

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Supplementary Bird Records for Nevada.—Since the publication of Linsdale's reports on Nevada birds (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936; Condor, 53, 1951:228-249) the writers have accumulated additional significant information on the distribution and seasonal occurrence of certain species of birds in the state. All specimens are preserved in the University of Nevada Museum of Biology. We wish to thank Dr. Alden H. Miller of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology for determining the hummingbird and the cowbirds.

Mareca penelope. European Widgeon. Listed incorrectly by Linsdale as collected in November, 1948, in Reno on the basis of misinformation sent him by us. Actually a male was seen on several occasions at Idlewild Park, Reno, in the fall of 1944 (Johnson). The bird was associated with semi-domesticated Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and allowed very close approach, making certain identification possible.

Buteo swainsoni. Swainson Hawk. Found breeding in southernmost Nye County: Ash Meadows on June 19, 1951; Pahrump Ranch on June 22, 1951, where a nest with two month-old young was observed. These records extend the known breeding range of this species well south in the state, for Smokey Valley in northern Nye County is the southernmost breeding station given by Linsdale.

Erolia bairdii. Baird Sandpiper. On September 14, 1950, a female was taken from a group of three at the north shore of Washoe Lake, Washoe County (Johnson). This record and Linsdale's report of the two in Smokey Valley, Nye County, on August 20, 1932, apparently constitute the only records of this species in Nevada since 1872.

Zenaidura asiatica. White-winged Dove. Linsdale lists a single White-winged Dove seen on May 9, 1934, along the Colorado River in southernmost Clark County. We saw two birds, probably a pair, repeatedly at Pahrump Ranch, Nye County, on June 22, 1951, in company with about 75 Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*). This apparently is the second record of this dove in Nevada.

Asio flammeus. Short-eared Owl. Recorded as resident in Nevada by Linsdale apparently on the basis of a specimen from Ruby Lake taken on June 27, 1928. A nest with week-old young found in Washoe Valley on May 5, 1950 (Richardson), affords proof that this species is resident.

Stellula calliope. Calliope Hummingbird. Pine Grove, Mineral County, is the southernmost locality in the state given by Linsdale. A specimen, identified by Dr. A. H. Miller, was taken by us in extreme southern Nye County at Ash Meadows on June 24, 1951.

Auriparus flaviceps. Verdin. A common breeding species in mesquite thickets of Ash Meadows and near Pahrump Ranch, Nye County. Three specimens were taken from Ash Meadows in June of 1951. Formerly the Verdin was known in Nevada only as resident along the Colorado River drainage system.

Regulus satrapa. Golden-crowned Kinglet. Linsdale records this species as resident on some of the mountain ranges in the eastern part of the state. A single bird was seen in Reno in October, 1944, and several were noted on February 29, 1948, along Hunter Creek at 5000 feet near Reno (Johnson). On March 20, 1948, H. I. Fisher and V. K. Johnson saw one at Galena Creek Ranger Station, also in Washoe County. This species is to be looked for as a resident in the Carson Range near Lake Tahoe.

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling. Shirl Coleman of the Nevada Fish and Game Commission reports to us that during the week of June 27, 1947, he observed a single Starling at close range in Pahrump Valley, Clark County. This appears to be the first early summer record for the state. From January 28 to February 11, 1951, nomadic flocks of a few birds to about 150 individuals visited the area of meadowland from the northeast city limits of Reno to Vista, two miles east of Sparks. Three specimens were collected from these flocks (Johnson). Flocks of Starlings, sometimes of over 100 birds, have been seen repeatedly in this region during the winter of 1951-1952 and up to the time of this writing.

Mniotilta varia. Black-and-white Warbler. H. I. Fisher and V. Mowbray positively identified an individual of this species at Galena Creek on September 13, 1947. This apparently is the second record for Nevada.

Icterus cucullatus. Hooded Oriole. Linsdale gives one record of this species for Nevada, a female taken on June 12, 1929, at Pahrump. A male was taken on April 3, 1950, at the north end of Ash Meadows (Johnson). We collected another male at Pahrump on June 21, 1951. This bird was actively

foraging and then making repeated trips into a tall ornamental palm, probably indicating the first nesting record for Nevada.

