

## SOME CENTRAL COLORADO BIRD NOTES

By EDWARD R. WARREN

IN JUNE, 1909, I left Colorado Springs on a "mouse hunt", one of my principal objective points being the region about the San Luis Lakes, in the San Luis Valley. I was accompanied on the trip by Harold R. Durand of Littleton, Colorado, who not only acted as cook and horse wrangler, but also assisted in collecting and taking care of specimens; and I must express my appreciation of his help and unflinching good nature under various trying circumstances. I should say that the trip was made in a wagon, drawn by mules, when I started; of the mules more will be said hereafter.

For the first three days out, from Colorado Springs to Cañon City, we had the pleasure of the company of Mr. Charles E. Aiken, who may be termed Colorado's pioneer resident ornithologist; for though others had done bird work in the state prior to, and at about the time when he first became a resident here, he was practically the first ornithologist to reside here permanently. He has lived nearly all the time since 1871 in Colorado, and during all this period he has spent much time in the study of our birds. Most of his early work was done in the region covered by the first three days' drive, and his reminiscences of the early days which he related to us were mighty interesting, both about the birds and the people. In 1874 he visited the San Luis Valley as naturalist for one of the parties of the Wheeler Surveys, and was in the same region for which I was bound; the following year he made a trip there on his own account, and it was regretted by all hands that he was not able to accompany us there this year. Henshaw's Report on the Ornithology of the Wheeler Surveys is about the only publication on the birds of most of the region traversed, excepting such notes as are contained in Cooke's "Birds of Colorado." There are also a few scattered references to individual species in various ornithological magazines.

I should say that but comparatively few bird skins were taken, but no bird has been admitted to this list unless I was absolutely sure of its identity. Whenever necessary to identify a bird, it was collected, if possible to do so. Many of the birds were seen and the notes taken, as we were driving along, and no doubt many species were missed which might have been seen if we had made longer stops at some of the localities.

Some account of the route and itinerary may be of interest. Leaving Colorado Springs June 4, we drove that day as far as Van Andert's Spring on a branch of the Little Fountain. The road had taken us around the base of the mountains at first, and then climbed into the foothills; but no great elevation was reached, only a trifle over 6000 feet, not much more than Colorado Springs. The trees where we camped were broad- and narrow-leaved cottonwoods, scrub oaks and cedars. The next day was along the foothills, over a rather rolling country, in which were a good many yellow pines, as well as other trees. Our road took us past a ranch formerly owned by Mr. Aiken, and where he lived when he first came to the state, and where his first collecting was done. No one lives there now, and there are only some of the logs left of his house; but the spring is still there, and we all had a drink from it. The land is now part of a large ranch and used as a pasture. Our camp that night was on Beaver Creek, near Glendale, at an elevation of 5300 feet, we having made quite a drop during the day. Many birds were about the cottonwoods and bushes by the creek here, and our day's list was quite a long one.

The next morning, Sunday, we only drove to Cañon City, arriving about noon,

having gone over a rather uninteresting country, dry and barren. Aiken left us that afternoon, taking the train for home. Durand and I stopped there until next morning, and then took a road which went around through the hills to the north, and finally brought us back to the Arkansas River, about half a mile below Parkdale station, and above the Grand Cañon of the Arkansas. The road had taken us up through a somewhat rocky, dry cañon, and then through Eight Mile Park, mostly open country, with scattered cedars, piñons, and yellow pines, which grew

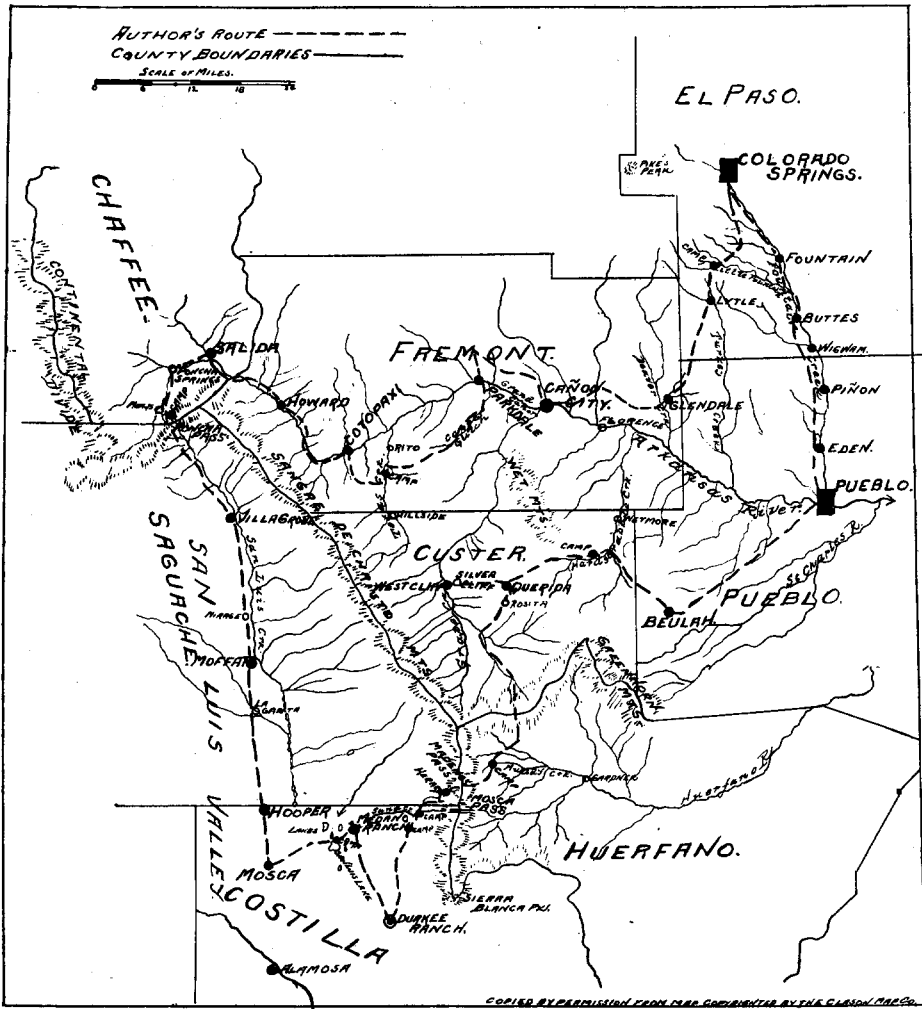


Fig. 12. MAP OF PORTION OF COLORADO COVERED BY E. R. WARREN IN HIS COLLECTING TRIP DURING THE SUMMER OF 1909

more abundantly on the hills a little distance away from the road. We crossed the river at this place, and camped close by early in the afternoon, and explored the country thereabouts, though interrupted for a while by a very heavy shower. On the low hills near camp were cedars and piñons, with a few pines; and on the open ground grew yucca, a small tree cactus, and rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus* sp.).

