

THE BIRDS OF THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY, OREGON

By IRA N. GABRIELSON

There is perhaps no state in this country more variable from a biological standpoint than Oregon. Consequently it is impossible to point to any one area or fauna as typically Oregonian, despite a widespread popular belief that the state is so wet that all the inhabitants thereof have webbed feet. As a matter of fact, at least half the area of the state is desert or semi-desert country, and it is possible to find all degrees of wetness or aridity within its boundaries.

The Rogue River Valley is one of the distinctly different areas to be found in this state, and it is by no means the least interesting. The area included in this paper is, for all practical purposes, Jackson and Josephine counties, which are almost entirely included in the drainage basin of the Rogue and its tributaries. It includes roughly the west slope of the Cascades, the south slope of the Umpquas, the north slope of the Siskiyou, and the foothills and valleys between, particularly the valley of the Rogue, itself, to a point near Galice where the river enters its narrow cañon.

The western slope of the Cascades is well clothed with timber, which gradually gives way first to oak groves and then, lower down, to manzanita and chaparral. The timber as a rule is much more scattered and of smaller growth over the Siskiyou and that part of the Umpqua range lying within the area under consideration. Enormous local variation in flora and fauna renders it almost impossible to make any attempt at accurately mapping life zones or faunal areas.

The Siskiyou, with large areas of serpentine, granite, and other rocks, have developed a flora of their own, that some botanists tell the writer is one of the most unique conditions found in the west, a fact not at all reflected in the bird population. In fact, the chief impression received is not a difference, but rather a paucity of bird life of the same species as compared with similar areas in the Cascades.

With these few facts on the general conditions in mind, it is possible to give general ideas of the zonal conditions found here. The floor of the valley itself and the foothills for a varying elevation above are most distinctly Upper Sonoran. Not only are characteristic Upper Sonoran species found, but in many cases they are the dominant forms. Among birds that come in this category may be mentioned California Jay, California Woodpecker, Brown Towhee, Plain Titmouse, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bullock Oriole, and Western Lark Sparrow.

Among mammals, *Citellus douglasi*, *Microtus californicus*, *Peromyscus truei gilberti*, and *Neotoma fuscipes fuscipes* are common and characteristic forms of the chaparral belt. In addition, a kangaroo rat, *Perodipus heermanni gabrielsoni*, has been found to be a fairly common inhabitant of the brushy hillsides on the east and north sides of the valley.

Several species each of *Ceanothus* and *Arctostaphylos* are the dominant woody plants of the chaparral belt. Above this, and probably covering more of the area than any other zone, is a broad belt of yellow pine timber representing the Transition. Pileated Woodpeckers, Western Tanagers, Calaveras Warblers, Western Robins, and Oregon Chickadees are among the common birds found in this zone.

The Canadian zone is represented by a more or less continuous belt of Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine, which covers the summits of the various ridges in the Cascades and Siskiyou. *Callospermophilus chrysodeirus*, *Thomomys monticola mazama*, *Ochotona princeps brunnescens*, *Eutamias senex*, *Peromyscus maniculatus gambeli*, *Microtus mordax*, *Erethizon epixanthum*, and *Sorex bendirii* are among the common small mammals of this zone, while the Arctic and Alaskan

three-toed woodpeckers, Red-naped Sapsucker, Townsend Solitaire, Sierra Hermit Thrush, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Thurber Junco, Fox Sparrow, and Hermit Warbler are characteristic breeding birds.

Neither the Hudsonian or Arctic-Alpine zones are definitely represented, except for traces on the northern slope of Mt. McLoughlin, where the area is too small to have developed any characteristic zonal belts. Practically all other points visited in the district are Canadian to the summits, although there may be a district in the Wagner Butte and Ashland Peak sections where Hudsonian can be found. I have not visited this area, but there is a district of considerable extent to the north of these peaks which offers such possibilities.

This paper is based entirely on my own notes and specimens and on those of Stanley G. Jewett of Portland who has kindly given me access both to his notes and his collection, in order that the list may be as complete as possible.

Podilymbus podiceps. Pied-billed Grebe. A group of three half-grown young and one adult was seen on July 21 and also on July 22, 1926, on a small pond in Little Butte Creek near Brownsboro, Jackson County. Residents in the vicinity stated that a pair of these birds had remained all summer at this point. At least two birds of this species remained on this same pond into November, being noted by the writer on September 26 and 29, and November 4 and 19, 1926.

Mergus americanus. American Merganser. Noted more or less commonly on the Rogue throughout the year. On July 12, 1926, a female and brood of downy young were observed in Graves Creek, Josephine County, by Jewett and myself.

Lophodytes cucullatus. Hooded Merganser. S. G. Jewett reports seeing this species at the Tolo Dam in Jackson County on March 19, 1923.

Anas platyrhynchos. Mallard. S. G. Jewett has two records—January 29, 1919, and March 1, 1924, both near Medford. This is one of the species which undoubtedly occurs more commonly than the records given here indicate.

Botaurus lentiginosus. Bittern. While crossing a great lava flow on the head waters of Butte Creek on September 20, 1927, I flushed one of this species from a clump of small trees growing in a small pocket in the lava. Doubtless it was a resting migrant, but at that it had chosen a most unusual place in which to rest.

