

Some Arizona Notes.—During the winter and spring of 1922, I was able to gratify a life-long desire to visit the great Southwest. After a month spent in exploring the coast of Texas from East Galveston Bay to Brownsville, we reached Tucson on February 24, and spent something over nine weeks in Arizona, principally in the southern part. We had a bungalow for headquarters, at Tucson, elevation about 2500 feet, and a permanent camp at Oracle, forty miles north of there and about 4500 feet up, in the northern foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Later, we spent three days at the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

This was not exactly a collecting trip, for I was accompanied by my wife and two of my sons, neither of them particularly interested in birds; but they were keen to see the sights and explore the deserts, and the canyons of the wonderful mountain ranges, which we were all seeing for the first time. With the help of one of Mr. Ford's buzz-wagons and sundry cow ponies, we covered a lot of country, and I was able to do considerable collecting about Tucson, along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro rivers, and in the Santa Catalina, Tucson, Baboquivari and Canelo mountains, at elevations varying from that of the desert, 2500 feet, to that of the forest clad mountain tops, from 7000 to 9000 feet.

Always I had for reference Harry S. Swarth's admirable "Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona," and the following notes as compared with the statements in that publication, may be of interest to the readers of THE CONDOR.

Ruddy Duck. *Erismatura jamaicensis*. Mr. Swarth writes that "It very probably remains through the winter in southern Arizona, though there are no records of its doing so." On March 15 I saw six or seven Ruddy Ducks swimming about in one of the reservoirs on Mr. J. W. Ronstadt's Santa Margarita ranch, on the mesa just east of the southern end of the Baboquivari range.

Long-billed Curlew. *Numenius americanus*. According to Mr. Swarth, there are four records of this bird in Arizona. On April 11, two young men, whose addresses I have unfortunately forgotten, but who were boarding at a nearby inn, reported seeing a couple of what must have been Long-billed Curlew, about a tank in a sheep pen about four miles from Oracle. They described the birds very accurately, and upon my making a rough sketch of the Curlew, felt absolutely sure of the identification. Of course this is a sight record, but personally I have no doubt of its correctness.

Western Mourning Dove. *Zenaidura macroura marginella*. On April 22, on the mesa southwest of the Baboquivari Mountains, I collected a partial albino Mourning Dove from among the thousands that were feeding there. The bird was a male, with plumage badly worn, with its primaries and secondaries widely edged and tipped with creamy white, and with the feathers on the rest of its wings, shoulders and back splashed or tipped with the same color.

Arizona Woodpecker. *Dryobates arizonae*. Swarth speaks of this bird as a "common resident." "Reported from the Santa Rita, Chiricahua, Huachuca, Whetstone and Rincon mountains, and the east slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains." I am glad to report that I found this woodpecker a little farther north; it was common at from 5500 to 6000 feet in the Cañada del Oro, at the northern end of the Santa Catalinas.

White Mountains Fox Sparrow. *Passerella iliaca canescens*. On March 8, while collecting along a live oak clad "wash" just back of our camp at Oracle, I came upon one of those combination flocks of sparrows, among the bordering underbrush, including Western Chipping and Gambel, and a number, perhaps a dozen or so, of Fox Sparrows of some sort. As I had already collected my daily quota of birds to skin, and had no idea that Fox Sparrows were particularly rare in Arizona, I did not collect any at that time.

About an hour later, however, after I had returned to camp and had my lunch, I consulted Swarth's "List," and discovered that the Slate-colored Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca schistacea*) was the only race recorded from Arizona, and that one as "a rare migrant and winter visitant." After hurrying back to the aforesaid "wash," and combing it carefully for several hours, I was able to find and collect but one bird, which proved to be a female. Mr. Swarth to whom I later submitted it for identification, writes me that "it is *P. i. canescens*. This is nearly like *schistacea* but is grayer colored throughout. It is a new bird for Arizona."

