

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.

**Erisimatura 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.

**Lobipes lobatus.** Northern Phalarope. This species was recorded in Pacific Coast avifauna No. 9, page 24, although the bird mentioned was not collected. I am now able to confirm the occasional appearance of this species and have a specimen in my collection taken May 24, 1915, along the Madera road, about halfway between that city and Firebaugh. Mr. J. E. Law and I discovered the bird at the edge of a small pond near the road, where it had evidently remained from necessity rather than choice, as one wing was nearly severed from its body. This injury was no doubt the result of coming in contact with the telephone wires overhead. The bird was a male in breeding condition and plumage although the withered appearance of the injured member indicated that the accident had occurred some time earlier in the season. How the bird had escaped predatory birds and mammals is a mystery.

**Recurvirostra americana.** Avocet. Avocets arrived early in the spring of 1914, several pairs being noted by March 20. April 20 I found a female with four young at least a week old. They were in a small pond near Helm. October 15, 1915, about twenty-five avocets, all in winter plumage, were seen in a shallow pond near Riverdale.

**Himantopus mexicanus.** Black-necked Stilt. The spring of 1914 showed a very early migration on the part of this, as well as several other, species. Five stilts appeared at a pond near Fresno on February 11, and four were seen at the same place on March 9. Early migration was followed by early nesting, and in one colony several birds were occupying nests on April 26. At one pond this species was still present on September 26, 1914; but a subsequent visit showed them to have all disappeared. The first *Himantopus* for 1915 was noted on March 11, and by the 21st of the same month they had become fairly numerous.

**Gallinago delicata.** Wilson Snipe. About an hour before sunset on June 8, 1915, Mr. Chas. E. Jenney and I observed a snipe perched on a "no shooting" sign that had been nailed to the top of a fence post on the Burleigh ranch about six miles south-west of Fresno. The bird was either asleep or engaged in profound meditation and we approached within fifteen feet before he twisted away across the overflowed salt grass pasture. Although at a much lower elevation than most of the recorded breeding stations, it would not surprise me to learn that during favorable seasons an occasional pair of Wilson Snipe remains to nest among the Stilt colonies around the Sewer Farm.

**Totanus melanoleucus.** Greater Yellow-legs. This wader has proven to be a very common spring migrant, and possibly winters sparingly, as I have one record for February 19, 1912; but it occurs much more commonly during mid-April. Some flocks return very early in the fall and I noted quite an assemblage near White's Bridge July 5, 1915, associating with about an equal number of *Ereunetes mauri*.

**Podasocys montanus.** Mountain Plover. This interesting little plover had arrived on the plains near Firebaugh by September 11, 1915. Had not the Federal law intervened these birds would soon have disappeared forever, as their habits made them a very easy victim for hunters. The birds feed in loose scattered flocks, ranging over much ground, but when sufficiently disturbed all the members of a company take wing and form into a dense flock which, after beating rapidly back and forth for a few moments, usually settles again within a few yards of the intruder, a full hundred birds often occupying a space no larger than twenty feet in diameter. As they alight each bird flattens itself upon the ground where its protective coloration renders it all but invisible save for the winking of its very large eyes.

As one old resident stated, a favorite method of hunting was to drive with a horse and buggy among the scattered birds and cause them to take wing, whereupon the horse was brought to a standstill until the birds had again settled on the ground and in nearly every case this was within easy gun range. The hunter immediately "ground sluiced" them with one barrel just as they "squatting" and fired again as the survivors took wing.

My informant stated that he once killed sixty-five birds with two shots and this method very rarely netted less than thirty. I was informed that this plover was rated as the best table bird in this part of the State and that parties sometimes came from points as far away as San Francisco to hunt them. Verily, as my friend remarked, "they don't seem to be as plentiful as they were twenty-five years ago."

**Lophortyx californica vallicola.** Valley Quail. September 15, 1915, a female quail flushed from almost beneath my feet, and I soon found her nest with seven eggs which, from their clean, fresh appearance, were evidently the beginning of a late set. Locality

July, 1916

Selma, California. A female quail shot near O'Neal's, Madera County, on the opening day of the season, Oct. 15, 1911, was found, upon examination to contain well-developed eggs, the largest of which would probably have been ready to deposit within a very few days. Other quail shot on the same day had long since ceased to be in breeding condition.

**Columba fasciata fasciata.** Band-tailed Pigeon. Several residents of the mountain districts have reported pigeons as being quite common this winter (1915), all through the oak covered foot-hills. One man informed me that in former years an experienced hunter never failed to secure a full bag of pigeons in a day's hunt even though the birds sometimes became rather wary. He further explained that when a flock took wing from a tree, one bird remained in nearly every instance and by approaching slowly this lone bird could easily be taken. As flocks seldom flew far before again alighting, a certain amount of perseverance was the only requirement for accumulating good-sized "limits".

**Buteo swainsoni.** Swainson Hawk. Several large flocks of this Buteo, choosing a most inopportune time, were migrating southward through the valley when the shooting season for quail and ducks opened on October 15, 1913. Much expensive ammunition was worse than wasted on the low-flying hawks and many a hunter returned home firm in the belief that he had rendered a valuable service by killing several. And the farmers, too, instead of protesting, joined in the sport and in some cases organized automobile parties to hunt hawks out on the plains. Locating a number of these birds perched on the ground they would drive rapidly among them and slaughter them right and left with pump guns as they slowly took wing. Sometimes it is with a feeling akin to grim satisfaction that we note the ever-increasing horde of ground squirrels, pocket gophers and field mice!

**Chordeiles acutipennis texensis.** Texas Nighthawk. A single Nighthawk—a new arrival from the south—was observed near Firebaugh late in the evening of March 20, 1914, and twelve or more were noted circling over a city park in Fresno on October 4. The former is my earliest spring, and the latter my latest fall, record for this species.

**Tyrannus verticalis.** Western Kingbird. Latest fall record for 1912, September 23, for a single bird. For 1913, October 2, when two were seen. My earliest spring record is March 6, 1914, for a single bird near Sanger.

**Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons.** Cliff Swallow. A large colony was found nesting in an open cave among the lava caps on a mountain west of Friant, Madera County, last spring. On April 3, 1915, nearly all of the nests contained full sets of eggs, some, at least, being partly incubated. This is rather early nesting. I have never seen this species in the spring earlier than March 13 (1913). October 21, 1915, I noticed a large migrant flock of Cliff Swallows near Sanger.

**Hirundo erythrogastra.** Barn Swallow. My earliest date of spring arrival is March 4, 1914. Last spring (1915) they did not arrive until March 12, when two pairs were seen. The previous season they were quite common by that date.

*Fresno, California, December 15, 1915.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Early Nesting of the Lutescent Warbler in Los Angeles County.**—April 1, 1916, I found a nest of this bird containing six eggs, in Franklin Canyon, near Los Angeles. It was impracticable to collect bird, nest or eggs at that time; and four days later, on again visiting the spot, the nest was found destroyed and no sign of bird or eggs. There is no possible question as to the identity of the bird, as when I started it from the nest it "fussed" around me for ten minutes or more, a part of the time within eight feet of where I sat beside the nest. To make more certain, I moved away a few yards, when the bird returned to its eggs, and started a second time when my face was within three feet of the nest. Apparently this is a record for early breeding, as well as for the large number of eggs.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California.*