

the bee, this tale would not have been written, and the writer would have been short an interesting nest and set of eggs of the Nuttall Woodpecker.—N. K. CARPENTER, *Escondido, California, September 15, 1919.*

Second Occurrence of the Painted Bunting at Solomon, Saline County, Kansas.—A record of the nesting of the Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) near Solomon, Kansas, was given in THE CONDOR, for September, 1918. This year, 1919, I again saw one of the birds near the place where the nest and female were found last year. On June 30, 1919, a male was seen, and it was encountered a second time two days later. I am inclined to think the bird is of more than accidental occurrence in that part of the state and am strengthened in this belief by having seen three males near Chanute, Neosha County. One was seen July 23 and several times later until July 27, a second July 25, and a third July 27, each in a different locality, and several miles apart. I did not look for nests but think it likely that they could have been found, judging from the date of the 1918 nest (June 10) at Solomon. On August 8 still another male was seen just north of Altoona, Wilson County. From these records it would seem that the species occurs regularly farther north than was thought to be the case, or else, what is, perhaps, more likely, its range is being extended northward, possibly from an increase in numbers due to protection. Other Kansas observers may be able to add to our records of the bird.—A. J. KIRN, *Neodesha, Kansas, August 16, 1919.*

A Western Yellowthroat on the University of California Campus.—While working in the gallery of the M. V. Z., on the morning of May 21, 1919, my attention was attracted by a bird-song never before heard by me on or near the Campus. It was faint and directionless through the walls, but I caught enough of it to be keen for an investigation. With the help of Miss Margaret Wythe, I listened from windows on various sides of the building—without, however, hearing the song. The moment I returned to work, I heard it, as faint and directionless as before. Another investigation followed, and another return to work, and so on for half an hour, till I began to imagine that the ghost of a bird's voice was trying to get my ornithological goat, as one might say. But at last, as I listened from an office window, a single clear and near example of the song reached my ears. It was an utterance in four sections, the first three being four-syllabled and exactly alike: *pritisitta, pritisitta, pritisitta, prit*, with accent on the "prit". I had never heard a Yellowthroat song of this exact syllabification, but the chief and important distinguishing character of the song of the species is, after all, its exact repetition of some sort of a two- or three- or four-syllabled "word". Every individual Yellowthroat has quite a stock of different "words", and some are likely to be different from any "words" one would hear another individual sing. Timbre, to be sure, is also a character of the Yellowthroat song—though it varies among and in individuals as widely as does "word"-form. The timbre of this song was hardly typical: it was unusually loose and liquid. The utterance was comparatively slow. Outside the building I found Dr. H. C. Bryant under a bay tree trying to get a look at the singer. He looked as puzzled as I had felt in the gallery. The bird would not show itself except as some sort of a restless flitting warbler with yellow on it somewhere. It went from tree to tree within a limited area round the Museum, returning again and again to trees already visited. It foraged mostly in the bay and pepper trees, but once flew to the top of a large live oak opposite Dr. Grinnell's office window (a favorite place, by the way, for rare visitants to the Campus). We finally decided, in despair, to enlist the services of our doughty field-collector, H. G. White, who soon settled the question by "collecting" the bird. It proved to be a Western Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*)—another new record for the Campus, and one representing a race of Yellowthroat non-resident, and rare even as a transient, in the San Francisco Bay region. It is of interest to note that the bird was foraging exclusively in the high dry tree-tops—whereas one might rather have expected to find it fifty yards away in the tangle of vines and bushes along Strawberry Creek.—RICHARD HUNT, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 1, 1919.*

Evidence as to the Food of the Wood Ibis.—The Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*), one of the rarer birds of our state, has long been noted as a bird of peculiar feeding habits. The account given by Audubon and cited by Coues in his "Birds of the Northwest"

(p. 515) will furnish a description of the method by which this bird extracts the food material from the bottom of ponds and rivers and from the muddy water. Analysis of the stomach of a specimen secured at Palo Verde, Imperial County, September 4, 1916, and contained in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, shows the following food elements:

- 10 seeds of the screw bean (*Strombocarpus pubescens*)
- 2 seeds mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*)
- Parts of 4 water beetles (*Cybister* sp.)
- Finely comminuted vegetable material.

The seeds were identified by W. L. McAtee and the beetles by E. C. Van Dyke.

This food material is exactly what we might expect to find in the shallow water of the Colorado River. It is of interest that a bird with so large a bill, and with the bill lacking the sieve-like apparatus of a duck's bill, can be so adept at sifting small particles from the water.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, July 1, 1919.*

The Occurrence of the Long-billed Curlew in Northwestern California.—In commenting upon "The Game Birds of California" recently, Mr. H. E. Wilder brought to my attention some facts known to him, but not heretofore published, relative to the occurrence of the Long-billed Curlew along the northwestern California coast. Mr. Wilder has generously urged me to put these facts on record, and furthermore has presented to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology a specimen of the bird, taken at the mouth of the Eel River, Humboldt County, July 18, 1916. This bird (now no. 30708, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was secured for Mr. Wilder by Mr. Jack Kemp, of Ferndale, and this latter gentleman states that he has shot many of the same species. District Attorney A. W. Hill of Eureka, who spent his early years on the shores of Humboldt Bay, told Mr. Wilder that he had shot many of these curlew there. He said they often came early in the fall before the ducks had appeared. In October, 1918, he saw a flock of seven at the mouth of Eel River.

Later, Mr. Wilder interviewed Mr. Frank Williams of the Russ-Williams Bank of Ferndale, who has spent much time hunting ducks and fishing for salmon along the lower Eel River. Mr. Williams stated that curlew have always been rather common though irregular visitors to that section. He said they usually occur in early fall, and commonly in small flocks; but at one time some years ago they came in great numbers, numerous flocks of 200 or more each being present.

As to subspecies, the bird sent to this Museum by Mr. Wilder falls under the name *Numenius americanus occidentalis*, the Lesser Long-billed Curlew—this on the basis of measurements in comparison with the averages and extremes given by Oberholser (Auk, xxxv, 1918, pp. 189, 193) and by Ridgway (Bds. N. and Mid. Amer., pt. viii, 1919, pp. 391, 394). The bird in question (no. 30708, Mus. Vert. Zool.) is marked "♀", but is so very small for this sex, even in *occidentalis*, that one is tempted to think it more likely a male. It measures, in millimeters: Wing 273; tail 99; exposed culmen 117; tarsus 85.

Of course one example is insufficient evidence that all the curlew visiting the Humboldt Bay region are the Lesser. Further specimens are needed. In west-central California, the larger, Eastern Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus americanus*) is the predominant race during the fall migration, as shown by the considerable number of specimens at hand.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, August 24, 1919.*

Additional Notes and Records from Colorado.—Since the publication in the Auk (xxxv, 1918, p. 236) of "Notes on Some Species New to the Colorado List of Birds", the following occurrences have been brought to light, which supplement those referred to. All specimens upon which they are based are in the collections of the Colorado Museum of Natural History.

Gavia pacifica. The Colorado record of this species is based upon an immature female (C. M. N. H. no. 7003) from the Edwin Carter collection, taken in the vicinity of Breckenridge, Colo., Nov. 15th, 1887. I am indebted to Mr. A. C. Bent of Taunton, Mass., for assistance in making the determination. In referring to the specimen, he writes, in part:—"Its measurements are rather small for this species, but not too small for a young