

Mar., 1909

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

of mine (p. 170) pertaining to *Pinicola enucleator montana* (Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak). Furthermore, Mr. Rockwell makes it appear by the omission of any name in connection with the record that the record was made by himself. On July 3, 1898, the date on which he records the specimen on South Mamm Peak, Mr. Rockwell was not in that locality; for upon that date I was with him on what was at that time known as the Ballantine and Rockwell Ranch, a distance of about twenty-two miles from South Mamm Peak. The Grosbeak under discussion was shot by me on South Mamm Peak on July 8, 1898, instead of July 3 as reported by Mr. Rockwell, and was subsequently shown to him. It is still one of the specimens in my collection.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colorado; February 8, 1909.*

Dendroica townsendi in Pasadena.—Townsend Warblers were common at my home in Pasadena during January, 1909. Ordinarily one or two is all I have seen during the winter, and sometimes none at all. This year, for some cause, they are abundant.

No Varied Thrushes have been seen or heard in the vicinity of Pasadena this winter. It would be interesting as in previous seasons to ascertain thru the columns of THE CONDOR the distribution of this bird.

Robins, bluebirds, and other winter visitants seem to be present in about their usual numbers.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *Pasadena, California.*

The Zone-tailed Hawk in California.—*Buteo abbreviatus* was first known as a member of the United States fauna from a specimen taken by Cooper near San Diego, California, in 1862. Since then the species has been ascertained to occur not uncommonly in the southern portions of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, as well as, of course, south thru Mexico to British Guiana, whence it was originally described in 1848 by Cabanis.

Cooper's specimen (perhaps first recorded in Proc. Cal. Ac. Sc. IV, 1868, p. 7) is now number 4375 in the collection of the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Altho the stuffing has been removed, giving it a collapsed appearance, it is still quite a good skin. The original, attached label, tho doubtless considerably faded, is perfectly legible. It is of the characteristic blue, lined, ledger paper; the legend, in ink, is in Cooper's own hand-writing, and reads as follows: "761 *Buteo harlani* [the latter name crossed out in pencil and 'zonocercus Sclater' written above and beyond, also in lead pencil] ♂ | 20 mi N of San Diego Cal | Feb 23d '62 J. G. C || 20.25 56.50 16.25 I[r]is red brown, Bill | black and whitish horn, cere and feet yellow."

The next record of the Zone-tailed Hawk in California was of an immature ♂ secured by C. B. Linton at National City, near San Diego, November 26, 1906. This example was originally recorded by Linton under the name "*Urubitinga anthracina*" (CONDOR IX, July 1907, p. 110), but this erroneous determination was corrected by him as soon as he became aware of his mistake (CONDOR X, July 1908, p. 181). The specimen is now, I believe, in Mr. Linton's private collection. I had the opportunity of verifying its identity, comparing it with Arizona examples of the species in the collection of G. Freaun Morcom, with which it agreed perfectly.

This museum has recently acquired two more examples of this bird, one of them, number 5494, collected by W. J. McCloskey "near the coast, 30 miles north of San Diego," California, September 10, 1907; the other secured by F. Stephens from a local hunter who shot it in "April, 1908," five miles southeast of Tijuana, Lower California, which is less than twenty miles south of San Diego. The former thus constitutes the third record for the state of California.

Of the four examples above noted from the vicinity of San Diego, only the Cooper specimen is fully adult, that is, solid blackish with two-barred tail. The others have much white mottling particularly on breast and back of head, and their tails are many-barred. Mr. Stephens has kindly forwarded me two specimens taken by him in Arizona. Comparison with these as well as with those in the Morcom collection, show California examples of *Buteo abbreviatus* to be in no way different.—J. GRINNELL, *University of California, Berkeley, California.*

That Cooperative Scheme.—With the exception of a very practical article by William E. Ritter which appeared in the November, 1908, CONDOR and one or two personal letters from scientists interested in the subject, the silence following my suggestions on "a plan for cooperative ornithology" would be fairly appalling, were it not for the fact that it was more or less expected.

CONDOR readers may probably be divided into three classes in this connection, viz: (1) those who are in sympathy with the idea and believe in its practicability; (2) those who would be in sympathy with the idea if they were sure of its ultimate success; and (3) those who for various reasons do not admit its feasibility.

