

Colorado as a winter home. We could always be sure of finding a few of them in certain favored spots, but they were very wary.

*Junco hyemalis thurberi*. Thurber Junco. Grinnell reported but one of these birds, which was obtained farther up the river, while we saw at least eight, and secured three. Their presence may have been partly due to the low temperature.

*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*. Lincoln Sparrow. Grinnell is of the opinion that a large proportion of those birds which his party saw (after February 26), had not spent the entire winter in the region. We, however, found the birds to be common in suitable places throughout our stay, and, since they are never much in evidence, they were probably even more common than was apparent. A specimen taken on the 14th was intermediate in characters between this form and *striata*.

*Pipilo maculatus curtatus*. Nevada Towhee. A single male of this form was secured on the 23rd, making this the southernmost station from which it has been reported.

*Vermivora celata lutescens*. Lutescent Warbler. An individual was shot on the 24th. This would seem to indicate that the subspecies occasionally spends the winter.

*Oreoscoptes montanus*. Sage Thrasher. A single bird was seen and taken on the 30th.

*Toxostoma lecontei lecontei*. Leconte Thrasher. The only bird of this species noted on the trip was one seen from the automobile as we were driving in the vicinity of the sahuaro grove above Potholes, January 30. Although reasonably close, the guns were not handy, and it escaped.

*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. Western Bluebird. Bluebirds were encountered in small numbers. Of the two males secured, one is practically indistinguishable from specimens of *bairdi* from Arizona, while the other exhibits characters intermediate between that and typical *occidentalis*. As lots of birds from the Sierra Nevada of California also have the main characters as given for *bairdi*, we are at a loss just how to place our Fort Yuma specimens. Much work remains to be done with this group.

*Covina, California, September 25, 1915.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Arizona Hooded Oriole in the Fresno District.**—On May 26, 1915, a male Arizona Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*) was found among the raisin boxes in a shed on the Borell place, four miles west of Fresno. It was collected by Adrey Borell and the skin, in a somewhat mutilated condition, is now in my collection. During the following week three more males were seen at close range. All were in full plumage and alone.—WINIFRED N. WEAR, *Fresno, California.*

**Nesting of Wild Ducks near San Francisco.**—During the spring and early summer I visited Merced Lake a number of times for the purpose of taking a bird census of the region as requested by the Biological Survey. The following species of wild ducks were found to be nesting in the vicinity:

**Mallard.** On April 22, I flushed a Mallard from her nest. At that time the nest contained seven eggs, but on April 28 it contained ten. After sitting on the eggs about ten days the duck abandoned it though she stayed in the vicinity for a number of days.

**Lesser Scaup Duck.** A male of this species was seen on nearly every visit to the lake. In July this male, in company with a female and three young not yet old enough to fly, was seen out in the lake. The distance was too far for positive identification of the female, but it seems probable that a pair of this species nested in the vicinity.

**Ruddy Duck.** These were the most numerous ducks about the lake. They probably nested in considerable numbers, though no nests were found. Young of this species were seen in some numbers during July and August and must have been hatched in the vicinity of the lake, as they were not yet able to fly.

On June 5 of this year I visited Stow Lake and the other lakes of Golden Gate Park for the purpose of making an estimate of the number of wild ducks summering there. In all, 169 ducks were counted. They were of the following species: Mature Mallards, 66; young Mallards, 70; total Mallards, 136; Ruddy Ducks, 6; Baldpates, 2; Lesser

Scaups, 17. A week later six young Ruddy Ducks were seen, so at least two species are nesting in the park. The presence of the Scaups in considerable numbers and the late lingering of the Baldpates is of interest.—W. A. SQUIRES, *San Francisco, California*.

**Western Bluebird Nesting in Los Angeles.**—Dr. Miller's notes on the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) in a recent CONDOR recalls some old notes of my own. In 1892 a pair of this species persisted in trying to nest in a mail box on the corner of Solano Avenue and Buena Vista Street (now called North Broadway), Los Angeles. The birds considered the mail box a wholly suitable place, but the mail man and the owner objected. In spite of the resulting discouragements several eggs were laid before the Bluebirds gave up the site. I have forgotten the number laid, but I had one in my collection for several years and I am under the impression that they laid a complete set before abandoning the site.—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Eagle Rock, California*.

**The Hermit Warbler in Berkeley.**—The Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) has been reported from Berkeley, California, but once, and that was thirty years ago, in 1885 (Belding, Land Birds of the Pacific District, 1890, p. 215). It may therefore be of interest to know that on May 10, 1915, I found one feeding with a flock of Townsend Warblers (*Dendroica townsendi*) in the oaks near our house in Strawberry Canyon. On May 11 a large flock made up mainly of Townsend, Pileolated, and Yellow warblers sheltered several Hermit Warblers, and on May 12 the songs of the Townsend and Hermit warblers were heard more frequently even than that of the Pileolated Warbler, which was already nesting in Berkeley, though many others seemed to be in the migrating flock. The last Townsend Warbler was heard on May 17.

The month of May brought several other pleasant surprises, due, no doubt, to the continuous rains during the first part of the month. On May 11 the notes of a belated Robin reached me twice, and on Commencement Day (May 12) I was awakened in the early morning by the song of the Long-tailed Chat.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Berkeley, California*.

**Scaup Ducks Breeding in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.**—In the summer of 1914 Dr. Otto Westerfeld, of San Francisco, told me that he had come across a young brood of Scaup Ducks (*Marila* sp.?) while strolling along the border of one of the lakes in Golden Gate Park, and was much surprised to find this duck breeding there.

Following up his report I made it a point to visit the park this season (1915) for the purpose of ascertaining if this species was breeding there again. While one or two adult Scaups were in sight at the time of my last visit, in July, there were no indications of their nesting, and upon questioning the man who has charge of feeding and looking after the ducks and geese in the park I was informed that no Scaups had bred there this year. But on that day I met an old friend—Mr. Stanley Forbes, a life member of the California Academy of Sciences,—who was practicing fly-casting at the club platform on Stow Lake, and mentioned to him my quest. He was interested in the duck question, and together we remarked upon the number of families of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) of all sizes, from a few days old to two-thirds grown, that were on the lake and even in sight as we were talking.

Some weeks later I met Mr. Forbes on the street and he informed me that only two or three days after our meeting in the park he was again practicing on the lake when two or three families of Scaup Ducks appeared, the ducklings being apparently but two or three days old. He stated that the youngsters did not seem to thrive, as many lagged listlessly behind their mothers, and subsequent observations led him to believe that few, if any, survived for any length of time. Being absent from San Francisco for some weeks after the first meeting with Mr. Forbes above mentioned, I had no opportunity to carry on personal observations; but I will say that this gentleman's word is to be relied upon as far as concerns the breeding of one of the two species of Scaups; yet, as he only knows them both as "Bluebills", he could not say which of the two it was. However, as the breeding in this latitude and locality of either species is a record, I beg herewith to submit the case as it stands.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.