The next day we traveled at first a few miles in open country, and then turned up Copper Gulch, which was followed for several miles. This was mainly

a dry gulch, but there were either springs in it, or else an intermittent stream of water, for we kept coming to water here and there. Not many birds are seen in such localities by a person driving along the road, though we did see many Mourning Doves. From the gulch we came out on the divide between it and Texas Creek, and went down to the latter stream, reaching it somewhere between Rito and Hill-side stations, and, driving up a short distance, made camp under a high granite bluff, which, though not very desirable, seemed the only available spot. The next day we almost immediately left the Texas Creek watershed, crossing another divide (an easy thing to find in Colorado), and returned to the Arkansas at Cotopaxi. Here I telephoned J. W. Frey, who had accompanied me on my trip through northwestern Colorado two years ago, and who lived at Salida, to come down to Howard on the train and camp with me for a day or two, which he promptly agreed to do.

We drove the twelve miles to Howard just in time to see the train pull in, and there were John and Carlo, another partner of two years ago, when a ranchman at Yampa gave him to us. This was on the ninth. We spent the whole of the next day at Howard doing some trapping and bird collecting. The whole region through which we had lately traveled was rather similar, largely low hills, or perhaps one could call it a rolling mesa country, when away from the river bottom, and with the usual piñons and cedars found at this altitude, and a certain amount of yellow pine. One usually finds more or less loose rock at the bases of the hills which border either side of the stream valleys, if indeed he does not find low bluffs and ledges of the rock outcropping. These are good places for mice and rats, and such small deer, and are among my favorite trapping grounds. There were some of the low tree cactus at Howard, but that is nearly its western limit in the Arkansas Valley; I regret to say that I did not take notice just where the last was seen the next day when we went on up to Salida. Along the river were cottonwoods, and some other deciduous trees.

On the 11th we drove up to Salida and camped in Frey's back yard, turning the mules loose to crop his lawn for him, a very convenient arrangement. I must say those mules were very good about staying near camp; they seldom strayed far from the wagon. The following day we moved up to Poncha Pass, camping a little below the summit on the Chaffee County side, near a nice little stream, and with plenty of wood handy. This was at about 8750 feet (the summit of the pass is 9049 feet). Close by were aspen trees, and farther up the gulch were red spruce, while on a dry hillside were yellow pines and a few cedars; sage brush (*Artemisia*) covered much of the open ground. I was rather disappointed with this camp, at least I did not find as much in the way of either birds or mammals as I had hoped, and nothing out of the ordinary. We spent the whole of the 13th here, water freezing in the bucket both nights.

The next day we crossed the pass, and went on down to Villa Grove. As soon as we got down off the hill on the south side of the pass we were in the San Luis Valley which extends southward nearly a hundred miles to the New Mexico line, and is from 40 to 50 miles wide. The *Artemisia* practically ended at the foot of the hill and its place was taken by a species of *Chrysothamnus*, or rabbit brush, though most of the people locally refer to it as "sage brush". This covers much of the uncultivated portion of the Valley, except where, as will be noted later, greasewood takes its place. At Villa Grove the conditions were rather unfavorable for collecting, and we found but little in our overnight stop.

When we left there next morning we could see Moffat, our next stopping place, 18 miles away, so there was no danger of getting lost. This shows how level is the Valley. There was nothing but grass and rabbit brush, and as we neared

Moffat, greasewood or chico (*Sarcobatus*) began to appear; below Moffat it in many places entirely replaced the other shrub. At Moffat we came to the artesian well belt, where every ranch boasts its own artesian well. I cannot say I cared much for the water at most of these wells, for it was usually strongly charged with sulphur, smelling strongly of  $H_2S$ . However, even sulphur water beats going without, and has the reputation of being healthy. But the mules turned up their noses at it, and would hardly taste it. At Moffat the wind was blowing a gale, and there were but few birds about, and especially few, as immediately about the town, near which we camped so as to have the benefit of one of the aforesaid wells, there was but little brush, it being mostly grass land.

At Moffat I took my first specimen of the San Luis Pocket Gopher, *Thomomys talpoides agrestis*, recently described by Merriam from a type taken by Merritt Cary at the Medano ranch; and on the way to Hooper the next day the first Cary's Chipmunks were seen, also described by Merriam from type taken at the same locality as the gopher. But of these I secured no specimens that day; they were the liveliest things of the sort I ever ran across, and almost invariably took to their heels as soon as the wagon hove in sight, and disappeared in the brush. Cary had written me that he had instructed his namesakes to keep out of the way of all collectors, and I could well believe it from their actions.

From Moffat to Hooper and Mosca, at which latter place we arrived at noon of the 17th, we had the same sandy soil, and greasewood and rabbit brush, with a certain amount of cultivated land, mostly between Hooper and Mosca. The characteristic birds of this region were Sage Thrashers and Brewer's Sparrows, as well as Horned Larks. The morning of the 18th we drove to the lakes, making camp about noon near a small lake a few hundred yards north of the large or San Luis Lake. There was an artesian well here with water which did not have quite as much sulphur as some of them. Here we stayed until the morning of the 21st, and explored the country about the lakes. It is certainly a peculiar place in some ways. There are low sandy hills all about, and among these are the lakes, many of them so hidden that one is not aware of their presence until he comes upon them suddenly on going over one of these hills. Even the large lake, a mile or more in length, and half as wide, is thus hidden from most points. Its shores were barren and sandy, and it was not much frequented by the water birds, though there were always some there. The small lakes and ponds scattered about here and there were those most frequented by the waterfowl, though I must say that we were rather disappointed on the whole with the number of such birds seen, for we had expected a much greater amount of life of this sort. However, we spent one or two afternoons, or portions thereof, with much interest, watching birds about the water. Some of the small ponds were partly dried up, and showed much alkali about their shores, others had but little. Outside of the water birds, not many birds were found here.

The morning of the 21st, we moved camp to the Medano Ranch, a few miles away, and still in the lake region, and remained here until July 5. This ranch is owned by a company, and has a very large acreage, several square miles I should think, and is entirely devoted to hay. The meadows, at the time we were there, were mostly being irrigated, and were alive with mosquitos, which were also abundant about the houses and camp; and, to make things a little more interesting, there were swarms of little gnats almost too small to see, and horseflies altogether too easy to see, and to feel when they tried to bite a chunk out of one's face or hand. And the sun shining on the light-colored sandy soil made it so hot that our faces burnt and peeled. Verily, the life of a naturalist in the field is not always a happy one!

