

Woodpeckers (*Asyndesmus lewis*), September 25; one Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*), October 1; a pair of Lazuli Buntings (*Passerina amoena*), August 20. On September 2 a visit to the ponds showed 100 Pintail ducks, five Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 11 Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*), one Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), 4 Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), 2 Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), 15 Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), and one Northern and one Wilson Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus* and *Steganopus tricolor*). September 13 the census at the ponds was: 40 Cinnamon Teal, 5 Pintails, 8 Great Blue Herons, 1 American Egret, 4 Shoveler Ducks (*Spatula clypeata*), 6 Snowy Egrets, 19 American Bitterns (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), 1 Night Heron, and 34 Avocets.—M. FRENCH GILMAN, *Death Valley, California, November 16, 1936.*

Further Additions to the Known Avifauna of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.—In the past few months the United States National Museum has received from Paul Silook, an Eskimo collector on St. Lawrence Island, two small lots of birds comprising eight birds of seven species, six of which have not been hitherto reported from the island. All were collected by Silook, at or near Gambell, in the northwestern part of the island, in the summer (May to August) of 1936. The birds new to the island are as follows:

Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe. European Wheatear. An adult, unsexed, collected in August.

Cyanosylvia suecica. Red-spotted Bluethroat. One taken in August. This essentially palearctic species occurs casually in Alaska, other localities there being St. Michael, Cape Blossom, Meade River, and Point Barrow.

Acanthopneuste borealis kennicotti. Kennicott Willow Warbler. Two specimens, one taken in July, the other in August, were sent in by Silook. Both are somewhat more greenish yellow below than either *kennicotti* or typical *borealis*, recalling in this respect *xanthodryas* Swinhoe of the Kurile Islands; but they have the outermost primary very short, not exceeding the greater outer upper primary coverts, thereby agreeing with *kennicotti* and *borealis*. These two forms are very slightly differentiated, the former being a trifle smaller than the latter. The present specimens have wings measuring 62.5 and 63 mm., respectively, and are in agreement with the type and a few other specimens of *kennicotti*, to which race they are identified.

Anthus spinoletta rubescens. American Pipit. One specimen, June.

Anthus cervinus. Red-throated Pipit. One, collected in July. It is in fresh winter plumage and lacks the reddish on the throat which is pale ochraceous buff streaked with blackish like the rest of the underparts. The date indicates that the winter plumage is acquired early.

Pyrrhula pyrrhula cassinii. Cassin Bullfinch. An unsexed bird, adult male by plumage, was taken in May, and forms the third record for the species in Alaska. The previous two records were, one at Nulato, January 10, 1867, and three specimens on Nunivak Island, October 12 to 16, 1927. Silook recognized it as a new bird in his experience as he wrote on the label, "... unusual kind and killed very first time. . . ." A reëxamination of the relationships of the Alaskan Bullfinch fully corroborates Swarth's findings (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, vol. 16, 1928, pp. 248-250). The present specimen is *cassinii*, the form inhabiting Kamchatka (of which *Pyrrhula kamtschatica* Taczanowski is a synonym), and is very distinct from the Lake Baikal bird, *cineracea* Cabanis, which Hartert (Vög. pal. Fauna, vol. 1, 1903, p. 96) considered to be *cassinii*.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., December 9, 1936.*

The Western Mockingbird in Oregon.—In August, 1935, while Mrs. Jewett and I were camped at the old P Ranch in the Blitzen Valley, Harney County, Oregon, one evening Mrs. Jewett came into the ranch house and casually remarked that she had seen a mockingbird about a mile south of the house, where the Blitzen River emerges through a narrow canyon as it leaves the Steens Mountains. Needless to say, I was surprised and, I admit, skeptical as well; for the mockingbird had not only never been recorded anywhere in Oregon, but its presence was not even suspected. The unexpected often happens to the ornithologist, however, as I was to learn later.

On November 21, 1935, while I was very busy with a large crew of CCC boys building a concrete dam in the Blitzen River, I saw a "grey and white" bird fly from off the hillside and light on the top-most twig of a dead alder tree on the river bank. I thought at the time that it was an odd-looking Northern Shrike, a common winter resident in this locality; but being absorbed in my construction job, I paid little attention to it.

