

According to the manner of the Indians of New Spain, holding in its hand, a figure of the sun and moon. It happened, that when the soldiers came to see this temple, they found within the said circle, two crows, considerably larger than ordinary; which at the approach of the Spaniards flew away, but alighted among the rocks in the neighbourhood. The soldiers seeing them of such uncommon size, fired their guns and killed them. At this, an Indian, who had attended the Spaniards as a guide, fell into an agony. I was informed that they believed the devil spoke to them in these crows, and thence held them in great veneration. Sometime after, one of the soldiers going that way, saw some Indian women washing fish on the shore, but some crows came up to them, and with their beaks, took the fish from their hands, whilst they observed a profound silence, not daring so much as to look at them, much less frighten them away. Nothing therefore could seem more horrible to the Californians, than that the Spaniards should shoot at these respectable birds.'"

Chicago, Illinois.

SUMMER BIRDS OF THE UPPER SALINAS VALLEY AND ADJACENT FOOTHILLS

By G. WILLETT

THE following notes were taken from May 23 to June 3 of this year in the Upper Salinas Valley and surrounding hills along the Monterey and San Luis Obispo county line.

Owing to the short time given me for observation the appended list is undoubtedly very incomplete. Also owing to the semi-arid nature of this particular section many birds that are common a few miles away are found here rarely or not at all. For instance I did not note a single species of warbler altho I know that several species breed within a few miles. I visited this locality about fourteen years ago and I find the distribution of several species of birds considerably changed during that time.

In the Salinas river bottom, which at San Miguel has an elevation of about 800 feet, are extensive groves of cottonwoods and willows; and the surrounding hills, which run up to an elevation of over 2500 feet, are covered with large oaks and scattering groves of pines.

Ardea herodias. Great Blue Heron. Common in river bottom.

Ardea virescens anthonyi. Anthony Green Heron. Green Herons probably of this species were common in river bottom but no specimens were taken.

Ægialitis vocifera. Killdeer. Common along streams.

Lophortyx californicus vallicola? Valley Partridge. Abundant, with half-grown young. Owing to close season I took no specimens and am in doubt as to subspecies as this must be about the dividing line between *L. californicus* and *L. c. vallicola*.

Columba fasciata. Band-tailed Pigeon. A small flock seen in the hills on Monterey side at about 2500 feet.

Zenaidura macroura. Mourning Dove. Abundant.

Gymnogyphus californianus. California Condor. I saw this species in this vicinity fourteen years ago but saw none at this time altho I kept a careful lookout for them.

Accipiter cooperi. Cooper Hawk. A nest containing young found May 29 in the foothills on the Monterey side.

Cathartes aura. Turkey Vulture. Common.

Buteo borealis calurus. Western Red-tail. Common in oak-covered hills.

Buteo swainsoni. Swainson Hawk. Common everywhere.

Aquila chrysaetos. Golden Eagle. Seen occasionally.

Falco mexicanus. Prairie Falcon. Seen occasionally.

Falco sparverius. Sparrow-hawk. Very common.

Strix pratincola. Barn Owl. Common.

Asio wilsonianus. Long-eared Owl. One taken in river bottom June 3rd.

Bubo virginianus pacificus? Horned Owl. A horned owl seen in river bottom.

I am not sure as to subspecies.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa. Burrowing Owl. Fairly common.

Geococcyx californianus. Road-runner. Not common.

Dryobates villosus hyloscopus. Cabanis Woodpecker. Common in river bottom.

Dryobates pubescens turati. Willow Woodpecker. Common in river bottom.

Dryobates nuttallii. Nuttall Woodpecker. Common everywhere.

Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi. California Woodpecker. Very common in oaks but not so abundant as formerly.

Colaptes cafer collaris. Red-shafted Flicker. Common.

Aeronautes melanoleucus. White-throated Swift. Frequently seen.

Calypte anna. Anna Hummingbird. Common.

Tyrannus verticalis. Arkansas Kingbird. Abundant.

Myiarchus cinerascens. Ash-throated Flycatcher. Common.

Sayornis saya. Say Phoebe. Common in foothills.

Sayornis nigricans. Black Phoebe. Common.

Contopus richardsonii. Western Wood Pewee. Very common.

Empidonax difficilis. Western Flycatcher. One taken in oaks, June 1.