The reason I made such a long stop at this place was that I was endeavoring to secure specimens of the Mountain Harvest Mouse, *Reithrodontomys montanus*, which has the interesting history of having for many years been known only from a single specimen taken by a Pacific Railroad Surveying expedition in 1853 somewhere in the San Luis Valley, and to the northward of this place. However, Cary secured a series here two years ago, and I did my best to get more, but, though I covered the country with traps, and caught all kinds of mice except those most wanted, I failed to secure a single specimen.

Where the land was not in hay, the soil was a light sand, and with the same old greasewood and rabbit brush. There were no trees close by, but, along Sand Creek, three miles to the northward, were a number of cottonwoods. Each of us took a walk over there, but found comparatively few birds. Owing to this lack of trees, bird life, so far as species went, was rather limited around this camp, and our daily lists were repetitions of the same old names until we began to get decidedly tired of them, and gladly welcomed an occasional addition. Savannah Sparrows and Meadow Larks were abundant in the meadows, Sage Thrashers and Brewer's Sparrows among the brush away from them, and various other birds here and there in the localities they most favored.

Finally I tired of trying to catch those Harvest Mice, and we left the morning of July 5, and began by taking a wrong road almost at the start, which led us several miles out of our way. However I do not specially regret this as we saw one or two interesting things we would otherwise have missed, and it made me familiar with the location of the "Durkee Ranch", which will be referred to later. We had a long hard pull that morning over a sandy road, on which the mules hardly made over a mile an hour. The road in the afternoon was better, and we made nearly to Mosca Creek before camping. To the northwest of this place are the sandhills or dunes which are locally rather noted, a low range of them, nothing but sand, and constantly changing form with the wind. The next morning our trouble began. The lady mule of the team behaved in a very unladylike manner, ate her oats too greedily, and choked herself. However she apparently recovered, and we hitched up and started. Going up a little hill she got sick and gave out entirely, and we had to unhitch and let the wagon set right there, halfway up the hill. There was a very sick mule in camp, and we were afraid she would die. Of course we improved the time while waiting for her to do so, by collecting. Perhaps that was the reason she did not die, as we did not show her the respect proper at such a sad time, and so went on living from pure cussedness. This was at the mouth of the gulch up which the road to Mosca Pass went. This is the pass over which the travel formerly went, but the road having been washed out and impassable for two years, we were heading for Madenos Pass a few miles farther north.

The next day finding the mule still alive, but unable to work, I started out afoot for a ranch on Madenos Creek to see if I could get a team to help me out. It was six miles over a very sandy road, and we learned that 1500 pounds was considered a load for a four horse team, and judging from our experience it is. The following morning I took a pair of horses back to camp with me, and we started out. We hitched the well mule with one of the horses, and by pulling from the saddlehorn with the other horse we managed to make a mile an hour, and it was not up hill either; though there were little ups and downs, much of the road was quite level.

In spite of the sandy soil there was a fine, somewhat scattering growth of yellow pine along the road, and many Lewis's Woodpeckers were seen among them. We made camp in Madenos Cañon, about a mile above Herard postoffice, on the

morning of the ninth, and prepared to rest a few days. I ought to say that while the names Medano and Madenos seem to be pronounced much alike, I have spelled the former as it was given me at the ranch, and the latter as it is spelled on the Huerfano Park Sheet of the U. S. Geological Survey, though it seems likely one may be a corruption of the other. This Madenos Cañon camp was at an elevation of 8700 feet, and we were glad to be getting back into the mountains again. It is hardly necessary to say that we collected there, but without any specially notable results. We made a trip to and above timberline one day, each going in a different direction, and a few alpine birds were seen.

Finally on the 14th, the mule having recovered sufficiently to work a little, we crossed the Sangre de Christo Range by Madenos Pass, elevation 9700 feet, and dropped down to 8300 feet on the other side to that night's camp on Muddy Creek. Thence we went directly to the Wet Mountain Valley, going first to Querida, where we spent several days, and then moved down to Westcliffe. Querida is the location of the noted old Bassick Mine, and the tailings dump of the old mills is being worked by a cyanide plant in which a friend is interested, hence my visit there and to him. It is an altitude of 9000 feet, a country of low rounded hills, with a rather limited growth of red spruce, yellow pines, and aspens, mainly on the northerly slopes. I also spent a couple of weeks there last February.

Westcliffe is at an elevation of 7800 feet, and in the main portion of the Wet Mountain Valley, one of our large mountain parks, the bottom lands of which are mostly under cultivation, mainly in hay. Our camp was a short distance outside the town, near some of the meadows, and with the dry, unirrigated, and uncultivated land lying back of us, and extending to the foothills. This was dry and barren, with a low growth of rabbit brush.

At Westcliffe I disposed of the mules and purchased a pair of horses, and no sooner was this done than we took our departure, going first back to Querida, and thence down Hardscrabble Cañon, one of the wildest we had been through, and where we camped overnight. Thence around to Beulah, and over a hill or two which tried the pulling powers of the new team; but they were all there, and made nothing of them. From Beulah to Pueblo, and thence northward home was the balance of our route, and we arrived at Colorado Springs at lunch-time August third, just the proper time to arrive, seeing that I had taken the precaution to telephone from a few miles down the road that we would be on hand for lunch.

We traveled nearly 400 miles, and went through portions of eight counties, as follows: El Paso, Fremont, Chaffee, Saguache, Costilla, Huerfano, Custer and Pueblo. I have included in this paper some notes taken at Villa Grove in January, 1907, and at Mosca in January, 1908, during some short trips I made to those places, and also such notes as I made on the visit to Querida in February which I have already mentioned. Notes and references to some species not seen by me are also made, but these explain themselves.

**Colymbus nigricollis californicus.** Eared Grebe. We saw several June 20 on one of the small lakes near the large or San Luis Lake.

**Podilymbus podiceps.** Pied-billed Grebe. One seen on the same lake as the preceding species, and at the same time. It would seem as if grebes should have been seen more frequently, but this was the only occasion when we noted them, though we visited other ponds as well suited to them.

**Larus delawarensis.** Ring-billed Gull. A flock frequented the upper end of San Luis Lake in the early morning and late afternoon. Where they spent the rest of the day I do not know, for we never saw them anywhere else.

**Anas platyrhynchos.** Mallard. This bird was seen on several of the smaller lakes, both near San Luis Lake, and at Medano Ranch. It seemed rather common.

**Chaulelasmus streperus.** Gadwall. Seen on some of the smaller lakes though not as common as the preceding.

**Mareca americana.** Baldpate. Two or three were seen on one of the small lakes one afternoon. (Unless otherwise stated all notes of water birds refer to the San Luis Lake and Medano Ranch region.)

**Nettion carolinensis.** Green-winged Teal. Two or three seen among other ducks one afternoon.

**Querquedula discors.** Blue-winged Teal. Two or three pairs were seen on a small lake, and we noted others at other times and places.

**Querquedula cyanoptera.** Cinnamon Teal. The most common Teal, if not the commonest of all the ducks we saw. One of the ponds near the Medano Ranch had several pairs on it, how many it was difficult to tell, but half a dozen or more, I am sure.