While hiking in the Upper Blitzen Canyon in the Steens Mountains on February 9, 1936, where winter birds were scarce indeed, I flushed and collected an adult male Western Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) in a scattered clump of junipers. It was then that I realized what bird I had seen on November 21, 1935, and that my wife was apparently correct when she reported one seen

during August of the same year. Another was seen near the same locality on March 26, 1936, and an immature one was collected about two miles east of Fish Lake, Steens Mountains, Harney County, at about 7500 altitude, on August 30, 1936.

From the above evidence it would seem that there is an isolated colony of resident mockingbirds on the west slope of the Steens Mountains in southeastern Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Burns, Oregon, October 27, 1936.*

The Red Phalarope in Texas.—There is a mounted specimen of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in the museum of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society at Canyon, Texas. The bird, a female in winter plumage, was collected by L. E. Simms at a wet-weather lake six miles south of Canyon, Randall County, Texas, on October 12, 1933. The specimen is labelled "Wilson Phalarope," an obvious error in identification. Apparently this is the first occurrence of the species in Texas and the record is remarkable in that this bird was obtained on the high plains of the Texas Panhandle. There are few records of this species from the interior of the United States.

Mr. L. E. Simms of Canyon, Texas, has kindly granted me permission to publish this note.—JAMES O. STEVENSON, *Wildlife Division, National Park Service, Washington, D. C., October 24, 1936.*

A Nest of the Olive-sided Flycatcher.—Records of actual nests of the Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis mesoleucus*) in Arizona consist wholly, to my knowledge, of the nests found on July 1, 1931, by Jenks (*Condor*, vol. 36, 1934, p. 175) on the Kaibab Plateau. These were 40 to 70 feet up in spruce trees, which is the normal nesting habitat, according to various authorities. My experience this summer has been at such marked contrast as to be perhaps noteworthy.

Laboratories of the Museum of Northern Arizona are at Coyote Range, the estate of Dr. Harold S. Colton, 2½ miles northwest of Flagstaff (altitude 7100 feet). The region is typical yellow-pine forest (Transition Zone). A creek just below the Colton house supports a growth of willows and gooseberries, and the side of this little canyon is grown up to ferns, Gambel oak, and quaking aspen. Arrival of the Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted May 28, 1936, when one was heard just below the Colton house; possibly the same bird was heard and seen here May 30. Only one pair bred in the vicinity, and no definite migrants were seen all summer.

On June 6, on the canyon's edge just back of the Colton house, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen carrying a twig for its nest. On June 27, at the same spot, one was flushed from a nest 10 feet up in a small crotch against the trunk of a small Gambel oak. The tree was too slender to be climbed, so the contents were not seen until June 29, when with the aid of a tripod three eggs were counted; photographs were taken by Dr. Colton. Two of the eggs hatched between 1 p.m., June 30, and 12:15 p.m. July 1. At this time an eggshell was found on the ground below the nest; it showed signs of having been cut in half and was saved.

My absence prevented further observations until July 11, when at 5:15 p.m. three young were seen in the nest. Next noon, however, there were but two; the fate of the third is not known. The two remaining young were still in the nest, but appeared ready to leave, when I left on a trip at 4:45 p.m. July 16.

An adult was brooding June 27 (9:05 a. m.), 29 (2:30 p.m.), 30 (12 m.), and July 1 (12:15 p.m.). None was on the nest at 1 p.m., June 30, or after July 10. The nest, placed on the east side of the tree, was composed of twigs and yellow-pine needles, with a grass lining and rim decorations of mossy, green rootlets; it thus resembled Mr. Jenks' nests.

It seems likely that these birds built in such a situation because of unsuitability of the surrounding western yellow pines for nests of this type. This pine's bare branches, tipped with thick clusters of long needles, offer little support. If true, this theory would help to account for these birds' apparent preference of the Canadian Zone (Jenks, *loc. cit.*), where they may find at the same time suitable nesting trees and a certain amount of yellow-pine needles, which are favorite building materials. It would also show why they are so uncommon in pure yellow-pine regions, for nesting under such circumstances is hazardous. Indeed, I was constantly expecting the fragile nest to be blown down.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, September 24, 1936.*