

of the American Museum of Natural History), taken on March 5; but I see no reason for believing that it differs specifically from the other.

After the above paragraphs were written, a letter was received from Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, of the American Museum of Natural History, in which he states that he can "find no trace of an alleged specimen of *Oceanodroma macrodactyla*, collected by Dr. Townsend on Guadalupe Island in 1911." With regard to other examples of the species in the American Museum collection, Doctor Murphy says: "All of our adult examples of *macrodactyla* are labeled Guadalupe Island and were taken during only two different months—namely, March, 1897, and May, 1906. In addition to these, however, there are a male and a female in nestling plumage, collected by R. H. Beck in August, 1912. These appear to be true *macrodactyla*, . . ." The identification of these nestlings is doubtless correct; nevertheless, August seems rather late for young of this species to be still down-clad.

It would seem, therefore, that the disappearance of this species, presaged by earlier visitors, and its imminence stressed by Thayer and Bangs (CONDOR, X, 1908, p. 103), has become an accomplished fact during the last twenty years.—M. E. McLELLAN DAVIDSON, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, September 17, 1928.*

Lewis Woodpeckers Nesting in Colonies.—Each season has its surprises and new incidents for the oologist and birdman and this year my experience with the Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) stands out as the most interesting. May 22, I was hunting around in the bottomlands along the Columbia River in Multnomah County, Oregon, and located a nest of the Lewis Woodpecker in the main trunk of a dead cottonwood or balm tree. It was out of my reach, unprepared as I was at the time; so I made arrangements with Mr. J. C. Braly to go with me and take his extension ladder.

We went out May 24 and I got up and opened the cavity but found I was too early. This was a real disappointment to me as I had expected a nice set of eggs from the nest; and I never had taken a set of this species even though the bird is not uncommon around Portland. However, we noticed a pair around another balm snag less than a quarter mile away; and, surely enough, I found another new nest hole and lots of fresh chips on the ground. We decided that we would let this one alone for a few days.

June 6, I got a good man with climbing irons and belt to go with me. He got up to the nest and opened it and obtained five eggs with incubation well under way. The snag he was on forked just below him and while at work he saw an old hole in it not over 18 inches from the one he opened first. He opened this second hole up and found three fresh eggs. While he was at work here I noticed one of the woodpeckers enter a knot hole much higher up the snag; so he climbed up there. This hole was pretty well up and the tree swayed in the wind in rather an alarming manner, but the man was game. It was a natural cavity and seasoned like bone so that it was hard to chop through the shell. There were two fresh eggs in this. He had captured two of the birds in the cavities and turned them out but I did not see over three at one time about the tree.

We then went over to my first tree and found that a new nest hole was started near the one I had opened too early. My companion came down and we started away, but upon looking back saw a bird disappear into the trunk way up above where we had been working. He went up again, and surely enough found a nest cavity containing three young and three eggs. While here he heard a noise up even higher, and upon getting up there found a cavity containing six young. We finished up the day by taking a pretty set of five from another snag several miles away, but there was but one pair here.

I was not aware that this woodpecker, or any other of the family for that matter, colonized; but here were three occupied nests in each of two trees and less than a quarter of a mile apart.—ED. S. CURRIER, *416 East Chicago Street, Portland, Oregon, August 3, 1928.*

Bird Notes from Oregon.—American Scoter. *Oidemia americana*. In the writer's experience, this is a rather rare and irregular winter visitor along the Oregon coast. The scarcity of published records leads me to record the following occurrences. On

December 30, 1926, an adult male was shot from the rocks at Cape Mears, Tillamook County, where it was feeding in the rough surf. During February, 1927, a number were seen off the Lincoln County coast just north of Newport, and during the fall of 1927, quite a migration occurred along the Curry County coast. On January 25, 1928, at least a dozen were identified among the flocks of *Oidemia deglandi*, *Oidemia perspicillata*, and *Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus* as they dove for food in the rough surf just off-shore. This scoter occasionally stops in Yaquina Bay, Lincoln County, and has been taken once, years ago, on the Lane County coast.

Pigeon Hawk. *Falco columbarius columbarius*. While some friends of mine were hunting wild geese near Arlington, Oregon, on December 22, 1927, a small hawk was seen perched on a fence post. Being familiar with most of the smaller predacious species of birds in this locality, this bird appeared to be something different, so it was shot and brought to me for identification. It proved to be a female of *F. c. columbarius*. The occurrence of this species is of sufficient rarity in Oregon to be worthy of note.

Black Pigeon Hawk. *Falco columbarius suckleyi*. On October 18, 1927, Mr. W. H. Riddle, while hunting near Seaside, Oregon, was successful in collecting one of these very rare hawks. Upon preparing the specimen, it proved to be an adult male, very fat; but unfortunately the stomach was entirely empty and no clue as to its food could be obtained.

Poor-will. *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii*. This species is a regular summer resident over most of the arid Transition zone of eastern Oregon; but so far no published breeding records for the state have come to my attention. On June 15, 1926, in company with Dr. W. B. Bell and Mr. I. N. Gabrielson, I climbed to the peak of Hart Mountain, Lake County, Oregon. At about the 7000 foot level, while rounding a sage-covered slope, much to my surprise, I saw the nest, or rather I should say, the two pure white eggs of a Poor-will. The eggs, which proved fresh, were laid on the bare ground in a slight depression well shaded by a sage-bush, *Artemisia tridentata*. No attempt at nest building had been made. From my experience during May and June of the past several years, I am of the impression that this particular slope is a favorite haunt of this species; a number of these birds have been either seen or heard there during each of my several visits.

