

BIRD RECORDS FROM SOUTHERN AND WESTERN ARIZONA

By GALE MONSON and ALLAN R. PHILLIPS

In the period from June 15, 1939, to July 5, 1940, the authors made nine brief trips from Tucson to various points in southern and western Arizona. A number of records of birds made in the course of these trips are presented below. At least two birds, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and the White-throated Sparrow, are here recorded for the first time from Arizona. All specimens mentioned below are in our own collections, or, in a few cases, in the collection of Lyndon L. Hargrave. Certain additional records of one or the other author are included where necessary to demonstrate more clearly the probable status of a species.

Mergus merganser. American Merganser. Two females were seen on February 18 on the Colorado River west of Yuma. No other records are known to us from the lower Colorado River.

Buteo swainsoni. Swainson Hawk. One was seen at Santan, just northwest of Sacaton, Pinal County, and one 15 miles east of Salome, Yuma County, on June 17, 1939. On our return, June 26, one was seen a few miles northeast of Kingman, one in the same valley but a little farther northeast, and one eight miles west of Peach Springs station, Mohave County. On May 30, one was seen at Feldman and one several miles west of Oracle, Pinal County. These records indicate an extensive breeding range in Arizona. All birds seen were in "normal" plumage, as far as could be determined.

Buteo regalis. Ferruginous Rough-leg. One was flushed by Phillips from the prairie eight miles west of Peach Springs station on June 26, 1939. This is decidedly west of points of previous summer records for Arizona. A melanistic adult was seen soaring two and one-half miles west of the Gila Mountains, between Yuma and Wellton, and another in "normal" plumage 12½ miles west of Gila Bend on February 18. Monson also saw one eight miles west of Gila Bend on December 24, 1939. Lack of authentic records in earlier literature would indicate this hawk to be rare in southwestern Arizona.

Falco peregrinus. Duck Hawk. An adult was seen chasing Mourning Doves at Patagonia, Santa Cruz County, on March 10. Monson saw an adult catch a female teal near the same locality on March 19, 1940. The Duck Hawk, judging by literature and our own observations, is uncommon in southern Arizona.

Gallinula chloropus. Florida Gallinule. Two adults were seen at Topock on the Colorado River on June 26, 1939. This is distinctly a local bird in Arizona.

Fulica americana. American Coot. Eighty or more adults and three juveniles were seen at Topock on June 26, 1939. Lower Sonoran breeding records in Arizona are few.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. One was seen by Robert A. Flock at Menagers Dam in the extreme southwest corner of the Papago Indian Reservation, Pima County, on January 6, and four by us on January 7. There are few previous winter records for Arizona, and these refer chiefly to single birds.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater Yellow-legs. One was seen at Menagers Dam on January 7.

Pisobia minutilla. Least Sandpiper. A flock of 14, and 30 others, were seen at Menagers Dam on January 7. Three were collected by Hargrave from a flock of eight, 12½ miles west of Gila Bend, on February 17; a flock of six was seen at the same place on the following day. A flock of five was seen in farmlands west of Yuma on February 18. We did not see Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*) anywhere in southwestern Arizona in the winter, and therefore cannot but wonder if Price (Bull. Cooper Orn. Club. 1, 1899:91) was mistaken in identifying the small sandpipers he saw below Yuma as Western.

Himantopus mexicanus. Black-necked Stilt. A male was collected by Phillips on February 17 at a small pond 12½ miles west of Gila Bend. This is the first winter record of the species in Arizona.

Chlidonias nigra. Black Tern. An adult was seen at Topock on June 26, 1939. There are no other published summer records for western Arizona.

Zenaidura macroura. Mourning Dove. A set of two eggs, nearly ready to hatch, was taken on February 18 in the willow-arrowweed association along the Colorado River west of Yuma. The nest was two and one-half feet from the ground in a fallen dead arrowweed. This is an early nesting date.

Scardafella inca. Inca Dove. Four were seen near Patagonia on December 3. Three were seen, and a male collected by Phillips (preserved as a skeleton), at the same place on March 9. Inca Doves in Arizona usually occur in cities and villages; the finding of this bird in a brushy river valley away

from habitations is thus unusual and suggestive of its original haunts. Three individuals were also seen on February 17 and 18 at Gila Bend, which is doubtless near the western limit of the bird's range.

