

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-

ber 25, 1944; December 8, 1945; December 15, 1945; December 22, 1945; January 19, 1946; February 2, 1946. On December 22, 1945, a female was shot near Slaterville, but was not preserved. Behle (*op. cit.*:84) listed this species only as a summer resident.

Passerella iliaca. Fox Sparrow. One was seen on February 6, 1944, near Plain City; four on February 20, 1944, at Perry, Box Elder County; one on May 10, 1944, and one on December 25, 1944, near Bonneville Park; one on April 6, 1945, near Harrisville; four on September 22, 1945, on Mount Eyrie (one taken); five on September 29, 1945, on Mount Eyrie (one taken); one near Marriotte on February 2, 1946. These transient and winter records, mostly from lowland thickets, presumably represent more than one race, but the two September specimens, from 7100 and 8000 feet, are *P. i. schistacea*.—J. DAN WEBSTER, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, October 15, 1946*.

Occurrence of Black Rail in San Francisco.—So little is known regarding the status of the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) in the San Francisco Bay region, outside of the fall and mid-winter months, that the following incidents seem worth recording. On April 2, 1945, Mr. Raymond Smith of the California Academy of Sciences discovered the crushed remains of a Black Rail on the drive next to the Shakespeare Garden in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. It was found about noon and apparently had been run over by an automobile the previous night. Although readily recognizable for purposes of identification, it was not in suitable condition for preservation. In view of the time of year and unusual locality of occurrence, this individual was thought perhaps to have been a migrant en route south.

Another Black Rail was brought to the California Academy of Sciences on August 9, 1945, by William Miller. This rail was alive at the time, having been captured by a cat at about 10:30 p.m. the previous night at Roosevelt Way and Castro Street in San Francisco. Efforts to induce the bird to eat were unsuccessful. Later dissection showed it to have been suffering from internal injuries, probably received from the cat. It was preserved, however, as a study skin (C.A.S. no. 58550) and proved to be an immature female. The bill is not fully grown, measuring only 12 mm. along the culmen. In plumage it conforms to the description of the juvenal of the species given by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. no. 135, 1926:329). Furthermore, it is the only specimen, out of a total of 63 skins of the Black Rail from California in the Academy collection, that is not in seemingly adult plumage.

There are a few summer records for this species in central California (see Bent, *op. cit.*; Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* no. 27, 1944:130ff.; Stoner, *Condor*, 47, 1945:81). These indicate that Black Rails sometimes remain in this region during the reproductive period, although they may not be breeding individuals. The presence of a juvenile, however, such as was found in San Francisco on August 9, 1945, is significant. It is unlikely that such an immature bird would have wandered far from the locality in which it was hatched. While members of this species have not been discovered nesting outside of San Diego and San Bernardino counties, the possibility exists that small numbers may breed in the San Francisco Bay region. Black Rails are notably elusive and extremely difficult to see except in winter when high tides flood the salt marshes, thus submerging the dense growths of pickle-weed (*Salicornia*) which they inhabit, and force the birds into less secluded situations. A small summering population, therefore, might easily escape detection.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, August 22, 1946*.

Chestnut-sided Warbler in Marin County, California.—On September 24, 1946, we captured in one of our water traps at Manor, Marin County, California, an immature Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). This bird was not taken in the trap next to the aviary of American warblers as were the Tennessee Warblers (*Vermivora peregrina*) and the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) of previous record, but entered a trap located nearest to shrubbery bordering a creek which bisects our grounds.

Neither Mrs. Kinsey nor the writer was familiar with this eastern species, and considerable difficulty was experienced in our first efforts properly to identify it. Since this individual was in immature plumage and lacking the chestnut side patches of the adult, we found it no easy task to run down the secondary characteristics of general coloration, eye ring, and wing bars, all or part of which are applicable to so many other warblers. Moreover, *pensylvanica* has a "big-eyed" appearance, not unlike that of vireos, a feature we have never noted before in any of the warblers with which we have worked. Identification was subsequently confirmed by comparison with skins in the California Academy of Sciences.

The captive Chestnut-sided Warbler has been banded and introduced to artificial food. It will be held over winter in our large, heated shelter until spring, when it will be released in the main warbler aviary. Color characteristics should, by that time, be sufficiently developed so as to enable us to determine sex. The only previous Californian record of this species, apparently, is that from Sherwood,