Wright Flycatcher. *Empidonax wrightii*. While collecting small birds along the coastal slope near Netarts Bay, Tillamook County, Oregon, on May 24, 1913, I saw a considerable number of *Empidonax* and collected one. This skin, with other specimens, was laid away for some time and not until Dr. Louis B. Bishop examined the birds was the identity of this specimen discovered. *E. wrightii* is a common enough breeding bird east of the Cascade Mountains in northern Oregon, but this is the first record of the occurrence of this bird near the coast in the northwestern part of the state.

Shufeldt Junco. *Junco hyemalis shufeldti*. On June 20, 1927, while I was riding along a Forest Service trail in the Wallowa National Forest, my attention was attracted to a loosely built bird nest about eight feet up in a lodgepole pine tree. Riding close to the tree, I noted a bird's tail projecting over the edge of the nest; and when I stood up in the stirrups to look into the nest, much to my surprise, a Shufeldt Junco flew off, revealing three beautiful spotted eggs that, from their shiny, leaden color, I took to be far advanced in incubation. About a mile up the trail, another nest at about the same height, and, also, in a lodgepole pine, was seen. It contained four eggs that in appearance were about to hatch. During the past twenty years I have examined about forty nests of this species, but these two are the only ones ever noted at any elevation above the ground. The forest at this point is an almost pure stand of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) at an altitude of about 5000 feet.

Rocky Mountain Orange-crowned Warbler. *Vermivora celata orestera*. On September 20 and 21, 1927, while I was camped with a government hunter on Hart Mountain, Lake County, Oregon, there occurred an unusual migration of small passerine birds, accompanied by more than the usual number of Cooper and Sharp-shinned hawks. Just back of our cabin, there is a considerable stand of willows, quaking aspen and second-growth yellow pine that afforded a fine feeding and resting ground for these migrants. Among the mixture of warblers, vireos, and flycatchers appeared several greenish-yellow birds that excited my curiosity. Two of these were collected,

on September 21, 1927, and proved to be typical specimens of *V. c. orestera*. Although this race has not heretofore been recorded from Oregon, there occur in the literature several sight records of *Vermivora celata lutescens* from the eastern part of the state which, I believe, properly should be referred to *orestera*. Again, on June 22, 1928, while I was camped at the same location, an unusual bird song was heard and after a careful search just after sundown three of these birds were seen and an adult male in breeding condition was collected.

San Joaquin Wren. *Thryomanes bewickii drymoecus*. Specimens of this race were first taken by the writer in Oregon in the Rogue River Valley in Jackson and Josephine counties during 1914 and 1915. Later, it was recognized, and specimens secured, east of the Cascade Mountains in the Klamath Valley (Keno, October 24, 1923). On October 27, 1925, while I was camped on Sprague River near the town of Bly, one was noted in a clump of dead willows, and on May 13 and 15, 1927, two of this species were found nearly a hundred miles eastward in South Warner Valley on Twenty Mile Creek near the California line. From data available, it would appear that this race of *Thryomanes* does not occur very far north into the state of Oregon east of the Cascades, and west of these mountains it comes only into the southern tier of counties. Its eastern limits are as yet unknown.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, July 6, 1928.*

Song Sparrows Endure a Severe Winter.—Whatever part the question of food supply may have played in the history of migration, instances of the suppression of the migratory instinct by artificial or abnormal feeding are not uncommon. Also it has been shown experimentally (Rowan, *British Birds*, XVIII, 1925, p. 296) that certain normally migratory species can endure the greatest rigors of an Alberta winter in outdoor captivity. The following instance, illustrating both points, seem to us sufficiently striking to record.

Last winter, in this district, was one of exceptional severity, especially in the matter of snowfall. After various preliminary storms snow began on October 29 and continued almost incessantly until November 16. By this time it was possible to snowshoe over the tops of all fences, and even the moose were floundering belly-deep. Snow continued to fall, though more intermittently, until in early December. Then the mercury suddenly rose, and it rained hard for two days before re-freezing, crusting, and clearing up. A worse combination from the birds' point of view could hardly be imagined.

As autumn passed thus brusquely into winter we were alarmed to find that four Rusty Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia morphna* Oberholser), some of which had been pensioners at our traps since midsummer, while others had arrived late in the migration, did not depart with the rest of their kind, but continued to return to a supply of bird seed which was exposed in the shelter of an open wood-shed. Each frigid morning, with the thermometer sometimes as low as -28°F , or with the air almost solid with snow, the same four cheerful brown specks, in perfect condition, but looking sadly out of place in the formidable landscape, could be seen fluttering back and forth from the shed to the snow-laden timber in which they roosted. They never attempted to roost in the shed.

Since we ourselves planned to migrate on December 8 and there was no other human being for many miles, the situation became serious, and a seed "hopper" was evolved out of a long section of stove pipe, and tried out during the last ten days. This was finally left hanging in the shed with all the seed we had, which we feared might be just insufficient to carry the four birds through.

We returned on April 13. The hopper was empty, and we caught three of our sparrows the following morning and the fourth on the 17th. No other birds present here in winter will take this seed. The great quantity of "sign" left on and about the hopper was all uniform in size and consistency. The winter had not been excessively cold, but our registering thermometer had gone to -34°F , and had doubtless approximated that quite often. There seems to be no reasonable doubt that these birds wintered with impunity in this cold inland mountain range, at an altitude of 3000 feet, on the 53rd parallel.—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR B. MCCABE, *Indian-point Lake, Barkerville, B. C., Canada, August 3, 1928.*