May, 1927

Some New Birds from Western Montana.—Spotted Owl (Strix occidentalis). A single bird of this species was seen on August 10, 1922, six miles south of Canada and ten miles west of Glacier National Park, in a heavily-forested creek bottom in the Canadian zone, at an elevation of 5100 feet. It showed little fear, allowing my brother and me to approach quite closely the tree in which it perched, and to make identification certain. It finally flew noiselessly away through the day-gloom of the dense woods. There seems to be no previous record of this bird from Montana.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). On September 4 and 5, 1924, an Ash-throated Flycatcher surprisingly appeared at a forest lookout station where my brother was situated, at the top of a sparsely-timbered Canadian zone peak 6160 feet in elevation, north of Libby, and twenty-five miles south of the Canadian line. The bird remained on the top of the mountain, and hence close to the station, most of the time during these two days, perching quietly and fearlessly on some exposed branch or small tree, and feeding on what insects were available. On the third day it failed to appear. This seems to be the first record of the species from the state.

Say Phoebe (Sayornis saya). During the afternoon of July 20, 1924, I observed for several minutes a Say Phoebe in the outskirts of Libby. It alighted on several houses and woodsheds, at each sitting giving a few snatches of its mellow song. This bird is common in much of the plains area of the state, where I became acquainted, with it, but has not, I believe, been reported from that third of Montana lying west of the continental divide. Libby is surrounded for many miles by timbered mountains.

Pinyon Jay (Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus). On January 11, 1921, a flock of about forty Pinyon Jays flew over the town of Eureka, at the edge of the Transition zone Tobacco Plains. On the same mountain where the Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen, my brother, on August 21, 1924, observed a small flock. There seem to be no previous Montana records from west of the divide.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). Three times, during five years of observation, a single male Chestnut-collared Longspur has been seen in a meadow near Fortine, sixteen miles south of Canada, and fifty-two miles east of Idaho. The dates are: May 20, 1921; May 27 and July 20, 1922. The meadow lies in a mountain valley where the Canadian and Transition zones meet, eight miles from the nearest plains-type land. This longspur, with which I became closely acquainted during two summers on the prairies, has not previously been recorded in Montana west of the eastern base of the Rockies.

White-throated Sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis). This species is now known as a rare migrant, in the eastern part of the state only. At Fortine it is a fairly common fall migrant, and it occurs also at Libby. I have observed it less commonly at Bozeman, east of the divide, where it previously has been recorded once or twice. At Fortine, in 1921, it was commonly observed, by my brother or myself, from September 12 to October 15. In 1922 it was seen every day except three, from August 30 to October 18. In 1923 one appeared September 1, and others were seen every day from September 6 to 16, when I left that locality. In Libby I observed a few September 20. I was not at Fortine in the fall of 1924, but observed the species at Libby from September 14 until I left the locality on September 19. My brother noted the species at Libby September 20, 1925, and September 15, 1926. He was at Fortine only on September 11 and 12, 1926, and saw White-throated Sparrows on both days.

During the first four of these years I went to Bozeman the last week of September, and there saw the species less commonly: October 8, 1921; September 26, 1922; October 1 to 18, nearly every day, and a band of stragglers November 8, 1923; September 23 and 26, October 2 and 24, 1924.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). During the fall of 1921, I recorded a flight of Indigo Buntings at Fortine, seeing the birds on August 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 28, 29, and 31, and September 4 and 5. On the first days only a single individual was seen, but several were noted on August 13 and 28, and a flock of fifteen was watched for half an hour on August 31. They were seen about the edges of a grain field bordered by a brushy creek-flat, and along roadsides and pastures. During six years of observation in Montana, including two other autumns in the above-named locality, I have obtained no other records of the species. I believe that it has not previously been reported from the state.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, Libby, Montana, December 6, 1926.