**Spatula clypeata.** Spoonbill. One seen each of two afternoons, and at different places. Apparently not common.

**Dafla acuta.** Pintail. A number were seen at different times; it seemed fairly common. Near Medano Ranch, July second, I saw a female accompanied by four one-third grown young.

**Marila americana.** Redhead. Durand saw one near the Medano Ranch. We thought we saw others elsewhere about the lakes, but were not sure.

**Erismatura jamaicensis.** Ruddy Duck. This species was seen on the same lake as the grebes, and at the same time.

**Guara rubra.** Scarlet Ibis. It is interesting to note that the only specimen of this Tropical species recorded from Colorado, and one of the very few known from the United States, was taken by a Mr. Livesy on Grape Creek, in the Wet Mountain Valley, Custer County, in May, 1876, and probably in, or at any rate very close to the region traversed by me. It was recorded by W. P. Lowe, *Auk* xi, 1894, p. 324.

**Ardea herodias.** Great Blue Heron. Durand saw one at a small pond on the Medano Ranch.

**Nycticorax nycticorax naevius.** Black-crowned Night Heron. One evening, when we were at San Luis Lake, 4 or 5 Night Herons came to the little lake near which we were camped, and fed there. A few days later Durand found a colony on a lake at Medano Ranch, and from the indications thought they must nest there. The first of July I saw several in a flooded meadow while driving to Hooper.

**Fulica americana.** Coot. A common bird, seen on nearly every lake we visited.

**Steganopus tricolor.** Wilson's Phalarope. Seemed rather common on ponds about Medano Ranch.

**Recurvirostra americana.** American Avocet. Avocets were very common at San Luis Lake, though we saw none at Medano Ranch. We saw them daily while camped at the lake; they fed both about the large lake and about the small lakes; we used to see them feeding in the pond close to camp, especially in the early morning and late afternoon and evening. Henshaw states that the Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*, was equally common with the Avocets, and Aiken tells me the same thing, but I saw none whatever.

**Limosa fedoa.** Marbled Godwit. An interesting note is that the first Colorado record for this species is one taken by Aiken at San Luis Lake, October 1, 1874.

**Actitis macularia.** Spotted Sandpiper. This species was seen but a few times, at Parkdale, at San Luis Lake, and at a small reservoir near Fountain on the last day of the trip.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** Killdeer. We saw some the first day out a few miles from Colorado Springs, but no more until we got to Moffat, where we saw some, also at Hooper and Mosca. Killdeer were very common at the lakes and at Medano Ranch, and were also seen at the Durkee Ranch. The next and only other place where they were seen was Westcliffe.

**Podasocys montanus.** Mountain Plover. June 19, a mile or two north of the San Luis Lake, we ran across a pair of Mountain Plover accompanied by at least two young; Durand succeeded in catching one of the latter; it was about half grown, with the feathers just beginning to appear, especially on the wings. July fifth, as we were driving along the road on the east side of the Valley, from the Durkee Ranch to Mosca Creek, we saw a Mountain Plover walking along not far from the road, accompanied by three half grown young. I was watching them with the field glasses when I saw a Horned Lark come up behind the old bird, pass around in front, and face it in a decidedly pugnacious attitude. There was some pretty sparring and threatening for a moment or two, the lark half spreading its wings and dancing about as if it intended to attack the plover, but the latter kept steadily on her way and finally passed by. I cannot conceive what it was about, unless the lark had a nest or young close by, and feared the plover might harm them.

**Callipepla squamata.** Scaled Quail. Seen near Red Cañon, not far from Glendale, and a man at Glendale told Aiken they were quite common. On the way home, going north from Pueblo, we saw them near Piñon and Buttes stations. Scaled Quail seem to be increasing in this part of the state, and would become abundant if the protective law was more strictly enforced. As it is, the foreign section hands on the railroads kill many, and I suspect that others who are neither foreigners nor section hands help in the good (?) work.

**Lagopus leucurus.** White-tailed Ptarmigan. Durand saw two at timberline near the head of Madenos Creek.

**Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.** Mourning Dove. From the time we left Colorado Springs until we returned, there was hardly a day when we did not see Doves, for they were everywhere we went, and very common at some localities. June 21st, at San Luis Lake, I found a nest with a single young bird. This nest was in a greasewood bush, about a foot above the ground.

**Carthartes aura septentrionalis.** Turkey Vulture. A dozen or more were seen roosting in the trees near Beaver Creek, at Glendale. Mr. Aiken said they used to roost there over thirty years ago. Some were seen flying a few miles west of Texas Creek; we saw some several times while at Westcliffe, and saw 3 about halfway between Beulah and Pueblo.

**Accipiter velox.** Sharp-shinned Hawk. Durand saw one in Hardscrabble Cañon (our camp was about 7 miles above Wetmore).

**Accipiter atricapillus.** Goshawk. One or more were seen near Mosca, January, 1908.

**Buteo borealis calurus.** Western Red-tail. It is rather strange that we saw this hawk, one of our commonest species, at but two localities, the upper part of Madenos Creek, and at Salida. While the San Luis Valley itself would not be a particularly good place to find it, we did pass through considerable territory where it should have been seen.

**Buteo swainsoni.** Swainson's Hawk. A bird which appeared to be this species was seen near San Luis Lake, and one which I have no doubt about, at Medano Ranch, and one at Mosca Creek.

**Archibuteo ferrugineus.** Ferruginous Rough-leg. One seen at San Luis Lake,



and one collected at Sand Creek, 3 miles north of Medano Ranch, and one seen at Westcliffe.

**Falco sparverius phaloena.** Desert Sparrow Hawk. Seen several times between Cañon City and Salida, also between Villa Grove and Moffat; one was seen at Medano Ranch, and one near Mosca Creek, also in Madenos Cañon. Some were seen near Westcliffe; one or two east of Querida; a dead one seen near Beulah. Some were seen along the road north from Pueblo, and one near Fountain, that is, I thought it was a Sparrow Hawk, while Durand was sure it was a Sharp-shin—it might well have been either in that locality. I have listed all these as Desert Sparrow Hawks, though no specimens were taken.

**Asio wilsonianus.** Long-eared Owl. At our camp at a deserted ranch, just outside the town of Hooper, Durand found the dead bodies of one adult, apparently a female, and three young Long-eared Owls, and one living young bird, the latter perched in a tree; it was able to fly. I secured several photographs of it, all taken



Fig. 13. YOUNG LONG-EARED OWL, PHOTOGRAPHED NEAR HOOPER, COLORADO

on the ground. I found a pair with one young one at Sand Creek, near Medano Ranch, June 24, at an old Magpie's nest. The youngster was not as well grown as the one at Hooper. Durand also saw an owl of this species near Westcliffe.

