 INTERMEDIATE SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia*. Arrive about Sept. 20 and have all left by the beginning of May.

116 GAMBEL'S SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*. Jan. 13, 1896, I fired at random into a flock of Intermediate Sparrows. I secured several and among them one Gambel's Sparrow, the only one I have taken.

117 GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia coronata*. A few are seen every winter, generally in company with the Intermediate Sparrows.

118 WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW. *Spizella socialis arizonæ*. A regular migrant, but never very abundant. It is rarely seen during the winter.

119 BREWER'S SPARROW. *Spizella breweri*. A regular but not common fall migrant.

120 SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis*. On Feb. 8, 1897, I shot an adult male in a flock of Thurber's Juncos. On Nov. 3, 1898, I shot two more, both males.

121 THURBER'S JUNCO. *Junco thurberi*. A winter resident, some years abundant and on others, hardly seen at all.

122 HEERMANN'S SONG SPARROW. *Melospiza melodia heermanni*. An abundant resident.

123 LINCOLN'S SPARROW. *Melospiza lincolni*. A common migrant. A few are seen through the winter.

124 TOWNSEND'S SPARROW. *Passerella iliaca unalaschcensis*. A winter visitant, not at all abundant.

125 SLATE-COLORED SPARROW. *Passerella iliaca schistacea*. On Dec. 14, 1896, I shot a female.

126 SPURRED TOWHEE. *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*. Occasionally, but rarely seen in the winter.

127 ANTHONY'S TOWHEE. *Pipilo fuscus senicula*. In seven years I have seen just two of these birds in this vicinity.

128 BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK. *Habia melanocephala*. A common migrant.

129 WESTERN BLUE GROSBEAK. *Guiraca carulea lazuli*. A fairly common spring migrant and in the fall the immature birds are quite abundant.

130 LAZULI BUNTING. *Cyanospiza amæna*. A common migrant. On one occasion a pair bred in the vicinity, but it was unusual.

131 LOUISIANA TANAGER. *Piranga ludoviciana*. A common spring and fall migrant.

132 CLIFF SWALLOW. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. A common summer resident.

133 BARN SWALLOW. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. A migrant; the least abundant of the swallows.

134 TREE SWALLOW. *Tachycineta bicolor*. Occasionally seen during the winter. Quite abundant in February and March. Pass through in the fall but not so abundantly.

135 VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW. *Tachycineta thalassina*. A common migrant.

136 BANK SWALLOW. *Clivicola riparia*. A migrant, but in what numbers it is difficult to say.

137 ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. A migrant, much more abundant than the Bank Swallow; at least the great majority of those I have shot during the migration are of this species.

138 CEDAR WAXWING. *Ampelis cedrorum*. A common spring migrant and some years quite abundant during the winter.

139 PHAINOPEPLA. *Phainopepla nitens*. Occasionally seen during the migrations, usually in the fall. I saw an adult male on Oct. 19, 1897, and another Jan. 31, 1898.

140 CALIFORNIA SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*. A common resident.

141 WARBLING VIREO. *Vireo gilvus*. A common migrant.

142 CASSIN'S VIREO. *Vireo cassinii*. A spring migrant, but though comparatively abundant in some years, in others it is almost or quite absent. On Oct. 13, 1898, I shot one, the only fall record I have made.

143 HUTTON'S VIREO. *Vireo huttoni*. Shot a female Dec. 6, 1898, the only one I have taken in this vicinity.

144 LEAST VIREO. *Vireo belli pusillus*. A common fall migrant. Not at all abundant in the spring.

145 CALAVERAS WARBLER. *Helminthophila ruficapilla gutturalis*. A migrant, seen regularly in the fall, but seldom in the spring.

146 LUTESCENT WARBLER. *Helminthophila celata lutescens*. A common migrant, more numerous in the fall than in the spring and seen occasionally though rarely in winter.

147 DUSKY WARBLER. *Helminthophila celata sordida*. A regular and not uncommon fall migrant. I have never seen any in the spring.

148 YELLOW WARBLER. *Dendroica aestiva*. One of the commonest of the migrating warblers.

149 MYRTLE WARBLER. *Dendroica coronata*. Not at all uncommon during the winter.

150 AUDUBON'S WARBLER. *Dendroica auduboni*. Abundant from about the middle of September to the end of April.

151 MAGNOLIA WARBLER. *Dendroica maculosa*. On Oct. 21, 1897, I shot an immature female.

152 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER. *Dendroica nigrescens*. A regular spring migrant, occasionally seen in the fall.

153 TOWNSEND'S WARBLER. *Dendroica townsendi*. An irregular spring migrant, some years comparatively abundant and in others, almost entirely absent. On one occasion I saw one in the fall migration and once in December. Both of these were females.

154 HERMIT WARBLER. *Dendroica occidentalis*. A rare spring migrant. The only one I have seen in the fall was a single bird on Sept. 10, 1897.

155 MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER. *Geothlypis macgillivrayi*. A regular, but not common fall migrant, rarely seen in the spring.

156 WESTERN YELLOWTHROAT. *Geothlypis occidentalis trichas*. A very abundant resident. These birds probably migrate to some extent as their numbers in this vicinity are often greatly increased during the migration. On Apr. 3, 1899, I flushed at least twenty birds, nearly all males, out of a small patch of grass and weeds about fifty feet square. In two or three days they were all gone and only a single pair was to be found in the place.