Ardea herodias (fannini?). Great Blue Heron. So far as either my notes or those of S. G. Jewett are concerned this bird is a casual winter visitor from November to April. We have usually noted lone individuals along the Rogue and tributary streams. No skins are available and therefore the subspecies inhabiting this area is a matter of doubt. I would expect it to be *A. h. fannini*, as the birds are largely winter visitors.

Butorides virescens anthonyi. Anthony Green Heron. Jewett has recorded (Condor, xxx, 1918, p. 129) two birds of this species noted by Vernon Bailey and himself along the Rogue River at Grants Pass. It is rare anywhere in Oregon.

Fulica americana. Coot. Two individuals of this species were seen at the Grebe pond on Little Butte Creek on September 26, 1926.

Lobipes lobatus. Northern Phalarope. S. G. Jewett collected one in spring plumage, out of a flock of three feeding along the Rogue River near Savage Rapids Dam, on May 17, 1922. This record was mentioned in Bird-Lore (xxiv, 1922, p. 226).

Capella gallinago delicata. Wilson Snipe. A single bird seen in a little swamp near Williams, Josephine County, on April 16, 1921, two near Kerby, April 3, 1927, and one at Eagle Point on September 26, 1926, constitute my own records for the district. J. H. Heckner, in a letter, reported seeing one in the swamp at Mosquito Ranger Station, Crater National Forest, on January 11, 1927.

Ereunetes mauri. Western Sandpiper. Jewett reports a flock on the Rogue near Gold Hill, May 17, 1922. Suitable feeding ground for such species is not available except on a very limited scale, hence sandpiper records are lacking.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater Yellow-legs. One collected on the meadow near Big Elk Ranger Station, Crater National Forest, on September 20, 1927.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. A pair of downy young was found at Twin Ponds on July 24, 1926. These ponds are two small pools found on the summit

of the Cascade Mountains north of Mt. McLoughlin in extreme eastern Jackson County. Birds of this species have also been noted commonly about the shores of Fish Lake on the south side of this mountain and at other points throughout the Rogue River Valley.

Oxyechus vociferus. Killdeer. A common resident which has been noted on practically every visit to the district. It is also common about the lakes and ponds in the higher Cascades, on the headwaters of the Rogue River.

Colinus virginianus. Bob-white. An old male sat on a fence post near Brownsboro, Jackson County, on June 29, 1919, and whistled several times as I watched him. Jewett noted one August 23, 1923, at Tolo in Jackson County. These are our only definite records for this introduced species.

Oreortyx picta picta. Plumed Quail. This is a rather common bird in the Cascades down to about 3000 feet, below which line it is gradually replaced by the California Quail. It has been seen in various localities along the summit from Snowshoe to the Ashland-Klamath Highway. The year 1926 seems to have been very favorable to these birds, as large coveys of them were numerous in the mountains during the last half of July. One nest containing eight eggs was discovered on Butte Creek, June 10, 1921.

Lophortyx californica. California Quail. This is the most abundant game bird in the Rogue River Valley. It has been seen in numbers on every visit.

Dendragapus obscurus sierrae. Sierra Grouse. The Sierra Grouse is found throughout the higher parts of the Siskiyou and Cascade mountains, but in my experience it cannot be called a common species. I have two records for Josephine County, one near Grants Pass on May 11, 1920, and one at Winona on April 12, 1921. Jewett also has two, one on Evans Creek, October 7, 1926, and the other at Gold Hill, March 26, 1916.

This species has not been considered as common in Jackson County, but was more common in 1926 than in other years. A male collected on the north side of Mt. McLoughlin on July 24, 1926, was my first record for Jackson County. A male dusting in the middle of the Fish Lake road, was seen on July 31. Three birds were seen on September 25, and four on the 26th, near Mosquito Ranger Station, and others were heard at various times in the same locality in September and November.

Bonasa umbellus sabini. Oregon Ruffed Grouse. This is a fairly common species, particularly in the Cascades. I have seen it on Butte Creek, at Fish Lake, Mosquito Ranger Station, Rustler Peak and Brownsboro, all in Jackson County. Specimens collected are somewhat lighter colored than Willamette Valley birds.

Phasianus torquatus. China Pheasant. This introduced game bird is fairly plentiful throughout the valley, but it is not as abundant as in the Willamette Valley or parts of eastern Oregon.

Columba fasciata. Band-tailed Pigeon. Common but somewhat erratic migrant both in March and October.

Zenaidura macroura marginella. Western Mourning Dove. One of the characteristic birds of the Rogue River Valley, and during the late summer and early fall one of the most conspicuous birds of the district.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis. Turkey Vulture. A common summer resident of the district. Successful squirrel poisoning operations on the oak ridges can always be located by the numbers of these birds soaring about the vicinity.

Accipiter velox. Sharp-shinned Hawk. A fairly common permanent resident which can be seen in all parts of the district.

Accipiter cooperii. Cooper Hawk. I have records at various seasons in different parts of the district, of this permanent resident species.

