

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Colorado Notes.—Hon. James Cowie, while hunting ducks on a lake northeast of Boulder, on September 15, 1907, saw a flock of six birds which he failed to recognize and shot one for identification, turning it over to the University of Colorado. It proved to be an immature Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*). Altho Capt. Berthoud reported that the species was common in the early days of the settlement of the State, I only find six actual records prior to this one, all but one being from the plains near the eastern base of the mountains from Denver northward, the other being from Breckenridge, at an altitude of 10,000 feet. Whatever may have been the case as a matter of past history, the species is certainly rare enough hereabouts in recent years.

On September 14, 1907, while passing Church's Lake a few miles north of Denver, I noted several White-winged Scoters (*Oidemia deglandi*) within a few feet of the train, with some other ducks and coots. After allowing time to make sure of their identity, but before I had counted them, the birds all took flight, but there were not less than half a dozen of the Scoters. I find but nine previous records for the State, all October and November records.

The Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) is a rare duck in Colorado nowadays. I have heard of none recently except three killed near Boulder by Hon. James Cowie and Mr. Bert Werley about three years ago, no record having been made of the date. I have seen two of the specimens.

There seems to be but one record of *Syrnium varium* in the literature of Colorado ornithology; so I have hesitated about mentioning a note which I find in the note-books of Denis Gale. He mentions having seen a pair in the valley near Boulder in 1886, but gives no particulars and no exact date. The note was made three years afterwards, in 1889, when he says he looked again for the pair which he had seen there three years before but failed to find them. Upon careful consideration I have concluded that his identification was probably correct, as he was quite familiar with the owls of the region, and there is no other that he would be apt to mistake for this. The Spotted Owl (*Syrnium occidentale*) which might be easily mistaken in the field for the Barred Owl, is a species of the southwest, coming only into southern Colorado, so that the eastern species is much more likely to be found east of the Front Range and in the northern part of the State. However, with these rare records, one never feels safe unless the circumstances under which the birds are seen, the opportunity for careful inspection, the condition of the light, etc., are known.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *Museum, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.*

Notes From Colton, California.—On May 19, 1907, I found a Phainopepla's (*Phainopepla nitens*) nest containing one egg. Two days later there were no additional eggs. May 24 I noticed the female bird on the nest but did not climb the tree to see if there were any more eggs. May 30, or six days later, I noticed a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) on the nest, and upon investigation found two dove eggs resting upon a slight platform placed on the Phainopepla's nest. I thought that this was rather rapid home changing.

A nest of the Valley Partridge (*Lophortyx californicus vallicola*) containing fifteen eggs was found June 1, in an unusual location. The bird selected a place under a small pile of eucalyptus twigs 25 feet from Pennsylvania Avenue and four feet from Olive Street, both being well-traveled village streets. A concrete flume was within sixteen inches of the nest and workmen walked along the flume many times daily while irrigating an orange orchard. A calf was tied to a tree at the edge of Olive Street, and it had also selected a resting place in the brush pile three feet from the bird. The calf could have put its hind feet in the nest if it had desired to do so. The calf was fed regularly by a man, woman or child. Across the street, ninety feet from the nest was a house. Several small children and a dog played around the yard and often came over to visit the calf. (They did not know about the nest, as the bird would not flush unless in danger of being stepped on.) June 10, I visited the nest and found that the bird had departed. Two piped eggs were in the nest and one little dead bird in the flume. Probably the others got away all right.

During August I had the pleasure of seeing an albino Brewer Blackbird (*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*). I would say that about two-thirds of its feathers were white. About a week after I first saw the bird, I learned that it spent considerable time in company with other blackbirds on certain lawns here in Colton. The other blackbirds did not seem to treat it differently because of its white coat. A friend of mine informs me that he saw a white blackbird at San Jacinto Lake eighteen or twenty years ago. Talking about white blackbirds sounds like discussing white lamp-black!—W. C. HANNA, *Colton, California.*

Concerning a Few Abnormally Marked Eggs.—During the last few years the writer has collected several sets of eggs which are of special interest owing to the fact that they are thickly spotted with fine brown spots, where nature's usual prescription calls for unmarked eggs.