Molothrus ater. Common Cowbird. Of three specimens in breeding condition taken in June, 1951, at Ash Meadows, a male and a female have been determined as *obscurus* by A. H. Miller; the female is toward *artemisiae*. This evidence indicates that *obscurus*, recorded heretofore in Nevada only along the Colorado River, is the breeding cowbird of Ash Meadows, although Linsdale records a June specimen from Beatty (40 miles northwest of Ash Meadows) as *artemisiae* (1936:116).—NED K. JOHNSON and FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, April 2, 1952*.

Two Nestling Robins With Abnormal Beaks.—The recent paper by Fox (Condor, 54, 1952: 160-162) on the abnormal growth of beaks of birds prompts me to offer the following observation. During the 1951 nesting season I found in Memorial Cemetery, Scott County, Iowa, a nest of a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) that contained four nestlings that would have left the nest in another day. Of these four birds two of them had deformed beaks. The best way to describe them would be to say that they reminded one of the mandibles of crossbills (*Loxia*), the only difference being that when the mandibles were closed there was an opening of one-quarter of an inch between the upper and lower mandibles. The birds were able to accept food without any difficulty from the adults and were apparently in just as good physical condition as the other two nestlings. Both adults were observed through glasses and their mandibles were normal. This particular example may be just another shred of evidence to sustain the thesis that some of the abnormal beaks of birds may be genetic in origin.—JAMES HODGES, *Davenport, Iowa, June 13, 1952*.

Notes on Bonasa and Numenius in Alaska.—It seems desirable to place on record specimens of two species recently handled in the course of reviewing Alaskan bird material.

Bonasa umbellus.—On September 24, 1943, I collected three Ruffed Grouse just below the Canadian line on Channel Island in the Taku River. At that time there were approximately thirty birds on this island in four or more coveys. The specimens were examined by John W. Aldrich who wrote: "Your three specimens do not approach very closely any of the three nearest races, namely, *yukonensis*, *umbelloides*, and *affinis*, but seem to approach most closely in color *phaia*, from the relatively humid western slopes of the Rockies in northern Idaho and northeastern Washington. They are somewhat darker and more grayish than *phaia*, however. Furthermore, the tarsus appears to be more extensively feathered in which respect they are closer to *umbelloides*." Since birds from Atlin, British Columbia, which is near the headwaters of the Taku River, were assigned to *umbelloides* by Aldrich and Friedmann (Condor, 45, 1943:99), the specimens from Channel Island probably are closer geographically to that race than to any other. Despite the uncertainty of subspecific identification, it seems desirable to record the fact that this species does occur in southeastern Alaska.

Numenius phaeopus variegatus.—Bailey (Auk, 56, 1939:333) records a specimen of the Siberian Whimbrel taken by Brower at Barrow, Alaska, on June 10, 1938, as the first record for North America. There is, however, an Alaskan specimen in my collection (no. 3975) which antedates Brower's bird. It is a bird without sex identification in rather worn plumage collected at Savoonga, St. Lawrence Island, on July 23, 1937, by Gren Collins and sent to me as a salted skin.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D.C., June 10, 1952*.

Inland Record of Sanderling.—According to Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:151), the only available inland record of the Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*) for California was obtained on the Salton Sea. Although the species has been reported in western Nevada (Linsdale, Condor, 53, 1951:234), an additional record from inland California is offered here. Six individuals were observed in the spring of 1952 in the Lower Klamath Basin, Siskiyou County. On May 6, one was observed on a rocky dike bordering the north side of the Lower Sump of Tule Lake Refuge. Two were seen, associating with a small flock of Western and Red-backed sandpipers, on a small mud flat bordering a barley field on May 16, also on Tule Lake Refuge. On May 20, three were observed with a flock of the same species of sandpipers flitting from one mud-bar to another on Unit 4 of Lower Klamath Refuge. One female of this latter group was collected and sent to the National Museum, Washington, D.C.—PAUL E. STEEL, *Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Tulelake, California, June 23, 1952*.