Chordeiles acutipennis. Texas Nighthawk. At dusk on January 6, Phillips saw a nighthawk at close range at Menagers Dam; an attempt was made to collect it. Since the known winter range of *C. acutipennis* extends far north of that of *C. minor*, it is presumed that this bird was *C. acutipennis*.

Calypte anna. Anna Hummingbird. A female was collected by Phillips at Patagonia on December 3 near some tree tobacco, which was still in bloom. There are no published winter records from southern Arizona. That this individual would have remained through the winter is, in our opinion, doubtful. We consider it a late fall transient.

Selasphorus rufus. Rufous Hummingbird. Two males and three females were collected at the west base of the Baboquivari Mountains on March 24 and one other was noted. In Phillips' collection there is also a specimen (female by plumage) found freshly dead by a student on April 22, 1939, near the same place. This would indicate that the species is a regular spring transient at least locally in southwestern Arizona. Previous spring records for Arizona are few, and are mostly for dates much later in the spring.

Sphyrapicus varius varius. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. An adult female was discovered at Gila Bend on February 17 and was taken by the authors on February 18. Aside from a rather long tail measurement, the specimen is typical *S. v. varius*. It provides the first record of this sapsucker from Arizona.

Tyrannus vociferans. Cassin Kingbird. An adult male was taken by Phillips at Patagonia on December 2. It provides the first winter record of the species for Arizona. The specimen has an unusual orange suffusion on the yellow of the belly. Although there is a previous "Jan." record from Nogales (Baird, Pacific Railroad Reports, 9, 1858:175), examination by Phillips shows this to be a misprint for "Jun." One pair, and possibly another bird, were seen on May 30 at Feldman, Pinal County. As far as we know, this is as far down the Gila River system as the species breeds.

Myiarchus cinerascens. Ash-throated Flycatcher. This bird was fairly common at Menagers Dam on January 7, about six being seen on a walk around the lake. On the basis of the literature, we believe it to be absent or rare during the winter elsewhere in Arizona.

Empidonax hammondi. Hammond Flycatcher. A male taken by Monson at Patagonia on February 21, 1940, and another by Phillips on March 10, indicate that the species winters there. Six were seen, five of which were taken, at the west base of the Baboquivari Mountains on March 24. No other *Empidonax* was seen on this date, aside from a male Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) collected by Monson. This seems very early for such a heavy migration, and the locality is not one where *hammondi* would be expected to winter in any numbers, if at all. The species has not previously been reported from the Baboquivaris, but Phillips took a specimen at the same place on April 22, 1939, and it is doubtless a common transient.

Empidonax oberholseri. "Wright" Flycatcher. Monson took a male at Patagonia on December 3. A male was taken by our party, and another heard, at the same locality on March 9; two were noted on March 10. There are no previous winter reports from southern Arizona, but Phillips took a female near Tucson on February 29, 1940.

Empidonax wrighti. Gray Flycatcher. Six were seen on January 7 at Menagers Dam, where it is undoubtedly a wintering species. One was collected at Patagonia on March 10, which date perhaps marks the beginning of the spring migration. In the nomenclature of this and the preceding species we follow Phillips' revision (Auk, 56, 1939:311-312).

Myiochanes pertinax pallidiventris. Coues Flycatcher. One was collected by Phillips on December 3 at Patagonia. There are no previous winter records for Arizona.

Camptostoma imberbe. Beardless Flycatcher. A male was taken by Phillips at the west base of the Baboquivari Mountains on March 24. A female of a pair was taken by Monson and another bird was noted singing at Feldman on May 30. This female has a peculiar admixture of pale yellow feathers in its dusky crest, which is decidedly elongate.

Otocoris alpestris. Horned Lark. The following records help clarify the breeding ranges of the Horned Larks in Arizona. Two adult males, an adult female, and a young female, taken by Phillips from a flock of about 20 seen at Aguila, Maricopa County, on June 17, 1939, and two adult females taken by him 12 miles east of Aguila on July 24, 1939, are *O. a. occidentalis* (approaching *adusta*; or at least nearer *adusta* than specimens from the San Francisco Mountain and Prescott regions). A juvenal female taken by Phillips 22 miles east of Quartzsite, Yuma County, on June 17, 1939, is presumably *leucansiptila*. Although we have no other juveniles of this race, the specimen is much paler than juveniles of *occidentalis* or *adusta*.