**Asio flammeus.** Short-eared Owl. I killed one near Mosca, January 22, 1908.

**Otus flammeola.** Flammulated Screech Owl. Although no specimens of this species were taken or seen by me, I have thought it best to include it in this paper in order to correct some errors of locality in previous papers. Deane, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club., IV, p. 188, 1879, records a specimen taken by C. E. Aiken, June 15, 1875, and gives the locality as Poncha Pass. In conversation with Mr. Aiken he tells me that this bird was not taken on Poncha Pass, and as a matter of fact he never was at Poncha Pass. He took the specimen, together with one egg from a hollow tree, while traveling by wagon from the Arkansas River, just below where Parkdale is now (the same place where I crossed it this year) to the Wet Mountain Valley. After examining the road map, and talking it over with me to refresh his

memory, I having traveled over a part of the same road this season, he says the bird was taken on the divide or mesa to the south of Copper Gulch, which is traversed by the road to the Wet Mountain Valley, and from 3 to 5 miles from where the road leaves the gulch. Mr. Aiken kept the bird alive for several days, and finally killed it when camped in the mountains near the head of the Valley, fearing it might escape from him. He sold this specimen for \$25.00, and it became a part of the collection of the late Greene Smith of Peterboro, N. Y., a wealthy dilettante collector, being numbered 1314 in that collection. He also sold the egg to the Smithsonian Institution for \$25.00, it being the first of the species ever taken.

Mr. Aiken also informs me that the giving of Mosca Pass as the locality of the specimen taken by Dr. Walbridge (Ingersoll, B. N. O. C., V, p. 121, 1880), is likewise an error. That this, and also one recorded by Brewster from the same locality (B. N. O. C., VIII, p. 123, 1883), were taken at what was, and still is, known as the Durkee Ranch, 15 miles southwesterly from Mosca Pass, and 10 or 12 miles southeasterly from the Medano Ranch, on the east side of the San Luis Valley. That Dr. Walbridge spent some time at this ranch, and collected in its vicinity. The other specimen was brought to Mr. Aiken in the flesh by Mrs. Ady, who was interested in, and lived part of the time at least, at the ranch. This bird had been found dead. The skin is now in the Colorado College Collection.

**Bubo virginianus pallescens.** Western Horned Owl. One seen in the evening at Moseo Creek, on a tree near our camp.

**Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea.** Burrowing Owl. This species was seen on three occasions only; between Alder P. O. and Villa Grove; one was shot by Durand in a meadow at Medano Ranch; and two were seen a few miles south of Butte station.

**Ceryle alcyon.** Belted Kingfisher. One seen at Glendale and one at Westcliffe.

**Dryobates villosus monticola.** Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker. A pair were taken near Poncha Pass, and one at the upper part of Madenos Creek. No Downy Woodpeckers were seen by either of us, which seems rather strange, as one usually runs across them frequently.

**Sphyrapicus thyroideus.** Williamson's Sapsucker. Two seen, and one taken near Poncha Pass; a dead male found by the roadside on the Huerfano County side of Madenos Pass; a pair seen near our camp on Muddy Creek, and one male shot at Querida. This bird was moulting, and minus its tail, and had many new feathers coming in the wings. The Red-naped Sapsucker was not seen, though it should have been.

**Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** Red-headed Woodpecker. Abundant near our camp at Glendale, June 5-6. Not another one was seen until we got to Pueblo, where Durand saw one in the city, and after we got about 15 miles north of that place they were very common, seen often among the trees along Fountain Creek.

**Melanerpes lewisii.** Lewis's Woodpecker. Seen among the pines in the foothill country during the first two days of the journey. They were common in the pines near the road between Mosca and Madenos Creeks. One was seen a few miles east of Beulah, and they were common from Piñon Station north to Colorado Springs.

**Colaptes cafer collaris.** Red-shafted Flicker. Seen at various places between Van Andert's Spring and Poncha Pass; at Villa Grove; near Mosca Creek, and in various places in Madenos Cañon, nearly to the head; south of Rosita; at Querida and Westcliffe, and in Hardscrabble Cañon, and near Buttes Station. I saw one at Mosca, January 17, 1908.

**Phalaenoptilus nuttalli.** Poorwill. I found one, presumably a female, with two young, on a high ridge to the northward of Madenos Pass. The young, which

were as large as an ordinary week or ten days old chick, were squatting perfectly motionless on the ground about a foot apart, each in the shade of a plant of some sort. Their feathers were quite well developed. They kept perfectly quiet, and made no move when I picked them up, but opened their eyes, heretofore kept closed, when replaced on the ground. There were a few dead pines and a few aspens about the place, but no thick growth.

**Chordeiles virginianus henryi.** Western Nighthawk. Seen constantly from the time we were at Parkdale until we returned. About four o'clock of the afternoon of August second, when a few miles south of Buttes Station, we saw what appeared to be a migratory movement of these birds. Altogether we saw anywhere from 50 to 100 of them, all flying southerly in a leisurely manner, and not hunting insects. They were not in a flock, but came along in a scattering fashion, by ones, twos and threes, or more.

**Aeronautes melanoleucus.** White-throated Swift. Two or three were seen June 5 near the Glencairn Ranch on Turkey Creek, and two days later some were seen just outside of Cañon City.

**Selasphorus platycercus.** Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Hummingbirds were seen at Poncha Pass, Medano Ranch, Mosca Creek, Madenos Cañon, Westcliffe, and in Hardscrabble Cañon. Only two specimens were taken, both at Mosca Creek, and both Broad-tails. Such others as were seen close enough to be identified were of this species, but one which flew past me at Westcliffe, travelling like a bullet, seemed undoubtedly to be a Rufous-backed (*S. rufus*), but of course I cannot be positive with the glimpse I had. The Broad-tail is so much the most common species in this state that it is quite safe to put a hummingbird down as such unless one has evidence to the contrary. When running traps at the Poncha Pass camp I saw a female hummer take cotton from some which I had twisted around a twig to mark a trap, so I suppose she was building a nest.

**Tyrannus tyrannus.** Kingbird. Kingbirds were seen at various places between Colorado Springs and Salida, and were not uncommon. A single bird was seen at Westcliffe. From Beulah to Pueblo, and thence to Colorado Springs they were seen quite frequently, though not nearly as common as the next species.

**Tyrannus verticalis.** Western Kingbird. Seen occasionally between Colorado Springs and Villa Grove, and next seen at Westcliffe. Between Beulah and Pueblo, and especially between the latter place and Colorado Springs they were very common and continually seen along the roadside. Halfway between Beulah and Pueblo a pair had a nest at a fence corner, where two posts stood side by side, being placed on the posts, and behind a sort of framework nailed on the side of the post next the road; a cardboard election notice had once been nailed on this frame, and the greater part of it still remained, and served to screen the nest from the road. There were three young in the nest, fully fledged, and able to fly a little. Family groups were frequently seen along the Pueblo-Colorado Springs road.