Otocoris alpestris, subsp.? Horned Lark. Horned Larks were seen several times but no specimens were taken.

Pica nuttalli. Yellow-billed Magpie. This species, altho abundant in this territory fourteen years ago, is now scarce. I succeeded in finding one small colony of 20 or 30 pairs with nearly grown young. I am at a loss to account for the great decrease in numbers of this species as I do not think they are killed in any great numbers. Two specimens out of twelve which I took were afflicted with intestinal parasites which may be one cause of their depletion.

Aphelocoma californica. California Jay. Common.

Corvus americanus hesperis. California Crow. Common in river bottom.

Agelaius phœniceus neutralis. San Diego Red-wing. Red-wings seen occasionally but none taken.

Sturnella neglecta. Western Meadow-lark. Abundant.

Icterus bullocki. Bullock Oriole. Abundant.

Scolecophagus cyanocephalus. Brewer Blackbird. Common.

Carpodacus purpureus californicus. California Purple Finch. Common on shady sides of higher hills.

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis. House Finch. Common.

Astragalinus tristis salicamans. Willow Goldfinch. Common in river bottom.

Astragalinus psaltria. Arkansas Goldfinch. Abundant.

Passer domesticus. English Sparrow. Common around towns.

Chondestes grammacus strigatus. Western Lark Sparrow. Very common.

Pipilo maculatus megalonyx. Spurred Towhee. Common.

- Progne subis hesperia.** Western Martin. Common. Mostly around settlements.
Pipilo fuscus crissalis. California Towhee. Common.
Zamelodia melanocephala. Black-headed Grosbeak. Common.
Cyanospiza amœna. Lazuli Bunting. Rather common in river bottom.
Petrochelidon lunifrons. Cliff Swallow. Common.
Tachycineta bicolor. Tree Swallow. Common in river bottom.
Tachycineta thalassina lepida. Violet-green Swallow. Very common.
Riparia riparia. Bank Swallow. Common.
Phainopepla nitens. Phainopepla. Not rare.
Lanius ludovicianus gambeli. California Shrike. Common.
Toxostoma redivivum. California Thrasher. Common.
Troglodytes aedon parkmanii. Parkman Wren. Common.
Sitta carolinensis aculeata. Slender-billed Nuthatch. Common among oaks.
Parus inornatus. Plain Titmouse. Common.
Chamæa fasciata. Pallid Wren-tit. Not rare.
Psaltriparus minimus californicus. California Bush-tit. Common.
Polioptila cærulea obscura. Western Gnatcatcher. Abundant.
Sialia mexicana occidentalis. Western Bluebird. Very common.
Los Angeles, California.

FIELD NOTES FROM ALASKA

By JOSEPH DIXON

(EDITORIAL NOTE.—Mr. Dixon is a member of the 1908 Alexander Alaska Expedition, which is now making zoological collections in the Prince Williams Sound region of southern Alaska.)

Hinchinbrook Island, Prince Williams Sound, Alaska, June 26, 1908.—We are camped at the head of a little unnamed bay on the northeast side of Hinchinbrook Island. There is the usual salmon creek emptying into the head of the bay. On either side of the creek there is a swamp of devil club and tall salmon berry bushes, while large spruce trees are sprinkled evenly over this swamp. These trees prove an aggravation to the collector every day as the Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Crossbills flit around in the top branches of them and laugh at us. They are out of range of anything smaller than number four shot and if I did get one, the chances are nine out of ten that it would lodge on one of the thick, spreading, moss-covered branches.

The other folks say that there are stacks of fox sparrows there but no one has brought in more than two of them at any one time. Varied and Hermit Thrushes are about as common as usual but the Varied Thrushes are rather wary and most of them are feeding young ones now.

It has not rained for some three weeks which is a terribly long dry spell for this country. The days have been warm and often sunshiny affording a fine opportunity for us to dry our skins especially the larger ones. This warm weather has also brought on swarms of mosquitoes and clouds of little sand flies. The mosquitoes have five grayish white bands around their abdomens which gives them a zebra-like appearance; but they are the most blood thirsty lot that I have ever met, for they no sooner noiselessly light on one than they begin to probe and they never stop until they reach bottom. I have had them bite thru a heavy flannel shirt and heavy wool underwear, but "duxbak" clothing is too much for their sharp bills.