

cens frazari) he only took three sets of eggs of three each. He also took sets of the following species at La Paz: *Guara alba*, *Ardea herodias*, *Egretta candidissima*, *Aegialitis wilsonia*, *Melopelia asiatica*, *Cardinalis cardinalis igneus*, *Auriparus flaviceps*, and *Polioptila caerulea obscura*.

He also found two eggs of the Belding Rail (*Rallus beldingi*). They were badly eaten by mice, the nest evidently having been deserted. Brown collected a series of thirteen of these birds. He writes, "As for the Belding Rail, I found this species a most difficult one to collect on account of its retiring habits in the dense mangrove jungle, where the branches and long roots are interwoven and interlaced. You can not enter a foot without cutting with axe and machete. In my search for the nest and eggs of this Rail I cut trails thru various parts of the mangrove tangle, but was unable to find but an abandoned nest with two eggs which the mice had nearly destroyed. The collecting of this Rail is a question of high tides. At low tide this Rail can not be hunted. He keeps in the depths of the mangrove tangle where he feeds on small crabs, etc.; but when there is a very high tide the water forces him to seek his food more inland, along the shore outside of the swamp; then by careful and patient hunting you can occasionally shoot one, but it is very slow work and requires much time and patience. In fact, for a long time I thought I should be unsuccessful in my search; for altho I hunted faithfully for it over a month I was unable to find one until I thought of the high tide plan."

From August 2 to September 2 Brown collected at Sierra de la Laguna. He took seven sets of the Viosca Pigeon (*Columba fasciata viosca*). The last set was taken September 2, and was fresh. These birds lay but one egg. He also collected three sets of the Thick-billed Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus magnirostris*); also the Frazar Vireo, Western Warbling Vireo and Green-backed Goldfinch. He collected large series of these birds, and of *Junco bairdi*, but he was too late for the eggs of the latter.

Lancaster, Massachusetts.

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF SOUTHWESTERN MONTROSE COUNTY, COLORADO

By EDWARD R. WARREN

WITH ONE MAP

THE following notes have been gathered by the writer during a couple of short trips in April, 1906 and 1908, and are greatly supplemented by notes obtained from Mr. C. H. Smith of Coventry, who has resided there for the past ten years. As practically nothing ornithological has ever been published concerning this region, it has seemed worth while to write up these notes for THE CONDOR, scanty as they may be.

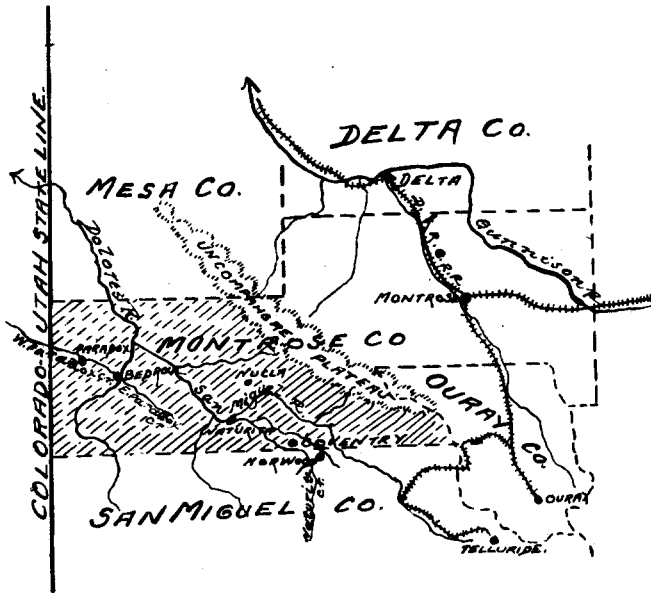
Roughly speaking, the region covered is that portion of Montrose County lying south and west of the Uncompahgre Plateau, as shown on the accompanying map, and a few notes are also given from points in the adjoining portion of San Miguel County, to which county this region really belongs, speaking from geographical relations. It is a mesa, 7000 feet above sea level at the eastern end, but gradually becoming lower to the west. Thru this mesa the San Miguel River has cut its bed in a northwesterly direction, in places several hundred feet below the mesa level, and joining the Dolores River about six miles south of the Mesa County

line, and twelve miles east of the Utah line. The Dolores cuts across the west end of the county in a northerly course, and there are a few other flowing streams tributary to each of the larger ones, and numerous dry channels and gulches which occasionally have water.