**Tyrannus vociferans.** Cassin's Kingbird. One was killed June 7, near Parkdale.

**Myiarchus cinerascens.** Ash-throated Flycatcher. One seen June 6, near Glendale, and one taken June 8, in Copper Gulch.

**Sayornis saya.** Say's Phoebe. Seen at various places between Colorado Springs and Salida. At Glendale a pair had a nest in a poultry house at a ranch near our camp. A nest at Hooper contained three eggs June 17; birds were seen from Hooper to Mosca, at San Luis Lake, Medano Ranch, Sand Creek, Durkee Ranch, Westcliffe, Querida, Hardscrabble Cañon, and thence at various places until we arrived at Colorado Springs.

**Myiochanes richardsoni.** Western Wood Pewee. Seen at Glendale, Howard, Durkee Ranch, near Rosita, and Hardscrabble Cañon. At the Durkee Ranch a pair were building a nest in a cottonwood tree; the nest was saddled on a limb at a point where it forked into three branches; I saw one of the birds, most likely the female, working upon it, the material used being cotton from the cottonwood trees, much of which was blowing about. This nest was extremely inconspicuous, and, if I had not seen the bird go to it, I would not have discovered it.

**Empidonax difficilis.** Western Flycatcher. One taken at Poncha Pass and two at Mosca Creek.

**Empidonax trailli.** Traill's Flycatcher. This bird was seen at Glendale, at Coaldale, Howard, near Salida, at Westcliffe, and Hardscrabble Cañon.

**Otocoris alpestris leucolaema.** Desert Horned Lark. Horned Larks were seen, but not very abundantly, at various localities between Colorado Springs and just beyond Parkdale. They were very common all through the San Luis Valley, and one of the characteristic birds of that region. They were common along the road in the southern part of Custer County, and about Westcliffe, and from east of Beulah as far north as Buttes station. It is probably more chance than any other reason that we did not see them north of the latter point. At the Medano Ranch the last of June young just out of the nest were frequently seen, with their parents feeding them. Horned Larks were seen at Villa Grove, January, 1907; at Mosca, January, 1908; and at Querida, February, 1909, and were fairly abundant at all those places at those dates.

**Pica pica hudsonia.** Magpie. Seen frequently between Colorado Springs and Villa Grove; south of the latter point there are no trees along the road, so none were seen, except some full fledged young at La Garita station between Moffat and Hooper, and there were nests in some cottonwoods at the abandoned ranch near Hooper where we camped; birds were seen at Sand Creek and at Mosca Creek; a nest or two were seen on Madenos Creek, but no birds; birds were seen on Muddy Creek; they were common at Westcliffe, and between that place and Colorado Springs. I saw Magpies at Villa Grove in January, 1907, and at Querida February, 1909.

**Cyanocitta stelleri diademata.** Long-crested Jay. This species was not seen as frequently as I would have expected. Birds were encountered near Salida; in Madenos Cañon; on the Huerfano County side of Madenos Pass; in Hardscrabble Cañon, and on the Beulah road. I saw one near Villa Grove, January, 1907.

**Aphelocoma woodhousei.** Woodhouse's Jay. Seen at our Texas Creek camp and near Howard.

**Corvus corax sinuatus.** Western Raven. Half a dozen were seen at Medano Ranch, July first, one of which Durand shot. I saw two near the head of Madenos Creek, and thought I saw one near Westcliffe. The stomach of the bird killed at Medano Ranch had the remains of some nestling birds in it. I preserved this stomach, but have not yet had it examined.

**Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis.** Western Crow. Half a dozen Crows were seen July 31 on the South Hardscrabble road just above its junction with the main road, and two or three were seen in a field a mile or two east of Beulah.

**Nucifraga columbiana.** Clarke's Crow. A number seen at Mosca Creek; some were seen in Madenos Cañon, and some at Querida.

**Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus.** Piñon Jay. Seen between Parkdale and Texas Creek; at Howard and between there and Salida; at Mosca Creek; at Muddy Creek; and at Querida. The last mentioned place is very high for this species, over 9000 feet, and it is their post-breeding wanderings which take them to such an elevation.

**Molothrus ater.** Cowbird. Seen at Hooper, Mosca, San Luis Lakes, Medano Ranch, Durkee Ranch, Querida, and near Colorado Springs. An egg was found in a Savannah Sparrow's nest at Medano Ranch.

**Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus.** Yellow-headed Blackbird. This species was seen at some of the small lakes near San Luis Lake, and at Medano Ranch, nesting in the bushes and cat-tails. Durand saw one at Querida, another instance of post-breeding wandering. I also saw one a few miles south of Westcliffe.

**Agelaius phoeniceus fortis.** Thick-billed Redwing. Seen a few miles south of Colorado Springs; near Cañon City; near Texas Creek; at San Luis Lake; abundant at Medano Ranch, and in the meadows near Westcliffe. Also seen near Buttes Station.

**Sturnella neglecta.** Western Meadowlark. Often seen from Colorado Springs to the Durkee Ranch, very common in the San Luis Valley; next seen on Muddy Creek; common at Westcliffe; seen occasionally between Beulah and Colorado Springs.

**Icterus bullocki.** Bullock's Oriole. Seen near our Texas Creek camp; at the Durkee Ranch; and a few between Pueblo and Colorado Springs. Much of the country visited was not specially favorable for these birds, and much of course was not carefully examined. They are no doubt more abundant than these notes would indicate.

**Euphagus cyanocephalus.** Brewer's Blackbird. Seen everywhere between Colorado Springs and the Durkee Ranch, and a very common bird at many places; seen at Muddy Creek; at Westcliffe, late in July, they were beginning to gather in flocks as is their habit after the breeding season. Seen near Beulah. At San Luis Lake, June 18, I found a young one panting under such shade as a greasewood bush afforded in the middle of the day; it was able to fly a little; the birds must nest on the ground here, or in the greasewood bushes, for there are no trees.

**Quiscalus quiscula aeneus.** Bronzed Grackle. Seen at Glendale and Cañon City.

**Carpodacus cassini.** Cassin's Finch. This bird was seen at Querida only, where it was rather common about the town.

**Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis.** House Finch. One seen in Frey's yard at Salida, and one at Mosca. I cannot persuade myself at present to adopt the new A. O. U. name of "California Linnet", for it seems to me that it conveys the impression that the species is peculiar to or characteristic of California, and I think that can hardly be said to be the case with a bird which "Breeds. . . . from western parts of Kansas and Texas to the Pacific, and from Oregon to northern Mexico". Bailey, Handbook of Birds of Western United States. As long ago as 1874 Coues used the name House Finch in the Birds of the Northwest, so that it is not a newly invented name. I realize that some of the vernacular names present a more difficult problem than the scientific, as so many birds are known by different names in different localities, and it is hard to decide on the most appropriate, but in this case I think the Committee had better have let the old name stand until they could find a really good one.

