

The Bank Swallow Breeding in Humboldt County, California.—Past reports of the Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) nesting in Humboldt County have proved often to refer to the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*). Bank Swallows, however, were recently observed during the breeding season, and a search for evidence of nesting was made. In the summer of 1946, five nesting pairs were located. Each bred successfully. In Humboldt County at least, the Bank Swallow nests solitarily. Instead of colonies, individual pairs occur at isolated sandy bluffs. One often finds the nesting burrows of both Kingfishers and Rough-winged Swallows in the same type of bank, but in this area the Bank Swallow does not associate with them.

The first nest discovered was in a vertical highway cut at the Orick Look-out, just south of Orick, Humboldt County, California. The nest was about twenty feet above the paved surface of the highway. Their favorite perch was a high power line opposite the nest opening. Five juveniles were noted with the parent birds on June 20, 1946.

A second nesting site was located on June 14, 1946, at Luffenholtz Creek, near Trinidad, Humboldt County. The nest was located about midway up a sandy cliff, between rocky headlands. The cliff was estimated to be about eighty feet high and overlooked both the ocean and the mouth of the creek. Four young were noted here on July 1, 1946.

Another pair was located nesting at Essex Rock, on the Mad River. Young were noted on June 20, 1946; at this time the young were flying about and there were at least three. Here the nest was located in a clay and sand bluff overlooking the water.

At Table Bluff, four young were observed on June 20, 1946, but no nesting burrow could be located. At this site there are extensive sandy bluffs at least one hundred feet high. The swallows perched on power lines above the bluffs.

The fifth site was found on the Van Duzen River. The nest was about thirty feet above the river in a sandy face. Young and adults were observed on June 21, 1946, but no accurate count could be made because of the activity of the birds.

Although many suitable bluffs are located in this area, no other nests of this species were found. In the Rough-winged Swallows, two pairs often nest in one bank; but in the Bank Swallow but one pair was found at each occupied nesting site. In each instance the nesting site or exposed bluff face overlooked water.—ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Eureka, California, November 26, 1946.*

The Distribution of the Yuma Horned Lark in Arizona.—The range of the Yuma Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris leucansiptila*) has been assumed not to extend eastward into Arizona beyond the lower Colorado River valley. Monson and Phillips (Condor, 43, 1941:109) recently have detected a probable breeding locality near Gila Bend and another "22 miles east of Quartzite." The latter is definitely a breeding station, but the determination of race was based on a single juvenile and admittedly tentative. The place cited, which may be designated either as 22 miles east of Quartzite or 7 miles west of Hope, Yuma County, is a dry lake bed or "playa" of considerable extent and crossed by U. S. Highway 60. It is the only locality along this highway between the Colorado River valley and the higher plains country eastward which is suitable for a breeding colony of Horned Larks. The colony there is fairly populous and probably exceeds a hundred pairs. Two males, three females, and two juveniles not yet fully grown were collected there by Dr. Loye Miller and myself on May 10, 1945, and these are typical of *Otocoris alpestris leucansiptila*. The provisional identification by Monson and Phillips is thereby confirmed. Although we have traversed a good deal of territory seemingly suitable for Horned Larks south and southeast of this colony, we have not detected any Horned Larks during the breeding season other than a female and three juveniles which were collected on May 8, 1945, about three miles west of Hassayampa. These, like the Hope specimens, appear to be typical of *leucansiptila*, with no discernible tendency toward *adusta* of southeastern Arizona.

In extreme eastern Yuma County there occurs a rather abrupt change from the prevailing "rock and cactus" desert to higher, mesquite-grass plains and intermountain valleys of an average altitude of 2000 feet, a terrain apparently ideal for Horned Larks which extends into northwestern Maricopa County and southwestern Yavapai County. Yet along the fifty miles of Highway 60 between Salome and Wickenburg there is apparently but one area in which Horned Larks are to be found. This extends from Aguila eastward about twelve miles and centers about the Forepaugh cattle ranch. On June 17 and July 24, 1939, Phillips (*loc. cit.*) collected from "flocks" in this area several adults and one young of the Montezuma Horned Lark. Under the circumstances he was quite justified in recording the locality as within the breeding range of *Otocoris alpestris occidentalis*. On July 5, 1945, Dr. Miller and I collected from small flocks in the same locality two males, two females, and two juveniles in molt, all of which, with one exception, were *occidentalis*. The exception was a female with the characters of *leucansiptila*. On April 18, 1946, we again visited the locality and collected a series of six males and four females. At this date the birds were present in pairs or singly. The males were singing

and the females had either just laid or were about to do so; in fact, one female contained an egg which would have been deposited the following day. This series is not *occidentalis*, which we had every reason to expect, but *leucansiptila*. The males are indistinguishable from comparable examples from the Colorado and Imperial valleys; the females average slightly darker than is typical for the race but may be duplicated by selection.