On this mesa are large tracts of cedar or juniper (*Sabina utahensis*), and piñon woods, with equally great or greater open spaces covered with sagebrush (*Artemisia*). The cañons of the rivers have cottonwoods, wild cherries, and other deciduous trees and shrubs, while on their slopes are often scrub oaks. At the lower elevations, along the Dolores River, there is much greasewood (*Sarcobatus*) and rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus* sp.), the latter often taller than a man, and with large woody stems. The rocks exposed in the cañons of the San Miguel and its tributaries are a light grayish sandstone, while along the Dolores, and in both the East and West Paradox Valleys, the country rock is a red sandstone. The soil over almost the whole district is of a reddish color, which has apparently had some

effect on the colors of two or three species of mammals.

A considerable portion of the mesa land is under cultivation, the necessary water being supplied by ditches brought from the mountains. Aside from these ditches, there is practically no water on the mesa, and the fauna and flora are of the desert types. Bird life is thus rather lacking in variety here. In the stream valleys, where there are deciduous trees and shrubbery, there is of course a greater variety, but unfortunately this portion was the least worked. There are some reservoirs, mostly small, for water storage, and these attract



MAP OF PORTION OF WESTERN COLORADO; THE SHADED AREA IS THE REGION COVERED BY THIS PAPER

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water birds during the migrations, and the occurrences noted of these birds were practically all about these reservoirs.

In 1906 I spent the last two weeks of April at Coventry. Mr. M. F. Gilman publishes a few of the notes I took then in "Some Birds of Southwest Colorado", in *THE CONDOR*, Vol. IX, No. 5; but nothing has been omitted here because of that, for it is desirable that these notes be complete in themselves. In 1908 I spent the first and last weeks of April at Coventry, and the intervening time at Bedrock, 40 miles west on the Dolores River, where the East and West Paradox Valleys join it, at an elevation of 5150 feet: no doubt a good place for a bird man in May and June, but I was after mice and *sich*, and did not stay for the birds.

It should be stated that Mr. Smith has done but little bird collecting, and his notes are largely from ocular observations, but we have gone thru the list carefully and cut out everything about which there is the least doubt.

The absence of the names of many of the small birds, such as Vireos and Warblers, is explained by the non-collecting of specimens, and Mr. Smith makes no pretense of being familiar with most of them in the field. As water commissioner for a large portion of the region his duties take him over a great area in the summer season, much more than I covered. As far as possible his notes are specifically credited to him. It may be of interest to my readers to know that Mr. Smith is an old boyhood friend and chum of E. W. Nelson, and he has many a yarn to tell of the trips and hunts they took together when boys.

Colymbus nigricollis californicus. American Eared Grebe. Common at Coventry in migration; usually a number seen together (Smith).

Larus californicus. California Gull. Smith saw one at Coventry in 1905.

Larus delawarensis. Ring-billed Gull. In April, 1906, Smith mounted one taken near Norwood, in San Miguel County, six miles from Coventry.

Anas platyrhynchos. Mallard. In migration common at Coventry, and that is the only time it is seen (Smith).

Chaulelasmus streperus. Gadwall. Taken at Coventry, in April, 1906.

Nettion carolinensis. Green-winged Teal. The commonest duck at Coventry, tho seen only in migration (Smith).

Querquedula discors. Blue-winged Teal. Not as common as the Greenwing (Smith).

Querquedula cyanoptera. Cinnamon Teal. Quite common at Coventry; breeds on lakes at higher elevations in the mountains (Smith).

Spatula clypeata. Spoonbill. Taken at Coventry, April, 1906; not common.

Dafila acuta. Pintail. Fairly common at Coventry (Smith).

Aythya marila. Scaup Duck. One was taken at Coventry in April, 1906. Smith says it is not common.

Aythya collaris. Ring-necked Duck. One was taken at Coventry in April, 1906; probably rare.