Astur atricapillus striatulus. Western Goshawk. Only twice in the last several years have I observed this species in the Rogue River territory. The first occasion was at Mosquito Ranger Station on September 24, when an immature Goshawk swooped at an Olive-sided Flycatcher that I happened to be watching. The second individual was noted high up on the slopes of Rustler Peak in a dense forest of Engelmann spruce on November 7, 1926.

Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis. Rough-legged Hawk. A specimen which had been shot and hung on a fence near Medford, noted by S. G. Jewett on February 22, 1930, constitutes the only available record of this species in the county.

Buteo borealis calurus. Western Red-tailed Hawk. This is the most common hawk of the district except the Sparrow Hawk. It has been noted on almost every visit and is found at all altitudes.

Aquila chrysaetos. Golden Eagle. Jewett has a record of one seen flying over Gold Hill on May 17, 1916.

Falco mexicanus. Prairie Falcon. An adult male Prairie Falcon in fine plumage was collected by the writer near Eagle Point on November 8, 1926, and Jewett saw a single bird on March 1, 1924, near Medford.

Falco columbarius columbarius. Pigeon Hawk. Jewett saw a Pigeon Hawk at close range near Medford on February 27, 1927. All specimens except coast birds, collected in this state so far, are referable to this form. I have no reason to believe that any other except *F. c. suckleyi* occurs. Its status in the territory is doubtless that of a rare migrant.

Falco sparverius sparverius. American Sparrow Hawk. This is by far the most abundant hawk of this area. It is commonly seen along the highways and roads at all seasons of the year. Careful comparison of western Oregon birds with eastern specimens convinces me that our Oregon form is not distinguishable from *sparverius*.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. American Osprey. Jewett saw two of this species at Tolo, Jackson County, on April 23, 1922.

Asio flammeus. Short-eared Owl. Jewett saw a single bird near Medford on December 19, 1918, which is the only record for the county that I have found. It is probably a more or less erratic winter resident.

Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa. Great Gray Owl. On December 14, 1918, Jewett saw a specimen of this owl in a Medford store which according to the owner had been killed about seven years previously. Later Mr. Bartlett, taxidermist, informed Jewett that he had mounted three from near Prospect in the winter of 1917. In view of the above information there is no doubt that this species is a rare winter migrant to this area.

Otus asio bendirei. California Screech Owl. I have only one record, that being a bird seen on May 14, 1920, in Medford. However, they are frequently heard calling at night, especially in the oak and chaparral belt. There is a skin in the Jewett collection taken March 21, 1925, near Eagle Point.

Bubo virginianus saturatus. Dusky Horned Owl. One bird seen on Butte Creek June 12, 1921, and one noted near Big Elk Ranger Station, Crater National Forest, have been the only ones actually seen, but I have rarely camped at night in the district without hearing one or more hooting. I have not seen skins from this area, but Jewett has handled two which were both typical *B. v. saturatus*.

Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea. Burrowing Owl. A permanent resident of the lower parts of the valley, being most abundant in the rocky area between Medford and Eagle Point. I have seldom crossed this district without seeing one or more of these birds.

Glaucidium gnoma californicum. California Pygmy Owl. There is a skin of this species in the Jewett collection taken at Gold Hill, March 24, 1916. He also noted one in the same locality on April 5, 1916.

Megaceryle alcyon caurina. Western Belted Kingfisher. A permanent resident along the Rogue River and about the mountain lakes and streams.

Dryobates villosus orius. Modoc Hairy Woodpecker. This species is one of several found in this district that are intermediates in form. In this case the majority of the birds are between *orius* and *harrisii* but closer to the former. This is particularly true of breeding birds, some of which are good *orius*. Occasional winter specimens closely approach *harrisii*, and I have two that can be matched exactly by winter skins from Portland. It is possible that further collecting would reveal the fact that a definite proportion of the winter birds are *harrisii*.

Dryobates pubescens turati. Willow Downy Woodpecker. Summer birds of this species seem properly to be intermediates between *D. p. turati* and *D. p. gairdneri*. I have one specimen taken at Medford, May 2, 1919, which has been identified as *turati* by H. C. Oberholser. The majority of individuals taken by me are intermediates, with some winter birds undoubtedly much closer to *gairdneri*. This is another of the cases of intergradation which makes this district so interesting ornithologically.

Xenopicus albolarvatus albolarvatus. Northern White-headed Woodpecker. White-headed Woodpeckers are not common in this district, although they are occasionally noted in the upper edge of the yellow pine belt on the western slope of the Cascades. One female shot near Mosquito Ranger Station on September 29, 1926, and a second one seen on Rustler Peak on November 6, 1926, were both near the 5000-foot line and well toward the upper limit of the yellow pine.

Picoides arcticus. Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. This woodpecker is a regular, but not common, resident of the highest part of the Cascades found in Jackson County. A dam built across the outlet of Fish Lake raised the water enough to kill the timber about the shore and has resulted in the presence of numbers of these birds. Scattered birds are to be met with throughout the lodgepole pines. Several specimens have been collected.

Picoides americanus fasciatus. Alaska Three-toed Woodpecker. On July 24, 1926, a young male was taken out of a lodgepole thicket near Four Mile Lake on the Jackson-Klamath County line. This species is a rather rare resident of the higher parts of the Oregon Cascades. It is not typical *P. a. fasciatus* but is nearer this form than any other.

Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis. Red-naped Sapsucker. A quite common species along the eastern slope of the Cascades, that can only be considered a straggler into the territory covered by this paper. A single adult was seen at close range on July 27, 1926, at Mosquito Ranger Station on the west base of Mt. McLoughlin.

Sphyrapicus ruber ruber. Northern Red-breasted Sapsucker. A single female collected by Stanley G. Jewett at Grants Pass, December 9, 1918, is clearly this subspecies. It is identical with Portland winter birds. All other winter birds from southern Oregon in both Jewett's collection and my own are *S. v. daggetti*. Further collections would undoubtedly reveal *ruber* as being a more or less regular winter visitor.

Sphyrapicus ruber daggetti. Sierra Red-breasted Sapsucker. A fairly common breeding bird in the Cascades and a migrant through the valley. I have seen and taken fledglings at various points from Snowshoe to Fish Lake. These breeding birds are somewhat intermediate between *daggetti* and *ruber*, but much closer to the former.

Sphyrapicus thyroideus. Williamson Sapsucker. This is another quite common bird of the east slope of the Cascades, which is less common in the area covered by this paper. Two birds seen near the head of Four Bit Creek on July 23, one fledgling taken almost on the county line between Jackson and Klamath counties on July 24, several seen in the vicinity of Mosquito Ranger Station from September 23 to 27, and one taken on Rustler Peak on November 6, constitute my entire list of records, all of which were in 1926.

Ceophloeus pileatus picinus. Western Pileated Woodpecker. This large crow-sized woodpecker is a fairly common permanent resident. It is well distributed throughout the yellow pine areas of both counties. I have Josephine County records from Winona, Williams, and Grants Pass, and Jackson County ones from Butte Creek, Brownsboro, and Four Bit Creek. The work of this species is seen much more frequently than is the bird. Judging from this work it spends a part of its time in the firs, although I have never seen it there but once.

Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi. California Woodpecker. One of the characteristic birds of the lower parts of the valley, that frequents the oak hills and orchard districts. In the latter areas it is cause of occasional complaints from the fruit growers because of its habit of pecking ripening fruit in the fall months.

Asyndesmus lewisi. Lewis Woodpecker. A common permanent resident of the foothill districts, that shares with the California Woodpecker the odium of doing damage to fruit. It occasionally occurs far up in the mountains, but in this district seems to be primarily a foothills species.

Colaptes cafer collaris. Red-shafted Flicker. The flickers of this district, like so many other forms, are intermediates, difficult to place. Some are quite typical of *collaris*, and an occasional winter bird closely approaches Portland specimens of *saturator*, but the great majority of specimens are intermediates, nearer the former.

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii californicus. Dusky Poor-will. At various times I have heard poor-wills calling near the J. H. Heckner place above Brownsboro. On May

21, 1927, I heard two, and on September 17 of the same year I saw one in the light of my car, in addition to hearing one or two call. Several times during June and September of 1928, I again heard them calling in this same area. On June 21, 1929, I was fortunately able to collect an adult male bird which is clearly *californicus*. This is the first definite record of this form for Oregon, as well as a considerable northward extension of range. The poor-wills are sparingly distributed over the manzanita and chaparral thickets of the western foothills of the Cascades.

Chordeiles minor hesperis. Pacific Nighthawk. A common summer resident of the district. It is one of the characteristic birds of the valley floor and is especially abundant on the rocky flats between Medford and Eagle Point.

Chaetura vauxii. Vaux Swift. A rather uncommon summer resident. For two seasons I knew of three birds which presumably nested in an old chimney near Brownsboro; at least I watched them flying in and out of it in June of 1920 and 1921. It is a scattered summer resident of the Cascades; groups of three to a dozen were noticed on various occasions about the base of Mt. McLoughlin. Two which are now in my collection were taken near Lake-of-the-Woods, July 21, 1927.

Selasphorus rufus. Rufous Hummingbird. A common summer resident which arrives early in March (March 6, 1924) and is found at least well into September. It is found at all elevations up to timber line.

Stellula calliope. Calliope Hummingbird. A male taken by S. G. Jewett at Gold Hill, May 19, 1916, furnishes the only record of this species for the district.

Tyrannus verticalis. Arkansas Kingbird. A common summer resident in the lower parts of the valley, which has been recorded on every visit from May to September. It occasionally straggles to the higher parts of the Cascades, one having been noted at Mosquito Ranger Station on July 26, 1926.

Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens. Ash-throated Flycatcher. This is another of the characteristic summer resident birds of the lower country. It is particularly partial to oak groves and thickets, and is found up to about 4000 feet, which is also approximately the upper limit of the oak.

Sayornis sayus. Say Phoebe. A regular, but not abundant, resident, from late February to October so far as my records show.

Nuttallornis borealis majorinus. Olive-sided Flycatcher. A characteristic species of the lodgepole pine thickets along the summit of the Cascades. It is also found, although not so commonly, in the fir lower down, and one bird was seen on June 12, 1926, along the river near Grants Pass.

Myiochanes richardsonii richardsonii. Western Wood Pewee. A common summer resident throughout the district, being found at all elevations except the highest ridges. A pair feeding young was observed near Mosquito Ranger Station, July 27, 1926.

