

way of Fort Morgan early in October (the 3rd), where and when Mr. Edw. Hellstern saw a flock of moderate size on his home grounds. Singularly enough the second appearance of this species in our State during the winter of 1931-32 was at Mrs. Anna Benson's home in Fruita, where the birds arrived on December 14, appearing and disappearing at irregular intervals until March 22.

Evidently this winter's flood of Bohemian Waxwings divided into two streams as it made its way southward along the Rockies, one keeping to the eastern slope (via Fort Morgan), and the other to the western side of the mountains (via Fruita).

The last date of the presence of this waxwing in Colorado in the spring of 1932, is April 21, when a lone individual was seen by Mr. F. G. Bonfils near his house grounds. The earliest date of this season's invasion of Denver is January 19, when a flock was noted by Miss Irene Fowler in the northwest section of the city.

The birds became after that date unbelievably abundant all over the city, wandering about in search of food, which was provided for them by many citizens. On one occasion every tree on the Bonfils estate was actually dark with waxwings. They congregated in this yard because there they found an abundance of food, generous supplies of things that the birds relished having been spread about the premises. On this particular day the flock consumed more than nine pounds of raisins.

These winter visitors were recorded at the following Colorado localities: Colorado Springs (E. R. Warren), Denver (many observers), Englewood (Mrs. Enid Ortman), Fort Morgan (Edw. Hellstern), Fruita (Mrs. Anna Benson), Ione (Mrs. T. C. Forward), Littleton (Mrs. R. J. Kerruish), Loveland (Mrs. John Weldon), North Park (Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Bailey), and on the William's Fork of the Yampa River (Edw. Hellstern).

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey write that they never saw this species in their neighborhood (North Park) until a pair stayed there from the 5th to the 22nd of this past March. This absence of Bohemian Waxwings about the North Park area is explained by the Baileys by the absence of timber and suitable food in the Park.

These birds were last noted at Fort Morgan on February 3; Englewood, March 7; Loveland, March 20; Littleton, March 23; and Denver, April 21.

For a few days immediately prior to March 12, Denver experienced a spell of sub-zero weather which, however, seemed in no way to affect the waxwings. Only one report of the finding of dead waxwings has reached me this season, due, not to the cold spell, but probably to overeating, as these dead birds were found on the Bonfils estate, where the birds were happily gorged all the time. The species seemed to be held to a given area by the food available. Thus at Ione there were but a few waxwings all this past fall and winter, and these few tarried but a day or two. Mrs. Forward feels sure that this brief visit was due to there having been no hanging or windfall apples in the Ione orchards, the apple crop there having been a failure in 1931.

When Mr. Hellstern studied these waxwings last fall while hunting big game in northwestern Colorado, he was surprised to see them act as flycatchers.

Groups of waxwings varied in size, as they did in 1917, from a pair to a thousand or more. This season's birds were very tame, more so than in previous visits. While being fed at Mr. Bonfils' home they crowded about the food donor, alighting on his head, shoulders, arms, hands and the food container. They would take a raisin from the donor's lips. Any dried fruit or berry was acceptable, raisins, currants, apples, and Russian olives; when these failed they would take bread crumbs or meat scraps.

All of my friends are agreed that this waxwing is most amiable in its comportment when in flocks, never becoming quarrelsome or piggish over a food supply as do most other birds.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colorado, June 9, 1932.*

The Approximate Louse Population of a Burrowing Owl.—Driving by a freshly-killed Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) on the side of the paved highway near Benicia, Solano County, California, on March 21, 1932, I stopped, picked it up, and placed it in my car with the intention of looking into the stomach contents in order to find what the bird had been feeding upon.

Upon examining it that evening I became immediately aware, as one often does when handling birds, of a number of lice crawling on my hands. Scraping them off

into a near-by glass, it occurred to me to try to ascertain how many more there might be. I had placed the bird on a newspaper and noted that none of the lice would leave its host via newspaper but readily transferred to my hand. Therefore it seemed unlikely that few, if any, would have left via highway or the rubber-covered floor of my car. The bird now being cold, all of the parasites appeared to be in the feathers instead of on the body, the majority continually appearing exteriorly on the feathers about the neck and head. What seemed at first to be nearly a hundred proved to be approximately fifty-five individuals, counting one or two which escaped up my sleeve and proceeded to annoy me after I had dressed in the same clothing the next morning. I searched for over an hour in making this count in an effort to make my census as complete as possible, and I believe that few escaped my attention.

A few of the specimens were sent to the United States Bureau of Entomology and were identified as the Biting Owl Louse (*Philoaterus syrni* Packard).

Incidentally, the Burrowing Owl had fed upon Jerusalem Crickets (*Stenopelmatus*), a favorite food with hawks and owls here, five of these large insects being represented by the segments and parts which were in the stomach.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, May 25, 1932.*

Snowy Egret at Monterey, California.—On May 19, 1932, near the lighthouse at Pacific Grove, California, a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula brewsteri*) was observed under such favorable conditions that, although sight records are usually not considered reliable, I feel it worth recording. Between the lighthouse and the ocean there is a small pond, with a building near-by. We noticed a white object on the far side of the pond, which upon closer investigation proved to be a bird. Soon it began moving about, and presently passed within a few feet of a resting Black-crowned Night Heron, which gave us an excellent chance to judge of size. We walked around toward our bird, and were able to get very close to it. When it finally flew its yellow feet and black legs formed a startling contrast.

The black bill was plainly seen. The bird lit some distance away, but with the 8x glasses which we were using we could still see the black legs and bill. We again walked toward the bird, but when we were still some distance from it, it flew again and finally disappeared over the bay. I have never had a better chance to observe any bird than I had with this one. Every possible point was checked with the aid of Hoffmann's "Birds of the Pacific States", which I had with me at the time, and later with colored illustrations in other books. The black legs and yellow feet of this bird, found together in no other heron in the United States, were plainly visible to the naked eye when the bird first flew, and for some considerable distance with the glasses.—CLARENCE F. SMITH, *San Francisco, California, June 24, 1932.*

An United States Record of the Timberline Sparrow.—On October 13, 1931, at an altitude of 4000 feet, one-half mile southwest of Escondida, Otero County, New Mexico, Mr. Seth B. Benson shot a specimen of *Spizella breweri taverneri* which gives important indication of the course of migration of this subspecies far to the southward of its restricted breeding ground in northwestern British Columbia. The bird, a female, apparently adult and in complete winter plumage, was prepared by Miss Louise Kellogg (her field number 1201) and by gift from her and Miss Annie M. Alexander is now number 59014 in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The collector recognized this bird before it was shot, as differing from the Brewer Sparrows (*Spizella breweri breweri*) which were common at the same time and place.

In every single character ascribed to *taverneri* by the original describers (Swarth and Brooks, *Condor*, XXVII, 1925, pp. 67-69) the specimen here recorded is in perfect agreement. I have also compared it with the topotype series. Briefly and especially, it stands out from *breweri* by reason of its small, blackish bill, darker colored feet, broader black streaking on upper surface, generally grayer, less clay-color or buffy toned ground-color both above and below, and, notably, by reason of the decided indication of shaft-streaking on the chest and sides.

In the *Auk* (XLV, 1928, pp. 509-510) Mr. Ludlow Griscom published a note concerning "*Spizella taverneri* on Migration in Montana." Since this was the first ascription of this form to the United States, my curiosity to see the specimen upon which it was based led me at once to ask for the loan of it. This, Mr. Griscom kindly saw