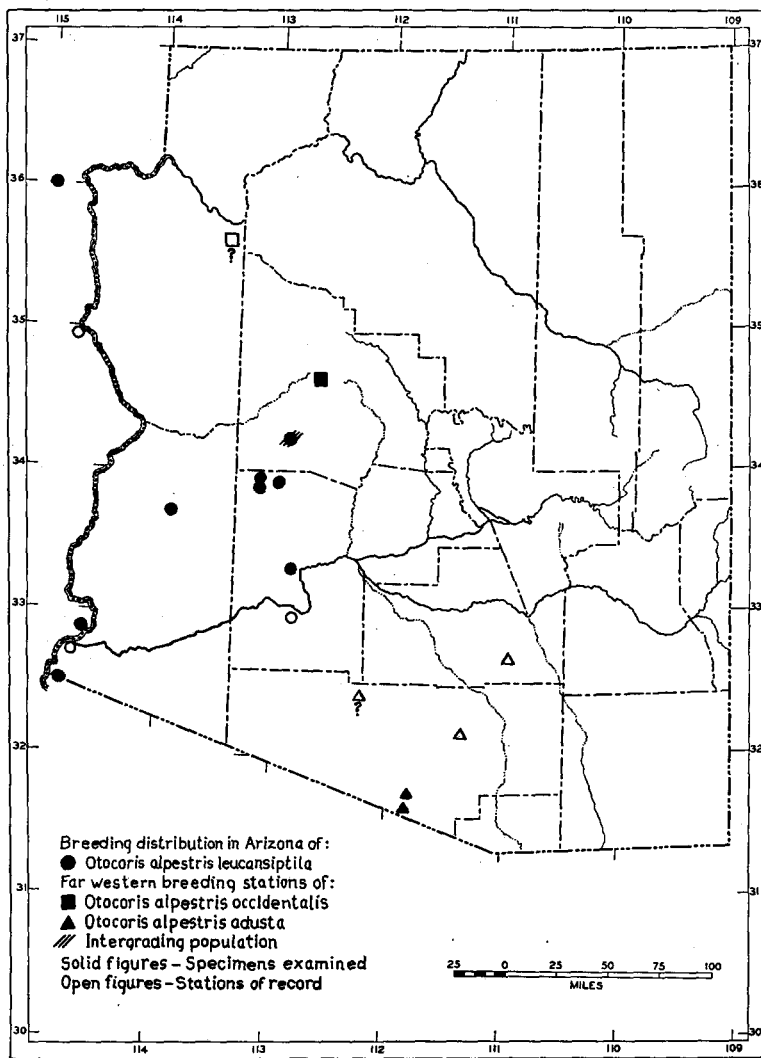


Fig. 6. Distribution of Horned Larks in western Arizona.

At Congress Junction in Yavapai County, a locality about twenty-five miles northeast of Aguila and at a considerably higher elevation (3060 feet), we located another breeding colony concentrated on and about an abandoned landing field. Four males and two females collected on April 18, 1946, show a definite departure from typical *leucansiptila* in darker, although not browner, coloration. The measurements are slightly greater than is typical of *leucansiptila* and are as follows: Males: wing, 101.5, 102.0, 102.5, 103.0 mm.; tail, 67.0, 69.5, 69.5, 70.0. Females: wing, 92.0, 95.0; tail, 59.0, 63.0. The differences may be interpreted as tendencies toward *occidentalis* at still higher altitudes a short distance northeastward; however, these birds are so distinctly closer to *leucansiptila* that if an arbitrary name is required, it must be the latter.