Obviously the latter class must be eliminated from our plans and it remains for the others to

carry thru the idea to a successful conclusion, if it is to be undertaken. It now remains to be proven just *who* among the CONDOR readers really *are* interested in the project to the extent of being willing to do some work; and the only way in which this may be found out is for those students to make themselves known and to publish their ideas on the subject for the benefit of other interested parties. There are undoubtedly many CONDOR readers who do not wish their ideas to appear in print, but who are nevertheless in sympathy with the general idea. If that is your position, dear reader, drop a few lines to the editors, just to inform us that you are interested.

An undertaking of this kind is unique in many ways. It will require the personal opinions of a great many before the plan assumes any definite shape, and it rests entirely with the readers to bring about results. This cannot be a one-man, or a ten-man undertaking, for unless the plan meets with general support it would be impossible of accomplishment.

Naturally we look to the members of the Cooper Club for the greater number of expressions on the subject, and the past record of the Club for "doing things" warrants the assumption that they will respond; but it is to be hoped that responses will not be limited to Cooper Club members.

Now, bird lovers, is the time to drop us a line outlining your views upon the subject and if the correspondence overwhelms our worthy editor we will try to arrange for a private secretary.
 —R. B. ROCKWELL, *Denver, Colorado.*

Random Bird Notes from Chaffee County, Colorado.—On July 15th I left Salida, Colorado (altitude 7050), for a short trip to timberline, my destination being Bass Lake, a typical alpine lake at an altitude of about 11,000 feet.

In the vicinity of Salida, Western Robins, Red-winged and Brewer Blackbirds, House Finches, English Sparrows, Western Vesper, and Western Savanna Sparrows and Black-headed Grosbeaks were very common. One pair of Kildeer were also seen, that were evidently nesting.

About seven miles from Salida I saw several young Mountain Bluebirds just able to fly, and a little further on (at about 8,000) several Magpies were seen. Camp was pitched at Poncha and the next morning, soon after leaving there, I saw several Desert Horned Larks and a Brewer Sparrow on a sage brush covered mesa. From here on, the country is very rough, the hills rising abruptly and no timber occurring except the cottonwood trees in the creek bottoms, until the top of the mesa is reached which is covered with a heavy growth of pine and spruce.

About five miles above Poncha I saw several Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in a small patch of thistles and a little farther on a Green-tailed Towhee. After a long steady climb we reached Garfield, Chaffee County, twenty miles from Salida and at an altitude of about 10,000 feet, and here I saw Gray-headed Juncos and English Sparrows feeding in the streets of the town.

We arrived at Bass Lake about five p. m. and found a very pretty lake, just at timber line, surrounded by very high mountains. From this spot half a dozen peaks in sight were over 14,000 feet high.

On the 17th I flushed a Gray-headed Junco from a cunningly concealed nest under the edge of a juniper bush. It contained four young about a week old. I saw a number of these birds around the lake but found no other nests. Near here in the down timber and rocks I found one small White-tailed Ptarmigan chick, and one Rosy Finch feeding on the shores of the lake. Three Clarke Crows were seen near the lake and on the return trip the only new bird seen was a fine Western Tanager.—JOHN W. FREY.

Unusual Wave of Western Tanagers.—Beginning April 16, 1908, there was witnessed in this county a flight of tanagers (*Piranga ludoviciana*) which seemed most remarkable for this section.

The birds were noted most commonly about a mile north of Auburn, passing by the hundreds in a westwardly direction. The sexes appeared to be evenly divided, tho as they flew from tree to tree it was the bright colored males that attracted the attention of the passer-by. At my ranch, seven miles north of Auburn, the birds were not as numerous, but for two or three weeks they kept moving leisurely westward. As cherries ripened they lingered in nearby pine trees, flying back and forth to the cherries between shots from the auxilliary. Shooting appeared not to decrease the numbers, and it was July 7 before the last bird left. Just how far west they went, and why they took this course, direct from their breeding grounds, would be interesting to know.—ERNEST ADAMS, *Clipper Gap, Placer County, California.*