A NEW RUFFED GROUSE, FROM THE YUKON VALLEY

By JOSEPH GRINNELL

(Contribution from the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology)

SOON AFTER the establishment of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, in 1908, there came into its possession the C. L. Hall collection of birds from Alaska and Yukon Territory. Two papers have already been based upon these (see CONDOR, XI, 1909, pp. 202-207, and CONDOR XII, 1910, pp. 41-43), but even so, the possibilities of further systematic interest were not by any means exhausted. There were contained in the Hall collections, among other things of note in this regard, a series of eleven Ruffed Grouse from the Yukon Valley, as now listed in the accompanying table of measurements. These were from the beginning recognized as differing materially from Ruffed Grouse available from other parts of North America. But until recently no opportunity has been had of comparison with topotype specimens of the already known race *umbelloides*, under which name Alaskan Ruffed Grouse have always been listed in literature.

The type-locality of *Bonasa umbellus umbelloides* (Douglas) is probably in Alberta, Canada, somewhere on one of the sources of the Peace River, latitude 54 degrees (A. O. U. Check-list, 1910, p. 140). A few weeks ago I was privileged to examine seven skins of the Ruffed Grouse in the U. S. Biological Survey collection in Washington, from Edmonton, Alberta, and six in the U. S. National Museum from Henry House, Alberta. These may be considered near-topotypes of true *umbelloides*, and they were found to differ en masse in certain significant respects from Yukon birds, so that it now becomes feasible to give the latter a separate name.

Bonasa umbellus yukonensis, new subspecies.

YUKON RUFFED GROUSE

Type.—Male adult, no. 4515, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Forty-mile (on Yukon River near Alaska boundary), Yukon Territory; November 5, 1899; collected by C. L. Hall; orig. no. 127.

Diagnosis.—Largest and palest of the races of *Bonasa umbellus*; nearest like *B. u. umbelloides*, but general coloration of light-colored parts of plumage more ashy, and pattern of dark markings finer.

Geographical Distribution.—As far as now known only the interior of Yukon Territory and Alaska. Occurs along the Yukon River valley down nearly to its mouth, as also in adjacent wooded areas west even into the Seward Peninsula (see Nelson, Rep. Natural History Coll. Alaska, 1887, p. 131).

Remarks.—As with the other subspecies of the Ruffed Grouse, *yukonensis* shows two color phases. Three out of the eleven specimens at hand have pale rusty tails; but even in this "red" phase the race is distinguishable from the corresponding phase in the other subspecies by paler tone of coloration. Typical *umbelloides* is still a *gray* bird, but its grayness is more leaden, and its browns and blacks are deeper. The extreme fineness of the intricate pattern of barring and mottling on the plumage is in *yukonensis* an appreciable character.

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS OF ELEVEN SPECIMENS OF *Bonasa umbellus yukonensis*

No.	Sex	Locality	Date	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen
4509	♀	Forty-mile, Y. T.	Oct. 18, 1899	185	132	45.5	16.2
4505	♂	" "	Nov. 5, "	190	136	45.2	16.2
4508	♂	" "	Oct. 18, "	188	151	44.0	15.7
4511	♂	" "	Nov. 15, "	188	156	46.4	17.2
4512	♂	" "	Oct. 30, "	192	150	47.1	16.0
4513	♂	" "	Oct. 12, "	192	154	46.3	——
4515*	♂	" "	Nov. 5, "	195	155	48.3	17.1
4514	♂	Russian Mission, Alaska	Oct. 11, 1894	188	164	46.6	16.3
4510	♂	Fort Yukon, Alaska	Sept. 24, 1895	178	149	42.0	15.9
4507	♂	" " "	" " "	182	138	41.9	14.4
4506	♂ (?)	Yukon River (Alaska?)	.....	192	156	44.3	16.7

*Type

Berkeley, California, June 18, 1916.

MIGRATION AND FIELD NOTES FROM FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

By JOHN G. TYLER

Podilymbus podiceps. Pied-billed Grebe. In Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 9, page 13, I recorded this grebe as possibly occurring in winter. It has since proven to be a fairly common winter visitant and also breeds regularly. Specimens of birds and eggs have been examined. I have found the Eared Grebe breeding but have not as yet detected it during the winter months.

Sterna forsteri. Forster Tern. This species is a common summer visitant to suitable places in the valley, but I had not observed the date of arrival in the spring until the past season, when large numbers were migrating northward in small squads averaging 7 or 8 birds each, on April 16 and 17, 1914. This was in the vicinity of Summit Lake.

Querquedula cyanoptera. Cinnamon Teal. This friendly little duck bred in considerable numbers at a great many points in the vicinity of Fresno, young of various sizes being seen all through May and June, 1915. The broods usually numbered four or five and only occasionally more, the largest seen being of ten very small birds. This is the only variety of duck of my acquaintance in which the males attend the females and young. In many cases the drake is more solicitous than his mate and shows great distress when the young are disturbed. It is seldom that both parents are not seen caring for the young.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. Several pairs of Shovellers nest each season around a willow-margined, but somewhat alkaline, pond near Riverdale. A female with 7 or 8 small young was seen on May 23, 1915, showing that the species nested later than some of the other ducks, as on the same day large floppers of *Dafila acuta* were noted.

Erismatura jamaicensis. Ruddy Duck. I have often thought there must be a rather large proportion of non-breeding birds among our summer groups of this species. Perhaps the Ruddy does not breed until it has attained the age of several years. At one pond, where about twenty of these little ducks remained all through the summer, I could not find a single nest, although the one patch of tules was searched repeatedly and persistently. At another small pond where three pairs were seen I was positive that only one nest was ever built. This contained four clean eggs on May 4, 1915, and the set had been completed by May 12 with the addition of two more eggs. Indeed, the nest was so small that it could not have accommodated more, and the weight of the six partly submerged the bottom of the nest which was built in the tules over water. All of the eggs were badly stained.