Facts of more than passing interest in the distribution of the Yuma Horned Lark are that it ranges eastward far beyond the confines of the Colorado River valley, to occupy areas of considerable diversity in topography, coloration and character of soil, vegetation, altitude, and climate. Such tolerance to a variety of environments makes all the more perplexing the "spotty" nature of its distribution, with corresponding absence over large areas of suitable territory. Also, the mountain race *occidentalis* occurs as early as the latter part of June in certain parts of the range of *leucansiptila*. Therefore, "breeding" records outside of the demonstrated breeding range, even when supported by the presence of fully grown juveniles must be viewed with suspicion until further proof is forthcoming. It is not impossible that this early dispersal is common to other races of Horned Larks in southern Arizona. With this suspicion in mind I have suggested, by use of a question mark on the map (fig. 6), the desirability of confirmation for "breeding" records of *occidentalis* in the Kingman region and of *adusta* at Ventana Ranch in Pima County. This suggestion carries no criticism of the publishers of these records; in fact, Sutton and Phillips (Condor, 44, 1942:61) were careful to mention that the specimens taken at Ventana were not definitely breeding.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, July 16, 1946.*

Notes on the Birds of Utah.—While in army service, the writer lived in Utah for two years, chiefly at Ogden. Behle's recent "Check-list of the Birds of Utah" (Condor, 46, 1944:67-87) served as an invaluable guide; the following notes made during my residence there constitute a few minor additions to that work. Dr. Behle himself kindly identified most of my specimens, but the Fox Sparrows were determined by Dr. George M. Sutton. All specimens taken are now in the Cornell University Collection at Ithaca, New York. All places referred to are in Weber County unless otherwise stated.

Colymbus auritus. Horned Grebe. Not reported from Utah since Henshaw (Rept. Geog. and Geol. Expl. and Surv. West 100th Mer. by George M. Wheeler, vol. 5, 1875:489) reported it from Rush Lake. One was seen on Pine View Reservoir on April 19, 1945.

Aix sponsa. Wood Duck. A lone female was seen beside the reservoir in Blacksmith Fork, Cache County, July 2, 1944.

Melanitta fusca. White-winged Scoter. On Pine View Reservoir, in 1945, two were seen on March 29, eight on April 5, and two on April 19.

Mergus merganser americanus. Common Merganser. Not given a winter status by Behle (*op. cit.*: 70). A male was collected on December 15, 1945, 6 miles west of Logan, Cache County. On the Weber River, 2 to 6 miles west of Ogden, one was seen on December 8, 1945, two on December 31, 1945, one on January 19, 1946, and one on February 2, 1946.

Charadrius semipalmatus. Semipalmated Plover. Listed from Utah only on the basis of sight records in the Uinta Basin by Twomey (Ann. Carnegie Mus., 28, 1942:390). One was seen May 6, 1945, at Harrisville.

Charadrius vociferus. Killdeer. Not a winter resident in northern Utah according to Behle (*op. cit.*:73). One was seen on February 6, 1944, 2 miles west of Plain City and another on December 25, 1944, 2 miles south of North Ogden.

Bartramia longicauda. Upland Plover. One was seen on May 6, 1945, at Perry, Box Elder County.

Tyrannus verticalis. Western Kingbird. One was seen 3 miles north of Levan, Juab County, on December 13, 1945. This seems to be the first winter report from the state.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clark Nutcracker. Some interesting observations on migration were made in 1945. At elevations between 6800 and 8000 feet on Mount Eyrie, just east of Ogden, on September 3, over 350 were counted in 3 hours. All were flying rapidly southward along the crest of the ridge; ten flocks of 25 or more birds and many pairs and single individuals passed over; an adult male and an immature male was taken. The next time Mount Eyrie was ascended, on September 22, three nutcrackers flew overhead, all in a southerly direction. A week later, September 29, a single nutcracker was seen, again streaking southward along the crest of the ridge.

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling. Two were seen 4 miles northwest of Ogden on March 13, 1945. There have been two previous reports from Utah (Lockerbie, Condor, 41, 1939:170; and Grater, Condor, 44, 1942:41).

Vireo vicinior. Gray Vireo. Two were seen in the juniper-piñon forest on August 22, 1945, 6 miles southeast of Salina, Sevier County. This record seems to be the northernmost for Utah.

Acanthis linaria. Common Redpoll. A flock of six was seen on February 20, 1944, a mile northwest of Perry, Box Elder County, and a flock of twenty was seen on March 11, 1945, at 6500 feet on Mount Eyrie.

Spinus psaltria. Green-backed Goldfinch. About 100 were seen on February 6, 1944, near Plain City, and a flock of eight on February 20, 1944, at Perry, Box Elder County. Flocks of two to forty were seen on the following dates in the lowlands within 6 miles of Ogden: March 19, 1944; Decem-