**Leucosticte tephrocotis.** Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. In February 1, 1909, there was a very large flock of Rosy Finches about Querida, and 10 out of 18 collected were Gray-crowns.

**Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis.** Hepburn's Rosy Finch. One was taken at Querida February 5, 1909.

**Leucosticte atrata.** Black Rosy Finch. One taken at Querida February 5, 1909.

**Leucosticte australis.** Brown-capped Rosy Finch. Six out of the 18 taken at Querida in February were this species.

**Astragalinus tristis.** Goldfinch. Seen at Beulah and at Fountain. It is of course possible these may have been *A. t. pallidus*, but as no specimens were collected the point cannot be decided.

**Spinus pinus.** Pine Siskin. A small flock were seen in Salida; one or two were seen about six miles south of Westcliffe, and some were seen on the road to Beulah.

**Passer domesticus.** House Sparrow. These birds were almost everywhere where there were habitations, including the Medano Ranch, except possibly Querida, where it was rare, if present at all; I can only say that I thought I saw one.

**Poocetes gramineus confinis.** Western Vesper Sparrow. Fairly common from Colorado Springs to a few miles west of our Texas Creek camp; it was fairly common from Poncha Pass down the San Luis Valley to Mosca, but did not seem to be about San Luis Lake, and but few were seen at Medano Ranch; it was quite common in the dry region along the road in the southern part of the Wet Mountain Valley when going to Rosita and Querida; it was common at Querida and Westcliffe, and between the two places, and a few miles east of Beulah. Near Westcliffe, July 23, I found a nest containing three eggs; it was on the ground, amongst a little bunch of low rabbit brush. This was most likely a second set.

**Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus.** Western Savannah Sparrow. This bird was first taken at Salida; it was very common in the meadows at Medano Ranch, and many were seen daily; June 25, Durand found a nest containing three eggs, two days after there were four, one being a Cowbird's. The female belonging to the nest was collected, and it was found on dissection that the full complement had been laid; very possibly it was a second set. The nest was a deep cup amongst the grass. The species was also common in the meadows near Westcliffe.

**Chondestes grammacus strigatus.** Western Lark Sparrow. Seen occasionally along the road from Colorado Springs to Texas Creek. Some were seen a few miles south of Westcliffe; they were seen quite frequently between Beulah and Colorado Springs, indeed, they were common in many places along the road here.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys.** White-crowned Sparrow. Seen in a high basin just above timberline at the head of Madenos Creek, and one seen near the foot of Madenos Pass.

**Spizella monticola ochracea.** Western Tree Sparrow. Seen at Mosca, January 19, 1908, and at Querida, February 10, 1909.

**Spizella passerina arizonae.** Western Chipping Sparrow. Taken in Eight Mile Park, west of Cañon City; seen at our Texas Creek camp, at Howard, Mosca Creek, near Rosita, at Querida, 6 miles south of Westcliffe, on the Beulah road, and south of Fountain. Most of these localities were those where there were piñon or pine trees, and the birds do not seem to frequent, in the breeding season at least, the more open brush covered country.

**Spizella breweri.** Brewer's Sparrow. Aiken collected one about halfway between Glendale and Cañon City. It was very common indeed in the San Luis Valley to about midway between the Medano and Durkee Ranches. Seen near Muddy Creek, and along the road in the southern part of Custer County. It was common in the dry country about Westcliffe. A small sparrow seen near Eden Station, north of Pueblo, may have been this species, but it was quite as likely to have been an immature Chipping Sparrow; it was not collected, and was not seen

very clearly. A nest containing three eggs was found at Hooper, June 16, built in a greasewood bush a few inches above the ground.

**Junco aieni.** White-winged Junco. One or two seen at Querida, February, 1909. The rarest of the three Juncos seen there.

**Junco mearnsi.** Pink-sided Junco. Common about Querida, February, 1909.

**Junco phaeonotus caniceps.** Gray-headed Junco. Seen near Poncha Pass, in Madenos Cañon (specimens collected at both localities), 4 miles south of Rosita, at Querida, and in Hardscrabble Cañon. It was common at Querida in February, 1909.

**Melospiza melodia montana.** Mountain Song Sparrow. Seen at Glendale, near Salida, and at our Poncha Pass camp. At Westcliffe I took a full grown young of the year, July 24.

**Melospiza georgiana.** Swamp Sparrow. Merritt Cary took one at the Medano Ranch, October 23, 1907 (*Auk*, xxvi, p. 182, April, 1909). Both Durand and myself looked industriously for the bird, but failed to find any, so I am much inclined to think Cary's bird was a straggling migrant.

**Pipilo maculatus montanus.** Mountain Towhee. Seen near Cotopaxi, Howard, and Badger, all being points along the Arkansas River.

**Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus.** Cañon Towhee. One was taken west of Cañon City, just east of Eight Mile Park, and one seen near Piñon station.

**Pipilo aberti.** Abert's Towhee. The single record of this species for Colorado is based on what one cannot help thinking decidedly unsatisfactory evidence, a nest containing two eggs which Henshaw found at the San Luis Lakes, and which he says he compared with specimens in the Smithsonian and considered them to belong to Abert's Towhee. No birds were seen at the nest, and he says it had evidently been deserted a short time before. Mr. Aiken tells me that the next year after Henshaw was there, 1874, he saw a bird he supposed was this in the same locality, but had only a glimpse of it, and was unable to shoot it. I saw no Towhees of any kind at the lakes.

**Oreospiza chlorura.** Green-tailed Towhee. Taken near Poncha Pass, and at Durkee Ranch; seen at Mosca Creek, in Madenos Cañon, near Rosita, at Westcliffe, and in Hardscrabble Cañon. The one shot at Durkee Ranch was quite high up in a cottonwood tree working about among the branches in what struck me as an un-towhee-like fashion, so much so that I was puzzled to know what the bird was until I picked it up. It may be a well known habit, I can only say I never noticed it before.

**Zamelodia melanocephala.** Black-headed Grosbeak. Taken on mesa east of Beaver Creek; seen in Copper Gulch, near Texas Creek, between Salida and Poncha Springs, at Muddy Creek, in Hardscrabble Cañon, and at Fountain.

**Calamospiza melanocorys.** Lark Bunting. One or two were seen near Turkey Creek; a mixed flock of 15 or 20, males and females, old and young, were seen near Westcliffe, and some were seen at various places between Beulah and Colorado Springs.