On June 26, 1939, two Horned Larks were seen in the valley northeast of Kingman and one a few miles northeast of Valentine; three males and four females, all adults, were taken by Phillips

eight to nine miles west of Peach Springs station, where the birds were common; and others were seen thence as far as Peoples Valley, southwest of Prescott, wherever there was open grassland. The Peach Springs birds are apparently *occidentalis*. Their plumage is so worn, however, that any identification must needs be tentative.

On February 18 about 25 Horned Larks were seen, and two males and one female taken by Phillips and Hargrave, 12½ miles west of Gila Bend; these are *leucansiptila*. The testes of the males were already enlarged.

Two Horned Larks were seen six miles west of Oracle, Pinal County, on May 30. In the same vicinity, Phillips saw a pair and took the male (testes greatly enlarged) on April 14, 1940, and Monson took three adult males, one adult female, and one juvenal female on May 10, 1940. These are *adusta*, although some of them are not typical. Anders H. Anderson of Tucson and Phillips frequently passed through this territory in the 1930's without ever seeing Horned Larks, and this species is not mentioned as breeding in Scott's list of birds from near Oracle in the 1880's (Auk, 4, 1887:20). It was, however, reported from Oracle a few years later (Oberholser, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 24, 1902:858). Possibly the bird has only recently reestablished itself there.

Baeolophus wollweberi annexus. Bridled Titmouse. A family group of at least four was seen along the San Pedro River at Feldman on May 30, 1940, and the male parent was taken by Phillips. This is a locality completely away from the usual Upper Sonoran range of the species. Phillips also saw parent titmice carrying food to the young in the nest in lower Aravaipa Canyon, about 13 miles east of the Feldman locality, on April 14, 1940. This location is mostly Lower Sonoran, with cottonwood and sycamore the dominant plant species, and with some walnut and, farther back from the stream, considerable mesquite. Possibly the species ranges down to Feldman along Aravaipa Creek.

Thryomanes bewickii. Bewick Wren. Two were noted (one singing) at Feldman on May 30. This is the lowest locality on the San Pedro River from which the species has been reported during the breeding season. It is not known to breed in the central valleys of Arizona. At least two were noted singing in lower Aravaipa Canyon, in the same place as the titmice, on April 14, 1940 (Phillips).

Telmatodytes palustris. Marsh Wren. A few were heard by Phillips at Topock on June 26, 1939, establishing a second breeding locality on the lower Colorado River north of Mexico (see Linsdale, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936:93).

Hylocichla guttata. Hermit Thrush. Two specimens collected by Monson at Patagonia on December 3 and March 9 are referable to *sequoiensis* and *guttata*, respectively. A female collected there by Phillips on March 10 is *slevini*, and a male *auduboni* was collected by Hargrave and Phillips on the same date. This is a remarkable lot of races on these dates, when *guttata* far outnumbers all other races in most parts of eastern Arizona. The nomenclature herein is that of the 1931 A.O.U. Check-list. Comparative material used was from our own and Hargrave's collections, the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, and the Museum of Northern Arizona. Some of these specimens had been identified by Dr. Oberholser.

Vireo solitarius cassini. Cassin Vireo. Three were collected at Patagonia on December 3. There is only one previous published winter record for Arizona, that of a single bird seen in lower Sabino Canyon, near Tucson, December 17, 1939, by Phillips (Bird-Lore, 42, 1940:128). The species winters at Tucson quite regularly, however, and has been noted often in December and February, 1936-1940, especially in 1939-40.

Vermivora celata. Orange-crowned Warbler. That this species winters widely in southern Arizona is substantiated by the following records: Three seen at Patagonia on December 3 (two collected by Phillips, one *celata*, the other *orestera*); one collected by Monson at Yuma on February 18 (*orestera*), and another seen by him on the Colorado River on the same date. Its wintering near Tucson and in the Baboquivari Mountains has already been reported (Phillips, Condor, 35, 1933:230; Vorhies, Jenks, and Phillips, Condor, 37, 1935:246). As yet there seem to be no midwinter records of *V. c. lutescens* in Arizona, and the report of *sordida* at Yuma is probably an error.

Dendroica aestiva sonorana. Sonora Yellow Warbler. A male collected by Monson at Patagonia on March 9 is the earliest record for the state by ten days. The next earliest is that of a male seen and a female taken by Phillips at Fort Lowell on March 19, 1939.