Erismatura jamaicensis. Ruddy Duck. Seen and taken near Coventry, April, 1906; not common.

Branta canadensis. Canada Goose. One or two flocks seen every season (Smith).

Plegadis guarauna. White-faced Glossy Ibis. One was shot near Norwood, September 21, 1907, and mounted by Mr. Smith. I have seen the specimen myself. It seems to me that this is at present the most extreme southwestern Colorado record for this species.

Ardea herodias. Great Blue Heron. April, 1908, one was brought to Smith to be mounted. It was killed near Redlands, a few miles northwest of Coventry. Smith says a few are seen every year.

Ardea candidissima. Snowy Heron. In April, 1906, Smith mounted one killed at Tabequache Park, 18 miles northwest of Coventry. In 1908 one was sent up from Naturita. Smith says he has heard of one other.

Grus mexicana. Sandhill Crane. Not common; a few seen every year near Coventry (Smith).

Porzana carolina. Sora. Smith has seen a rail a few miles from Coventry which he thinks was this species.

Fulica americana. American Coot. Not common (Smith).

Lobipes lobatus. Northern Phalarope. Common in migration at Coventry (Smith).

Steganopus tricolor. Wilson Phalarope. Common in migration at Coventry (Smith).

Recurvirostra americana. Avocet. From descriptions given him Smith is satisfied this bird occurs at times. Since this was written he writes me that during the past season two avocets were sent to him for mounting, one of which was killed about two miles above Norwood, and the other about a mile above Coventry, both having been taken some time between August 15 and September 15.

Gallinago delicata. Jack Snipe. A few seen each year at Coventry (Smith).

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. Common along the streams (Smith).

Numenius longirostris. Long-billed Curlew. Fairly common (Smith).

Oxyechus vociferus. Killdeer. Common summer resident thruout the region in suitable places.

Pediocetes phasianellus subsp. Sharp-tailed Grouse. Some seen every winter; they breed at higher elevations (Smith).

Centrocercus urophasianus. Sage Grouse. Very common in winter. Breeds about 600 to 1000 feet higher than the region covered by these notes (Smith).

Meleagris gallopavo subsp. Wild Turkey. Smith says he saw one in San Miguel Cañon about two miles above Cottonwood Creek in January, 1898, and that he heard of them a year or two after that, but knows nothing definite or reliable.

Zenaidura macroura carolinensis. Mourning Dove. A very common summer resident all over the region. Smith tells me that he once found a nest with one egg and a newly hatched young one on August 16.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis. Turkey Buzzard. Not uncommon in summer (Smith).

Circus hudsonius. Marsh Hawk. A common summer resident (Smith).

Accipiter velox. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Quite common; does not breed in this region, but does in the pines at higher elevations (Smith).

Accipiter cooperii. Cooper Hawk. I shot one in Naturita Cañon near Coventry, April 29, 1908, and another was seen at the same time.

Accipiter atricapillus. American Goshawk. Fairly common in winter (Smith). April 10, 1908, we found the freshly killed remains of one at the upper end of the East Paradox Valley.

Buteo borealis calurus. Western Red-tail. Common summer resident (Smith).

Buteo swainsoni. Swainson Hawk. A hawk which Smith thinks is this species breeds in the region.

Aquila chrysaetos. Golden Eagle. Common; some, at least, are resident (Smith).

Haliaeetus leucocephalus. Bald Eagle. Rare; seen only in winter (Smith).

Falco sparverius phalæna. Desert Sparrow Hawk. A common summer resident thruout the region.

Bubo virginianus pallescens. Western Horned Owl. A common breeder (Smith).

Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa. Burrowing Owl. Seen in April, 1908, in the East Paradox Valley. They are certainly not common, for Smith had never seen them in the region before, and there are plenty of prairie dogs and dog towns.

Ceryle alcyon. Belted Kingfisher. Seen occasionally along the streams (Smith).

Dryobates villosus monticola. Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker. Not common; resident.

Dryobates pubescens homorus. Batchelder Woodpecker. Either four females were seen at Bedrock, or one female was seen on four different days, probably the

latter, as it was always at the same place, in front of the stopping place there. It is most likely a fairly common resident of the region.

Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis. Red-naped Sapsucker. Common about Coventry in summer (Smith).

Asyndesmus lewisi. Lewis Woodpecker. Never seen at Coventry, but has been near Norwood (Smith).

Colaptes cafer collaris. Red-shafted Flicker. Common in summer; a few winter (Smith).

Phalænoptilus nuttallii. Poorwill. Common in summer; breeds (Smith).

Chordeiles virginianus henryi. Western Nighthawk. Common summer resident (Smith).

Selasphorus platycercus. Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Summer resident (Smith).

Tyrannus verticalis. Western Kingbird. A summer resident.

Tyrannus vociferans. Cassin Kingbird. Smith thinks this is the more common of the two kingbirds.

Myiarchus cinerascens. Ash-throated Flycatcher. Seen only in migration (Smith).

Sayornis saya. Say Phoebe. A very common breeder.

Otocoris alpestris leucolæma. Desert Horned Lark. Variable in numbers, sometimes common, sometimes rather rare; resident (Smith).

Pica pica hudsonia. Magpie. Quite common at Coventry in winter, but according to Smith does not breed there, and I saw no nests anywhere about, but I did see both nests and birds while at Bedrock.

Cyanocitta stelleri diademata. Long-crested Jay. Common about Coventry in late fall and winter. I saw some in that vicinity in April, in both 1906 and 1908, and also saw some at Bedrock.

Aphelocoma woodhousei. Woodhouse Jay. A few have bred near Coventry, but it breeds more commonly 500 feet lower, and below. I saw several about Bedrock, and also at Naturita P. O.

Perisoreus canadensis capitalis. Rocky Mountain Jay. Seen at Coventry in late autumn only, and especially if there is a good crop of piñon nuts (Smith).

Corvus corax sinuatus. American Raven. Common resident and breeder. Smith has taken several nests near Coventry, where they breed in the sandstone ledges of Naturita Cañon.

Corvus brachyrhynchos. Crow. Smith says they are not resident, but common in spring and fall. We saw four in April, 1908, about two miles from Coventry.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus. Piñon Jay. A very common resident in the piñons and cedars.

Molothrus ater. Cowbird. Common in summer (Smith).

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Fairly common in spring and fall (Smith).

Agelaius phœniceus subsp. Red-winged Blackbird. A summer resident and breeder; they breed in the alfalfa fields (Smith). I do not know to what form these birds should be referred; the specimens I took at Bedrock have never been worked out. All our Colorado Red-wings need study. Three or four subspecies have been identified from the state, and they all look alike to us poor fellows who collected them!

Sturnella neglecta. Western Meadowlark. A common summer resident, and spends most of the winter (Smith). I found at Bedrock, April 23, 1908, a nest

with five eggs; and the same day, several hundred yards away, found a single fresh egg lying on the grass.

Euphagus cyanocephalus. Brewer Blackbird. A common summer resident.

Carpodacus cassinii. Cassin Finch. Common at Coventry in winter only. I saw it at both Coventry and Bedrock in 1908.

Acanthis linaria. Redpoll. Occasional at Coventry in winter (Smith).

Astragalinus tristis. American Goldfinch. Taken at Bedrock in 1908.

Astragalinus psaltria. Arkansas Goldfinch. Taken at Bedrock.

Spinus pinus. Pine Linnet. Not common (Smith).

Passer domesticus. House Sparrow. At Coventry and Norwood, many at some ranches. They first came to Norwood four years ago, and to Smith's a year ago.

Poœcetes gramineus confinis. Western Vesper Sparrow. A common summer resident; at Coventry the commonest sparrow.

Chondestes grammacus strigatus. Western Lark Sparrow. A summer resident thruout the region; not very common at Coventry. While a number were seen about ten miles west of Coventry, April 24, 1908, none were seen about that place until May 1. The whole intervening time was cold and chilly, and this may have stopped the birds' movements. I should say that during this week I was daily over ground which would be frequented by the birds, and saw none.

Zonotrichia leucophrys and **Z. l. gambeli.** White-crowned and Intermediate Sparrows. A few seen, not common (Smith). He finds it difficult to distinguish between the two in the field, but most likely both occur, tho only during the migrations. The only specimen I took (at Bedrock) was *gambeli*.