157 LONG-TAILED CHAT. *Icteria virens longicauda*. A regular and fairly common migrant.

158 PILEOLATED WARBLER. *Sylvania pusilla pileolata*. A common migrant. They arrive here about the first of April and though they do not breed in the locality, they are abundant here, while found breeding in other places. In the fall they are about the last of the migrants to leave.

159 AMERICAN PIPIT. *Anthus pensilvanicus*. A common winter resident. I saw one as late as May 1, 1899.

160 MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglottos*. A common resident.

161 ROCK WREN. *Salpinctes obsoletus*. A rare and very irregular fall migrant.

162 VIGOR'S WREN. *Thryothorus bewickii spilurus*. A rare migrant, seen more often in the fall than in the spring.

163 PARKMAN'S WREN. *Troglodytes aedon parkmani*. A common migrant and less abundantly a winter resident.

164 WESTERN WINTER WREN. *Anorthura hiemalis pacificus*. On Jan. 22, 1895, Mr. G. F. Morcom saw a Winter Wren in a brush pile near the house but did not secure it.

165 TULE WREN. *Cistothorus palustris paludicola*. A very common winter resident.

166 CANADA NUTHATCH. *Sitta canadensis*. These birds were quite common in this vicinity from the middle of September to about the middle of October, 1898. This is the only time that I have ever seen any in this vicinity.

167 CALIFORNIA BUSH-TIT. *Psaltriparus minimus californicus*. I once saw a single bird in the garden. It is the only one I have ever seen near here.

168 WESTERN RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. *Regulus satrapa olivaceus*. A very common winter resident.

169 WESTERN GNATCATCHER. *Poliophtila cærulea obscura*. A common migrant, seen occasionally during the winter.

170 RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH. *Turdus ustulatus*. A spring migrant, usually not very abundant.

171 DWARF HERMIT THRUSH. *Turdus aonalaschkæ*. A common migrant and winter resident; much more numerous some years than in others.

172 WESTERN ROBIN. *Merula migratoria propinqua*. A winter resident but very irregular, appearing some winters in flocks of thousands, while in others they are almost entirely absent.

173 VARIED THRUSH. *Hesperocichla nævia*. A winter visitant but of very irregular occurrence.

174 WESTERN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. Seen frequently during the winter.

175 MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia arctica*. A winter resident, some years abundant and in others entirely absent.



### Communications.

#### Concerning the Use of Scientific Names.

Mr. Grinnell's article in the January CONDOR (pp. 20, 21) is a very able argument against the exclusive use of scientific names in popular or semi-popular bird books and journals, though the title is misleading, and the reader would suppose, until he reaches the last paragraph but one, that the protest is against their *general* instead of against their *exclusive* use.

No reasonable person can make serious or well-founded objection to the use of vernacular names in such publications; but since there are evidently some one who regard scientific names as wholly superfluous I desire to present one good reason why the latter should *always* be given, whether accompanied by the vernacular name or not.

So far as I am aware, no one has yet desired a better index to the literature of a particular species than a carefully prepared "synonymy", by which I mean not only the various synonyms themselves but also judiciously selected references under each, arranged in chronological or some other methodical sequence. For several years past the collation of references for such a synonymy of the birds of North and Middle America has occupied a very considerable portion of my time, during which there have been numerous occasions to deplore the absence of the scientific name in connection with some note which records a new fact of geographic distribution, habits, or nomenclature. Necessarily, these have had to be passed by, since vernacular names are unavailable for citation.

It may be urged that vernacular names are citable as well as scientific names. While this is in one sense true, nevertheless it is impracticable, unless the compiler is willing to double his labor and add unnecessarily to the bulk of his book. In other words, since scientific

names *must*, for various paramount reasons, be cited, the addition of vernacular names would but increase the labor of the compiler and still further complicate the typography of the synonymy.

As examples of the two kinds of records one has but to examine the pages of the January CONDOR. On page 19 occurs a record which I have already cited as follows: "*Harporhynchus redevius pasadenensis*, GRINNELL, CONDOR, ii, 1900, 19 (Azusa, Los Angeles Co., California; early nesting, etc.);" but on the opposite page (18) are several equally important records which, because unaccompanied by the scientific names, must remain buried where they now are.

Personally, I am in favor of the use of vernacular names; but by all means let us have the scientific names also.

ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Brookland, D. C.

#### Early Collecting Experiences in California.

Pasadena, Cal., Jan. 25, 1900.

*Editor Condor:*—

I have read with great pleasure the interesting article of Mr. Lyman Belding in the January CONDOR. The article interests me particularly because Mr. Belding's difficulties and experiences were very similar to mine in the study of California birds. Like him, I also was in the "dark" a good many years after arriving from Germany and settling in San Francisco. I did not know any ornithologists and the only books of reference I had were German publications of Dr. Brehm (Tierleben), and of Dr. Karl Russ, which of course mentioned Californian birds but sparingly in these editions (1884). In vain I turned to the collection of birds at the Academy of Sciences for help. The chaos I found there at that time was too great, and I found more mounted canaries and European