Dendroica coronata × *D. auduboni*. An adult male was collected by Monson at Menagers Dam on January 7. This bird has large white spots on the outer four pairs of rectrices, and white edgings on the other two pairs, but is otherwise typical *coronata*. Hybrids of these two species appear almost as commonly in Arizona as pure-blooded *coronata*.

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Two females taken by Phillips on the Colorado River west of Yuma on February 18 would seem to establish that locality as within the wintering range. The specimens are typical *D. n. nigrescens*, as restricted by Oberholser (Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., 1, 1930:101-102), and our identification has been checked by him.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend Warbler. A young female collected at Patagonia on December 3 is the first winter record for the state.

Oporornis tolmiei. Tolmie Warbler. Nine were seen, mostly by Monson (one male taken by Phillips), at the west base of the Baboquivari Mountains on March 24. This is a heavy migration for a date nearly a week earlier than the earliest previous Arizona records known to us.

Geothlypis trichas occidentalis. Western Yellow-throat. A male seen by the authors at Menagers Dam on January 6 and taken the next day proved to be of this subspecies, although it is unusually small. Another male Yellow-throat was seen January 7.

Geothlypis trichas chryseola. Golden Yellow-throat. Two males were taken by Phillips on May 30 at Feldman, where the species was common. We are unable to distinguish these specimens from breeding males of *chryseola* in our collections from around Tucson and Bisbee, but we do not have any certainly identified *scirpicola*. The identification of Phillips' Tucson birds has been checked by Dr. Oberholser. The authors believe that van Rossem (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 8, 1936:142) has assigned altogether too much of southern Arizona to *scirpicola*, which race may not occur anywhere in central or southeastern Arizona.

Icterus parisorum. Scott Oriole. An adult male was heard singing by Monson at Patagonia on March 9 and was collected by him the next morning. This is the earliest record for the state.

Piranga flava hepatica. Hepatic Tanager. A female noted by Phillips at Patagonia on December 3, and a pair seen there by Monson on February 21, 1940, and taken by Phillips on March 9, establish the Hepatic Tanager as a wintering bird in Arizona.

Passerina amoena. Lazuli Bunting. Two males were taken at Patagonia on December 3, the first winter record for the state. Phillips (Condor, 35, 1933:230) has previously published a record of this bird in December from the west side of the Baboquivari Mountains, but since this record appears subject to some doubt, he wishes to withdraw it.

Passerina versicolor pulchra. Beautiful Bunting. Two males were seen by us on June 30, 1940, and a pair was taken by Monson on July 4, at the south base of the Santa Catalina Mountains. The male taken was singing, appeared to have established a territory, and had greatly enlarged testes; but the female did not appear ready to lay, indicating a very late breeding season. The species has not hitherto been reported north of Fort Crittenden, where a single female was taken on July 14, 1884 (Brewster, Auk, 2, 1885:198).

Oberholseria chlorura. Green-tailed Towhee. Two seen at Menagers Dam on January 6 and 7 establish that locality as within the wintering range.

Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus. Western Grasshopper Sparrow. Monson saw two at Ventana Ranch, in the northwestern part of the Papago Indian Reservation, on November 20, 1939. Phillips took a female on January 6 at Menagers Dam, which is considerably west of previously published localities for southern Arizona.

Aimophila carpalis. Rufous-winged Sparrow. Four were seen and two collected on March 24 at the west base of the Baboquivari Mountains. Moore has previously recorded its presence at Fresno, a few miles to the north (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 45, 1932:233). We wish to emphasize, however, that the Baboquivari Mountains form its eastern and not its western limit along the Mexican boundary. It has not been recorded on their eastern slopes.

Junco hyemalis connectens. Cassiar Junco. A male was collected on the Colorado River west of Yuma on February 18. There are no previously published records of this junco from western Arizona.

Junco oreganus shufeldti. Shufeldt Junco. A male was taken by Monson from a flock of about 20 mixed juncos (mostly of this race) at Menagers Dam on January 7. Another male taken from this flock by Phillips is apparently a hybrid (*oreganus* × *hyemalis*). A female was taken from a mixed flock of ten juncos in brush along the Colorado River west of Yuma on February 18. The Yuma specimen is very pale and small (longest wing 70.5 mm., only minutely longer than the tail!), yet it is grayer above than tan, so we do not refer it to *thurberi*.

