

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.

We studied the bird individually, earnestly and conscientiously with our binoculars for fully twenty minutes before we compared notes, each one being timid to be the first to state his conclusion. All finally agreed in pronouncing it the American Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*).—MRS. F. T. BICKNELL, Los Angeles, November 8, 1923.

Additional Records of Alpine Birds in Oregon.—Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis*).—Although considerable ornithological investigation has been carried on in that part of the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon known as the Wallawas, it was not until July of the present year that Rosy Finches were known to occur in that region during the breeding season. While investigating coyote depredations on the Jay Dobbin's sheep range at the head of Big Sheep Creek in the Wallowa National Forest, at an altitude of approximately 8000 feet, my attention was drawn to a number of Rosy Finches feeding on the ground near the base of a high cliff. Several of these were seen to fly back and forth from the feeding ground to clefts in the cliffs where they were evidently feeding their young. The next day, July 23, 1923, specimens were secured and forwarded to the U. S. Biological Survey. These proved the subspecific determination, as above. The females showed every evidence of being incubating birds, and both sexes were in much worn plumage. On July 24, 1923, a small bird just out of the nest was seen. These notes constitute what is thought to be the first breeding record of this species in Oregon.

Black Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*). Among the many birds noted on the feeding ground at the base of the cliff on July 23, 1923, was a nearly black individual that proved to be a Black Rosy Finch. Upon dissection it was found that the testes were not enlarged as in the *tephrocotis* specimens.

Until further investigating is carried on in that section, it will remain a mystery whether this individual was merely a straggler from the nearest known breeding range in the Salmon River Mountains of Idaho, or an actual breeding bird. However, its presence in these mountains constitutes the first record of the occurrence of *Leucosticte atrata* in the State of Oregon.

Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*). On July 24, 1923, while crossing an open alpine meadow at 7500 feet elevation near Aneroid Lake, Wallowa National Forest, Oregon, I heard the song of a Pipit. The meadow was overgrazed by bands of sheep and the smallest object could be seen on the ground for a considerable distance. In a short time I saw a pair of these birds, and judging from their actions I was evidently close to either the nest or their young, as they showed much alarm at my presence. This constitutes the first record of the occurrence of this species during the breeding season in the State.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, Portland, Oregon, December 15, 1923.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Both Divisions of the Cooper Ornithological Club have unanimously elected to Honorary membership in the Club, Doctor Albert Kenrick Fisher. This distinction has been conferred upon Dr. Fisher in recognition of his contributions to western ornithology, the chief of which is his "Report on the Ornithology of the Death Valley Expedition of 1891," and also in recognition of his long service on the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Under the latter auspices Dr. Fisher has been largely responsible for the development of economic ornithology in the United States to its present high status. The Honorary membership list of the Cooper Club now contains eight names—Florence M. Bailey, Albert K.

Fisher, Henry W. Henshaw, C. Hart Merriam, G. Frean Morcom, Edward W. Nelson, Robert Ridgway and Frank Stephens.

The January, 1924, issue of *The Auk* presents as its "leader" what we consider by all odds the most valuable single article that has appeared in that journal for at least a year. This is Arthur A. Allen's "A Contribution to the Life History and Economic Status of the Screech Owl (*Otus asio*)". A precise standard of field observation is applied to a common species of bird with largely new results; and the data is handled inferentially in various interesting directions without resort to unsound logic or fatuous speculation. We would point to Dr. Allen's paper as an