Empidonax difficilis difficilis. Western Flycatcher. Small flycatchers of this genus are common in this district, but usually are wild and difficult of approach. No identifications based on field observation have been attempted, the records being limited to actual specimens taken. One bird of this species was collected at Brownsboro, June 19, 1924.

Empidonax traillii brewsteri. Traill Flycatcher. One specimen of Traill Flycatcher was taken on Little Butte Creek on June 11, 1921. This is undoubtedly the most common small flycatcher in the district.

Empidonax hammondii. Hammond Flycatcher. A specimen collected on Little Butte Creek on June 11, 1921.

Otocoris alpestris strigata. Streaked Horned Lark. A very common permanent resident of the cultivated districts of the valley. These birds are not typical *strigata*, but are closer to this form than to any other.

Otocoris alpestris merrilli. Dusky Horned Lark. A male collected by S. G. Jewett on February 21, 1930, near Medford is identical with winter birds from eastern Oregon and is undoubtedly of this subspecies. This is not surprising, as *O. a. merrilli* is an abundant wintering bird in Klamath County to the eastward. Extensive winter collecting would undoubtedly result in the taking of others of this form.

Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis. Blue-fronted Jay. Jays of this species are intermediate between *frontalis* and *carbonacea*, but somewhat closer to the former in the Rogue River Valley. Specimens sent to J. Grinnell have all been returned

labelled "*frontalis* (not typical)." This confirms my opinion as to the status of the species. In view of the intermediate character of so many species in this area, this is what one would expect.

Aphelocoma californica immanis. California Jay. Another characteristic species of the chaparral and oak areas of the valley. It is a common permanent resident which is quite in evidence even to the casual observer. S. G. Jewett reports finding a nest containing five young at Gold Hill on May 17, 1916.

Perisoreus obscurus griseus. Gray Jay. A permanent resident of the higher parts of the district. It is particularly common around the base of Mt. McLoughlin in eastern Jackson County and in similar situations throughout the Cascades. It is the most conspicuous winter bird resident in the Engelmann spruce, and has been seen in numbers on every visit, regardless of the season. S. G. Jewett reported several near the Oregon Caves on September 13, 1922, and I saw numbers of them on the head of the Applegate River in July, 1928.

Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis. Western Crow. A common permanent resident of the valley proper, but is seldom seen higher than the oak belt of the foothills.

Agelaius phoeniceus caurinus. Northwestern Red-winged Blackbird. A good series of this species is available from this district. It is a fairly common summer resident wherever there is sufficient swamp area for nesting sites. Careful collecting of specimens in all parts of the area has failed to reveal either *A. p. californicus* or *A. tricolor*. Both of these species are supposed to be found in Oregon and if so should be found here. So far, however, neither Mr. Jewett nor I have been able to secure them here or elsewhere in the state.

Sturnella neglecta. Western Meadowlark. A common permanent resident of the district. This species was particularly numerous during January, 1929; flocks of considerable size were common during the period January 21 to 25, while I was in the valley.

Icterus bullockii. Bullock Oriole. A conspicuous and quite common summer resident of the district, which has been recorded on every visit from April 13 to September.

Euphagus cyanocephalus minusculus. Brewer Blackbird. A common permanent resident which wanders over the district in fall and winter, in flocks of considerable size. There is some complaint by farmers that wintering flocks of this species and Northwestern Red-wings do considerable damage to fall seeded grain by pulling it up as it comes through the ground. Such complaints are sporadic and local, and the damage is confined to isolated spots so far as my observations go.

Hesperiphona vespertina californica. Evening Grosbeak. A permanent resident of the higher parts of the district, which varies greatly in abundance from year to year. In 1926 an exceedingly conspicuous part of the bird life of the Mt. McLoughlin district, but except for that year I have considered it as rather scarce. S. G. Jewett reports seeing two in Grants Pass on March 20, 1925. Two specimens collected at Mosquito Ranger Station near Mt. McLoughlin on July 29, 1926, are similar in every way to specimens from the Warner Mountains, labeled *H. v. californica* by Dr. Oberholser.

Carpodacus purpureus californicus. California Purple Finch. A common permanent resident of the timbered areas of the district. It is the Purple Finch of the yellow pines, but on the summits mingles with *C. cassinii*. At Mosquito Ranger Station I have several times seen mixed flocks of the two species working on the salt logs in much the same fashion as Crossbills.

Carpodacus cassinii. Cassin Purple Finch. A fairly common permanent resident of the higher parts of the Cascades adjacent to Mt. McLoughlin and Rustler Peak.

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis. House Finch. A very common permanent resident about the towns and farm homes of the entire valley, often competing with the English Sparrow for nesting sites and becoming almost as much of a nuisance about the homes.

Loxia curvirostra pusilla. Crossbill. Crossbills have frequently been seen flying overhead, and once (April 30, 1919) they were noted in the City Park in Medford. All other records were made in the higher part of the Cascades.

Spinus tristis salicamans. Willow Goldfinch. A common permanent resident of the valley, and at least a summer resident of the mountains up to 5000 feet.

Spinus psaltria hesperophilus. Green-backed Goldfinch. Another common permanent resident of the lower districts.