Junco oreganus thurberi. Thurber Junco. A female was collected by Phillips on March 10 at Patagonia. According to our observations, this race is by no means "abundant" (Swarth, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 4, 1904:40) in southeastern Arizona.

Junco mearnsi. Pink-sided Junco. One or two were seen by Phillips at Menagers Dam on January 7. A hybrid female (*caniceps* × *mearnsi*) was taken by Phillips west of Yuma on February 18. Another hybrid was seen by Phillips at Patagonia on March 10. These hybrids are decidedly uncommon, though regular, in Arizona. The Yuma specimen is very pale, and appears definitely *caniceps* × *mearnsi* rather than *caniceps* × *thurberi*, so cannot be referred to "*Junco oreganus mutabilis*" of van Rossem (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 6, 1931:329).

Junco caniceps caniceps. Gray-headed Junco. One was seen by Phillips on January 7 at Menagers Dam.

All the above-mentioned juncos, except *thurberi*, are generally believed to occur primarily in the mountains of eastern Arizona, and these records extend their ranges westward in Arizona.

Spizella atrogularis atrogularis. Mexican Black-chinned Sparrow. One was collected by Monson at the west base of the Baboquivari Mountains on March 24. This record, plus a sight record by Monson on February 10, 1935 (Condor, 38, 1936:176), constitute the only records for the Baboquivari range.

Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys. White-crowned Sparrow. Two adults were seen singly at Yuma on February 18. Two or three adults, and one immature with only the lores black, were seen at Patagonia on March 9, and an adult was taken there by Monson the next day. The Patagonia birds probably represent spring arrivals, since this race was not detected on December 2 or 3, nor by Monson on February 21, 1940.

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. An immature male collected by Monson at Patagonia on December 3 is the first record of the species for the state. A second record was established on April 10, 1940, when one was banded at Tumacacori Mission, north of Nogales, by Mrs. Louis R. Caywood, under permit of Mr. Caywood. The bird repeated on April 12, when the identification was verified by Mr. F. M. Dille, the well-known ornithologist, now of Nogales, and by Mr. and Mrs. John Fast, who have banded many of these birds in Illinois. Mr. Caywood, custodian for the National Park Service of Tumacacori National Monument, has kindly permitted us to publish this record.

RESUMÉ

The above data present certain points which require comment. It is, of course, obvious that records obtained in a single winter in the course of but few hours afield are not proof of regular wintering of any migratory bird. It is also true that the winter of 1939-1940 was unusually mild for Arizona. We believe that most of the records reported here will prove to represent regular periods of occurrence. The sapsucker and a very few others are the only ones which we consider more or less casual.

Ornithologists have long recognized a difference between the faunas of the mountains within fifty miles of the Arizona-Sonora border and the regions farther north. This difference exists in the breeding birds, and to our knowledge no difference of any consequence in the wintering birds has been shown heretofore. It is, therefore, of decided interest to find at least nine birds (*Tyrannus vociferans*, *Empidonax hammondi*, *Empidonax oberholseri*, *Myiochanes pertinax pallidiventris*, *Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis*, *H. g. auduboni*, *Dendroica townsendi*, *Piranga flava hepatica*, and *Passerina amoena*) apparently wintering at Patagonia but not at Tucson. Of these nine, seven have not yet been detected at Tucson in winter, and the two empidonax flycatchers are evidently irregular there at that season. Tucson, of course, is considerably lower and warmer than Patagonia, so temperature and altitude are not likely to prove the important factors.

Another point brought out by these records is that, despite the attentions of several collectors, the winter avifauna of the lower Colorado River is far from well-known. In the course of a few hours there, we saw *Mergus merganser*, *Dendroica nigrescens nigrescens*, *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*, and certain other birds not previously known to winter there. These westward extensions of range diminish the differences between the known winter avifaunas of Yuma and Tucson, but before conclusions can be reached the Yuma avifauna must be better known.

The number of birds that breed at Feldman but not in the valleys 60 to 90 miles farther west is of interest. *Tyrannus vociferans*, *Cumtostoma imberbe*, *Baeolophus wollweberi annexus*, *Thryomanes bewickii*, and perhaps others, appear to fall in this class.

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