**Piranga ludoviciana.** Western Tanager. Seen but once during the whole trip, in Copper Gulch.

**Petrochelidon lunifrons.** Cliff Swallow. Seen at Coaldale, about Moffatt, Hooper, and Mosca. At the latter place is a grain elevator, about which the birds were in swarms; I counted 108 nests on one side under the eaves, and there seemed to be as many on the other side; this would mean over 400 adult birds, to say nothing of the young. There were many at the Medano Ranch, and they were seen at Muddy Creek, Querida, Westcliffe, and near Beulah.

**Hirundo erythrogaster.** Barn Swallow. Seen at a ranch south of Colorado

Springs the first day out; near Texas Creek; at Coaldale; north of Villa Grove, between that place and Moffat, at Hooper, Mosca, San Luis Lake, Medano Ranch, and Westcliffe.

**Tachycineta thalassina lepida.** Violet-green Swallow. Seen practically everywhere we went between Parkdale and Beulah, and everything considered the most abundant of the swallows. At Querida, July 30, the swallows were beginning to gather in flocks. At Mosca Creek, birds of this species were seen entering old woodpecker's holes in aspen trees, and no doubt had nests there, as they often use them.

**Lanius borealis.** Northern Shrike. One seen at Mosca, January 19, 1908.

**Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides.** White-rumped Shrike. Seen quite commonly from a little above Moffat to Mosca; it was at San Luis Lake, where Durand saw  $\frac{2}{3}$  grown young June 20, and was also at Medano Ranch. Seen at Westcliffe, near Beulah, and between Pueblo and Buttes station.

**Vireosylva gilva swainsoni.** Western Warbling Vireo. Taken at Van Andert's Spring, Glendale, Howard, Durkee Ranch, and seen at Mosca Creek.

**Dendroica aestiva.** Yellow Warbler. Seen at Glendale, near Cotopaxi, Howard, Poncha Springs, Villa Grove, and at Durkee Ranch.

**Dendroica auduboni.** Audubon's Warbler. Taken near Poncha Pass, seen on Madenos Creek, and on Muddy Creek. A female seen on Madenos Creek, at about 10,000 feet elevation, July 11, acted in a very disturbed manner, as if she had a nest or young, but I could find neither.

**Oporornis tolmiei.** MacGillivray's Warbler. Durand took one at Mosca Creek.

**Geothlypis trichas occidentalis.** Western Yellowthroat. Seen at Glendale; Yellowthroats were rather common among the cat-tails at one of the small lakes at the Medano Ranch.

**Icteria virens longicauda.** Long-tailed Chat. Several seen at Glendale.

**Anthus rubescens.** Pipit. One was taken at Durand on a high mountain at the head of Madenos Creek; I also saw one in the same general locality.

**Cinclus mexicanus unicolor.** Water Ouzel. Seen on Madenos Creek, and in Hardscrabble Cañon.

**Oroscoptes montanus.** Sage Thrasher. A very common bird all through that part of the San Luis Valley visited by me; two were seen about two miles north of Muddy Creek, in Huerfano County; they were very common at Westcliffe, where family parties were seen the last of July; one was taken, others seen, about ten miles west of Pueblo. Immediately after we made camp at the Medano Ranch I discovered a nest containing three newly hatched young, and an egg, which had disappeared the next day. This nest was in a greasewood bush. I watched it closely, intending to take some photographs as soon as the young were large enough, and the morning of July 4, knowing I was going to leave next day, went to see if everything was all right, intending to take the pictures at once, but there was only a single dead, much bedraggled young bird there, and I could find no trace of the other two. It had rained very hard the night before, but though this might account for the death, it does not account for the missing. The next morning, July 5, I found about halfway between the Medano and Durkee Ranches a nest containing four eggs, about which the parents were very anxious, so I think it probable incubation was nearly complete. This was in rabbit brush about a foot above the ground, the other nest having been three feet from the ground.

**Mimus polyglottos leucopterus.** Western Mockingbird. Seen between Glendale and Cañon City; near Copper Gulch; at Hooper, San Luis Lake, about half



way between Beulah and Pueblo, and rather frequently between Eden and Buttes stations.

**Dumetella carolinensis.** Catbird. Several seen at Glendale, and Durand took one in Hardscrabble Cañon.

**Salpinctes obsoletus.** Rock Wren. Seen at favorable places between Colorado Springs and Texas Creek; between Mears and Poncha Pass; near the roadside, in northern Huerfano County; at Querida, where family parties were seen; about ten miles west of Pueblo, and between Eden and Piñon stations.

**Troglodytes aedon parkmani.** Western House Wren. Seen at different places between Colorado Springs and Howard; at Durkee Ranch; Mosca Creek; Muddy Creek; in Hardscrabble Cañon one was caught in a mouse trap set under the overhanging creek bank; also seen near Buttes.

**Cistothorus stellaris.** Short-billed Marsh Wren. Cary took one at Medano Ranch, October 23, 1907 (*Auk*, xxvi, p. 182, April, 1909). We made a careful search for the bird, especially at the small lake where we were told he obtained his specimen, but no birds were found, and no nests were to be found about the cat-tails and rushes where they would have built if they had been there, so I have come to the same conclusion as in the case of the Swamp Sparrow, that Cary's bird was a straggling migrant.

**Telmatodytes palustris plesius.** Interior Tule Wren. Henshaw, in his report, records three specimens from the San Luis Lakes, taken in May and June, 1873. While I did not know of this when at the lakes, the search for the Short-billed Wren should have revealed this species if it had been there.

**Sitta carolinensis nelsoni.** Rocky Mountain Nuthatch. Seen at Howard, and at Mosca Creek. Also taken at Querida, February 6, 1909.

**Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis.** Long-tailed Chickadee. Seen at Herard's Ranch, Madenos Creek.

**Penthestes gambeli.** Mountain Chickadee. Taken at Howard and Querida; also at latter place, February, 1909.

**Psaltriparus plumbeus.** Lead-colored Bush-tit. Taken near Parkdale; seen at Texas Creek, and at Howard.

**Myadestes townsendi.** Townsend's Solitaire. One seen on a high ridge near the head of Madenos Creek.

**Planesticus migratorius propinquus.** Western Robin. Seen constantly from Colorado Springs to Villa Grove; after that none were seen until we got to the Durkee Ranch, and from there on seen at every locality until we reached Colorado Springs.

**Sialia mexicana bairdi.** Chestnut-backed Bluebird. Seen about a mile west of Texas Creek, and Durand saw four or five near our Madenos Creek camp.

**Sialia currucoides.** Mountain Bluebird. Seen almost everywhere from Colorado Springs to Beulah. After the middle of July many young birds were seen.

## FOR THE BETTER DETERMINATION OF *AGELAIUS TRICOLOR*

By JOHN W. MAILLIARD

WITH TWO PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOSEPH MAILLIARD

WITH only a limited reference library available, it is perhaps unwise to undertake the betterment of the determination of a species; and yet our own doubts, coupled with those expressed by many of our ornithological friends,