Spinus pinus pinus. Pine Siskin. Another common permanent resident of the district; found more commonly in the higher parts in summer, but everywhere during the fall and winter.

Poocetes gramineus affinis. Oregon Vesper Sparrow. A summer resident of the district.

Passerculus sandwichensis sandwichensis. Aleutian Savannah Sparrow. Two taken at Eagle Point, Jackson County, on November 5, 1926, were identified by J. Grinnell as *sandwichensis*. *P. s. brooksi* undoubtedly occurs as a migrant, as it breeds abundantly in the Willamette Valley to the north.

Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus. Western Savannah Sparrow. A rather scarce bird which has been seen in the district from April 15 to November 9, and which undoubtedly winters occasionally. One specimen, a migrant collected at Mosquito Ranger Station, has been identified by Grinnell as *alaudinus*.

Chondestes grammacus strigatus. Western Lark Sparrow. A common summer resident of the cultivated areas of the valley. It may remain through the winter, as several have been observed as late as November 9.

Zonotrichia querula. Harris Sparrow. A rare straggler to Oregon; recorded by W. L. Dawson from the Rogue River Valley on the basis of two specimens collected by G. L. Hamlin at Medford, Oregon (Condor, XVI, 1914, p. 14). These skins are at present in the Jewett collection, no. 3774, male, collected February 1, 1912, at Medford, and no. 3959, a female, collected February 2, 1912, at the same place.

Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli. Nuttall Sparrow. A very common spring and fall migrant, particularly during March and April, September and October. It may breed at higher levels in this district, but so far it has not been noted in any of my trips into the territory.

Zonotrichia coronata. Golden-crowned Sparrow. A very common spring and fall migrant. Fairly common winter resident of the brush patches in the valley of the Rogue.

Spizella passerina arizonae. Western Chipping Sparrow. A very common summer resident species throughout the district.

Junco oreganus thurberi. Thurber Junco. A common permanent resident of the district. A nest with four eggs was discovered on Little Butte Creek on June 10, 1921. Dr. Grinnell has checked over my Rogue River specimens and found them all referable to this form. *J. o. shufeldti* probably occurs in small numbers in winter, but so far I have failed to secure specimens of that race.

Melospiza melodia, subspecies? Song Sparrow. The Song Sparrows of this valley are very puzzling. Dr. Oberholser has called some of the breeding birds *merrilli* and Dr. Grinnell has identified some as *morphna*. Specimens of typical *morphna* have been secured in the valley during the winter months, but the breeding birds are far different. Superficially they resemble *merrilli* far more than *morphna*, but the range is separated from that of *merrilli* by a great area occupied by *fisherella*. In fact the birds appear intermediate between *fisherella* and *morphna*, but cannot be referred to any subspecies satisfactorily.

Melospiza lincolni gracilis. Forbush Sparrow. A migrant through this area. There is one in the Jewett collection taken at Medford on April 23, 1922, and one from Tolo, taken April 22, 1922.

Passerella iliaca altivagans. Alberta Fox Sparrow. A bird collected at Mosquito Ranger Station, September 29, 1926, has been identified by Grinnell as this form. Migrating and wintering Fox Sparrows are abundant at times in the Rogue Valley and a number of forms in addition to this one have been taken.

Passerella iliaca insularis. Kodiak Fox Sparrow. One taken at Pinehurst, March 22, 1925 (S. G. J.).

Passerella iliaca sinuosa. Valdez Fox Sparrow. The most abundant migrant and wintering form. There are three skins in the Jewett collection taken near Pinehurst, on the summit of the Cascades, March 22, 1925, and one from Grants Pass, collected on December 11, 1918. I have two taken at Mosquito Ranger Station on September 24, 1926, two from Grants Pass, November 9, 1926, and one from Brownsboro on November 8, 1926.

Passerella iliaca townsendi. Townsend Fox Sparrow. One taken November 15, 1917 (S. G. J.), at Grants Pass.

Passerella iliaca mariposae. Yosemite Fox Sparrow. A breeding male collected at Robinson Butte on June 13, 1921, was identified by Dr. Oberholser as *mariposae* and made the basis of a state record published in the Condor (xxv, 1923, p. 139). Breeding birds from nearby areas have been variously labeled *fulva* and intermediate between *fulva* and *mariposae* by J. Grinnell and Harry Swarth. This area, up to this time the only one on the western slope of the Cascades where Fox Sparrows have been found breeding in Oregon, is evidently occupied by an intermediate group of birds which is not readily referable to any form. Robinson Butte is only a few miles from Californian breeding stations of *mariposae* and is very similar to the country on the eastern slope of the Cascades inhabited by *fulva*, most of which are regarded as not entirely typical of *fulva*, but tending towards *mariposae*.

Passerella iliaca fulva. Warner Mountains Fox Sparrow. A bird collected at Pinehurst on June 18, 1923, has been identified by Dr. Grinnell as this form.

Pipilo maculatus oregonus. Oregon Towhee. A single bird taken at Winona, Josephine County, on April 12, 1921, is undoubtedly a wintering bird from the Willamette Valley. It is identical with birds from the Portland area.