Spizella socialis arizonæ. Western Chipping Sparrow. A common summer resident; arrives about the middle of April.

Spizella breweri. Brewer Sparrow. A common summer resident at Coventry, living in the sagebrush.

Junco hyemalis connectens. Intermediate Junco. Taken by myself at Coventry.

Junco hyemalis mearnsi. Pink-sided Junco. Taken at both Coventry and Bedrock. One seen near Coventry as late as April 29, 1908.

Junco phænotus caniceps. Gray-headed Junco. Taken at Coventry in 1906.

Amphispiza bilineata desertycola. Desert Sparrow. Was quite common at Bedrock after April 17, when I took the first, tho I am inclined to think I saw some two or three days previously. It does not get up as far as Coventry, at least Smith does not know it, and he knows the next species well.

Amphispiza nevadensis. Sage Sparrow. A common summer resident at Coventry (Smith).

Melospiza melodia montana. Mountain Song Sparrow. Rather rare (Smith). I saw two in Maverick Draw, about three miles from Coventry, in 1908.

Pipilo maculatus montanus. Mountain Towhee. A common summer resident (Smith). I saw it at Bedrock, Naturita and Coventry.

Oreospiza chlorura. Green-tailed Towhee. Common, especially in migration. The majority breed higher than Coventry (Smith).

Zamelodia melanocephala. Black-headed Grosbeak. A common summer resident, breeds near Coventry (Smith).

Passerina amœna. Lazuli Bunting. Rare; breeds in Naturita and Maverick Cañons (Smith).

Calamospiza melanocorys. Lark Bunting. Not very common; does not seem to breed at Coventry (Smith).

Piranga ludoviciana. Western Tanager. Not very common; not more than fifteen seen at Coventry during ten years residence (Smith).

Petrochelidon lunifrons. Cliff Swallow. A common summer resident (Smith).

Hirundo erythrogaster. Barn Swallow. Common summer resident (Smith).

Tachycineta thalassina lepida. Violet-green Swallow. Common summer resident (Smith).

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing. Smith saw a flock in the winter of 1907-8, from which he shot one. This is the only time he has seen the bird.

Lanius borealis. Northern Shrike. Occasional in winter (Smith).

Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides. White-rumped Shrike. A common summer resident (Smith). I saw it at Bedrock, Naturita and Coventry.

Dendroica aestiva. Yellow Warbler. Occasionally seen at Coventry (Smith).

Dendroica auduboni. Audubon Warbler. Taken by myself at Bedrock, April 20, 1908, and in Naturita Cañon (San Miguel County) near Coventry, April 29, 1908. It of course goes into the higher mountains to breed, and is only found in this region during the migrations.

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Common summer resident in the piñons and cedars (Smith).

Oroscoptes montanus. Sage Thrasher. Common summer resident (Smith).

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus. Mockingbird. Very rare (Smith).

Salpinctes obsoletus. Rock Wren. Common summer resident (Smith). I saw it at Bedrock and Coventry.

Thryomanes bewickii bairdi. Baird Wren. Smith found a nest in a hollow cedar tree, July 4, 1903, containing six fresh eggs, which were identified as belonging to this species by Mr. Fred M. Dille. Mr. Smith says the bird was a very sweet singer.

Troglodytes aëdon parkmanii. Western House Wren. Common summer resident (Smith).

Sitta carolinensis nelsoni. Rocky Mountain Nuthatch. Common. I saw several in 1908.

Sitta pygmaea. Pigmy Nuthatch. Resident; breeds; Smith has found the nest.

Bæolophus inornatus griseus. Gray Titmouse. Not very common (Smith). I have seen it near Coventry and near Naturita P. O.

Penthestes gambeli. Mountain Chickadee. Common; resident about Coventry.

Psaltriparus plumbeus. Lead-colored Bush-tit. Fairly common; breeds; Smith has found the nest in the piñons.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. Common summer resident.

Sialia mexicana bairdi. Chestnut-backed Bluebird. Not very common and does not breed (Smith). I saw several near Coventry, April 26, 1906.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. Common summer resident (Smith).

Colorado Springs, Colorado.