Bohemian Waxwing. *Bombycilla garrula*. According to Mr. Swarth, "On January 10, 1861, Dr. J. G. Cooper shot one of the birds at Fort Mojave, Arizona,

the first known instance of occurrence in the United States west of the Rocky Mountains and for many years the southernmost point at which the species had been found."*

Again, "On December 18, 1919," Mr. Swarth writes, he, "together with Mrs. Swarth, was fortunate in making a second observation. We [they] had just arrived at the Grand Canyon and were walking toward the brink for our first view of the famous gorge, when a whirr of wings and a subdued hissing close overhead drew our excited attention to a flock of Waxwings. The view was forgotten temporarily—the Cañon would stay there, the birds probably would not; there were fifteen of them in the top of a little juniper, bolting mistletoe berries so eagerly as to ignore all else, and we watched them at a distance of but a few feet, the nearest almost within arm's reach."

On May 9, 1922, I had been wandering along the rim of the Grand Canyon, admiring its indescribable grandeur in a violent snowstorm, and was coming back for lunch, when I discovered four beautiful and very tame Bohemian Waxwings feeding upon cedar berries on a tree in front of the Hotel El Tovar, and close beside the canyon rim. I had never seen these birds before, alive, and they allowed me to come right up under them so that I could have caught them with a landing net, had I had one with me. Their notes, which first attracted my attention, seemed to me a little louder and more musical than those of the Cedar Bird.

As it appears that I saw these Waxwings at exactly the same spot where Mr. Swarth saw them in December, 1919, one cannot help wondering how often these birds really do occur there.

Cedar Waxwing. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. On the morning of April 9, I saw a flock of seven Cedar Birds among the live oaks in a "wash" just back of my camp at Oracle, at an elevation of about 4500 feet. Later in the day a flock of about 25 birds flew over my camp. On April 19, while collecting on the ranch of Mr. T. M. Peters, near the northeasterly end of Baboquivari Mountains, I came upon a flock of seven or eight birds among the oaks in the bottom of a deep canyon at an elevation of about 4000 feet. These birds are, according to Mr. Swarth, "of rare and irregular occurrence."

Western Mockingbird. *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*. Swarth says that this bird is "permanently resident in the hot valleys of southern Arizona, but there is a vertical migration downwards from the foothill regions where it occurs in summer; and possibly an entire departure from northern Arizona during the winter months."

Perhaps this bird, like the Mockingbird of the East, is hardier than has been generally supposed, for while the winter of 1921-22 was, I am told, one of the severest on record in Arizona, I found this bird to be wintering at Oracle, 4500 feet, at the northeast end of the Baboquivari Mountains at about 4000 feet, and in the foothills of the Canelo Mountains, west of the Huachucas, at an elevation of 5000 feet.—FREDERIC H. KENNARD, *Newton Centre, Massachusetts, November 15, 1923.*

Golden Plover on the Southern California Coast.—On October 4, 1923, about 11 A. M., at Playa del Rey lagoon, Los Angeles County, the mud flats were alive with shore birds which we were studying with high power binoculars (we recorded 12 species), when our attention was called to a particular bird by Mr. H. N. Henderson of Whittier, one of our party of 26 Audubonites. We gradually moved to within one hundred feet (some of us to within 75 feet) of the bird, which was feeding from a mass of seaweed (kelp) with Least Sandpipers probing around it.

At a glance we recognized it as a plover; but one we had never seen before. We had just been studying the Black-bellied nearer the end of the flats, and afterwards studied the two in comparison with one another. We are familiar with the Black-bellied in all its varying plumages. The stranger was a smaller bird, with shorter bill (dark), and with other distinctive field identification marks. It had a wide *whitish* band above the eye, dusky brown near the ear region, and dusky sides and breast. It bobbed its head frequently when not engrossed in feeding. It stretched its wing and leg several times, showing whitish shafts to tips of outer flight feathers (no other white) and flecks of gold and white specks on black tail coverts. Its legs were a decided bluish-grey.

* The Bohemian Waxwing: A Cosmopolite, by Harry S. Swarth, University of California Chronicle, October 21, 1922, pp. 450-455.