Pipilo maculatus falcinellus. Sacramento Spotted Towhee. All of my summer birds and some winter specimens have been identified as of this form by Dr. Grinnell.

Pipilo fuscus bullatus. California Towhee. This is another California species which is a common bird in the valley of the Rogue and Umpqua, but not found elsewhere in Oregon.

Oberholseria chlorura. Green-tailed Towhee. Two birds were seen and one, a young bird, collected at Mosquito Ranger Station on July 27 and 28, 1926. Another single individual was noted near the same place on September 23, 1926.

Hedymeles melanocephalus melanocephalus. Black-headed Grosbeak. Common summer resident which is found regularly up to at least 5000 feet.

Passerina amoena. Lazuli Bunting. Another common species of the valley floor, which is found less abundantly up to 4000 feet.

Piranga ludoviciana. Western Tanager. Another common nesting bird in the yellow pine belt and lodgepole area.

Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons. Cliff Swallow. A fairly common summer resident.

Hirundo rustica erythrogaster. Barn Swallow. Another of the common summer residents.

Iridoprocne bicolor. Tree Swallow. A fairly common migrant whose earliest appearance was on February 22, 1930, when numbers were seen over the fields near Central Point.

Tachycineta thalassina lepida. Northern Violet-green Swallow. This is the most common nesting swallow of the district. In July the birds commence to congregate in flocks along the irrigation ditches. From this time until they depart for the south, they feed over the meadows in increasing numbers. S. G. Jewett reports seeing one at Grants Pass on February 25, 1927, which is the earliest spring record either of us has, of this bird in Oregon.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis. Rough-winged Swallow. One record from Brownsboro, Oregon, on June 29, 1919.

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing. A few at Brownsboro, June 15, 1921.

Lanius borealis. Northern Shrike. S. G. Jewett saw a Northern Shrike at Grants Pass on November 30, 1916.

Vireo gilvus swainsonii. Western Warbling Vireo. A very common summer resident of the oak and chaparral.

Vireo solitarius cassinii. Cassin Vireo. A very common summer resident of the higher parts of the Cascades and equally common migrant in the lower areas where it probably also breeds.

Vireo huttoni huttoni. Hutton Vireo. This is not a common bird anywhere in Oregon although widely distributed in the western part of the State. There is a specimen from Grants Pass (November 15, 1917) in the Jewett collection. Jewett also reports one sight record at Grants Pass, December 11, 1918, and several about Gold Hill, March 22 to April 6, 1916.

Vermivora ruficapilla gutturalis. Calaveras Warbler. A very common summer resident of oak and chaparral areas in the two counties. Jewett collected a nest and five eggs near Gold Hill, May 16, 1916.

Vermivora celata lutescens. Lutescent Warbler. A common spring migrant and possibly breeding species, although no nests have been discovered. Birds have been seen as late as June 13.

Dendroica aestiva brewsteri. California Yellow Warbler. A very common summer resident up to 4000 feet.

Dendroica coronata hooveri. Alaska Myrtle Warbler. Jewett collected a specimen near Pinehurst, March 22, 1925; the species undoubtedly occurs regularly in March and April and again in September and October, as it does farther north.

Dendroica auduboni auduboni. Audubon Warbler. An abundant migrant throughout the district, being most conspicuous during April and September. It is also a summer resident of the higher parts of the Cascades and a more or less common winter resident.

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Another common summer resident of the oak ridges up to at least 4000 feet.

Dendroica occidentalis. Hermit Warbler. The Hermit Warbler cannot be considered a common bird anywhere in Oregon, but it probably comes nearer reaching that status in the Cascades of eastern Jackson County than elsewhere. The birds are summer residents in some numbers along Little Butte Creek, Union Creek, and along the north base of Mt. McLoughlin. Doubtless there are similar colonies in other suitable spots. A female with four newly fledged young was watched, for some time, on July 24, 1926, along the shore of a small pond at the north base of Mt. McLoughlin.

Oporornis tolmiei. Macgillivray Warbler. This species is one of the most conspicuous summer residents in the ceanothus thickets which are most luxuriant between 4000 and 5000 feet on old burns. It has been noted lower down, in the breeding season, but is not as abundant as at this altitude.

Geothlypis trichas occidentalis. Western Yellow-throat. A regular summer resident in suitable swampy areas along the Rogue and its tributaries.

Icteria virens longicauda. Long-tailed Chat. A quite common summer resident of the valley floor. Jewett discovered a nest containing three eggs, on May 22, 1916, near Gold Hill.

Wilsonia pusilla chryseola. Golden Pileolated Warbler. There is a specimen in the Jewett collection taken May 18, 1916, near Gold Hill. The species is doubtless a regular migrant through the territory, although no other specimens have been taken.

Anthus spinoletta rubescens. Pipit. A very common migrant and quite common winter resident.

Cinclus mexicanus unicolor. Dipper. A quite common permanent resident along mountain streams, both in the Cascades and Siskiyou. Jewett saw a pair feeding young near Trail on April 22, 1922. This nest was built on a bridge stringer. I have, on a number of occasions, watched parents feeding newly fledged young along the creeks on the western slope of the Cascades.

Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus. Rock Wren. Jewett saw one near Ashland, February 20, 1926—the only record so far for the territory. There is no reason why it should not be found more or less regularly on rock slides about Ashland, as conditions are suitable there.

Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus. Dotted Cañon Wren. On December 9, 1926, I collected a single bird on Salt Creek about ten or twelve miles east of Brownsboro. This bird was feeding about over a large rock slide at the base of a lava flow. Its characteristic *chip* first drew attention to it; and when finally, after considerable maneuvering, it was secured, it proved to be this species. Jewett saw two near Ashland on February 20, 1926, and W. E. Sherwood collected a specimen near Ashland on February 21, 1924 (Condor, xxvi, 1924, p. 112).

Thryomanes bewickii calophonus. Seattle Wren. While the resident birds of this species belong to *T. b. drymoecus*, occasional winter birds are undoubtedly visitors from the Willamette Valley. I have two birds collected by W. E. Sherwood at Ashland, November 20 and November 22, 1923, which have been identified by Grinnell as "*calophonus*, not typical". Other birds in the Jewett collection as well as my own are without doubt Willamette Valley birds.

Thryomanes bewickii drymoecus. San Joaquin Bewick Wren. A common permanent resident throughout the area up to 4000 feet. My summer specimens and those in Jewett's collection clearly belong to this race.

Troglodytes aedon parkmanii. Western House Wren. A fairly common summer resident.

Nannus troglodytes pacificus. Western Winter Wren. A common winter resident and at least an occasional summer resident on the higher ridges.

Telmatodytes palustris paludicola. Tule Wren. Marsh Wrens are not common in this territory because of absence of suitable marsh conditions. Jewett has one from Medford, March 1, 1924, and at various times I have heard and seen them in a little swamp near Eagle Point.

Certhia familiaris zelotes. Sierra Creeper. A fairly common permanent resident.

Sitta carolinensis aculeata. Slender-billed Nuthatch. A regular and well distributed permanent resident.

Sitta canadensis. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Another fairly common permanent resident which is most conspicuous in the lodgepole pine areas.

Sitta pygmaea pygmaea. Pygmy Nuthatch. Jewett reports several about Pinehurst, March 22, 1925. The species should be regularly found in the yellow pine areas in this vicinity, as it is a quite common species a few miles farther east in exactly similar territory.

Baeolophus inornatus inornatus. Plain Titmouse. This is a common permanent resident of the valley and one of the characteristic birds of the chaparral area.

Penthestes atricapillus occidentalis. Oregon Chickadee. Fairly common permanent resident in the Rogue River Valley and up to about 3000 feet.

Penthestes gambeli abbreviatus. Short-tailed Mountain Chickadee. It is odd that in the many trips made into the mountains of these two counties no birds of this species were noted. The only record I have for this district is a sight record by Jewett from near Holland, Josephine County, November 22, 1914.

Penthestes rufescens rufescens. Chestnut-backed Chickadee. A common permanent resident from 4000 feet to the timber-line on Mt. McLoughlin.

Psaltriparus minimus californicus. California Bush-tit. A common permanent resident of the oak districts. In July, 1926, I found it common at Mosquito Ranger Station and even above, up to 4500 feet.

Chamaea fasciata fasciata. Wren-tit. There are apparently several colonies of this bird in the Rogue River Valley. Jewett found them at Gold Hill, Medford, and Grants Pass in 1916, 1917, and 1918, and for the past three years (1926-8) I have known a small colony near Grants Pass.

Regulus regulus olivaceus. Western Golden-crowned Kinglet. A common permanent resident.

Corthylio calendula grinnelli. Sitka Kinglet. A common winter resident from October to March or April.

Myadestes townsendi. Townsend Solitaire. A regular summer resident in the Cascades down on the west slope to about 3000 feet. It occasionally straggles lower, but it is much more abundant at about 5000 feet. In winter it is of more or less regular occurrence on the floor of the Rogue River Valley.

Hylocichla guttata guttata. Alaska Hermit Thrush. Two males of this species are in the Jewett collection. Both were taken at Grants Pass, Oregon, on December 10, 1918. I have a male taken at Mosquito Ranger Station, September 26, 1926.

Hylocichla guttata nanus. Dwarf Hermit Thrush. S. G. Jewett has one skin of this form from Grants Pass, taken on November 15, 1917, and I have a male taken at Brownsboro, November 8, 1926.

Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis. Sierra Hermit Thrush. A fairly common summer resident of the fir and spruce in the higher Cascades of Jackson County.

Turdus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. A very common permanent resident; sometimes exceedingly abundant during the winter.

Ixoreus naevius naevius. Varied Thrush. Noted at Winona and Merlin, Josephine County, April 12 and 14, 1921, Mosquito Ranger Station in Jackson County, on September 23, and four or five at Willow Prairie Ranger Station in the same county, on September 24 and 25, 1926. J. H. Heckner says that occasionally, follow-

ing severe snowstorms in the mountains, the birds invade the valley in considerable numbers. They were common about Brownsboro on February 21, 1930.

Sialia mexicana occidentalis. Western Bluebird. Common permanent resident.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. A pair of adults of this species was watched feeding a family of newly fledged young near Twin Ponds, near the Cascade summit, on July 24, 1926.

Portland, Oregon, April 12, 1930.