

Zoology. This represents the second specimen for the state (see Legg, Condor, 55, 1953:162, for additional records).

Attention should be called to two other published accounts of this species in California in the winter of 1952-53 (Legg, *loc. cit.*; The Western Tanager, 19, 1953:28, 42). In both of these occurrences and the present one the birds were observed on more than one occasion indicating that individuals were wintering in their respective localities. In view of the general absence of records in recent years, it would seem that in this past winter there has been a small influx of this species in the state.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 2, 1953.*

The Leconte Sparrow in New Mexico.—On January 25, 1953, I observed some sparrows near Roswell, New Mexico, which I thought to be Leconte Sparrows. On January 26 I returned to the area with James H. Sikes, who concurred tentatively in the identification. On January 28 we took a specimen which has now been compared with an example of Leconte Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*) from the collection of the United States National Museum, thereby confirming the identification.

The specimen from New Mexico was taken at a point seven miles southeast of Roswell in Chaves County, one-half mile west of the Pecos River. The habitat here consisted of heavy grass and wild sunflowers along a roadside; an open field with grass and sunflowers extended 200 yards beyond the roadside. The land was marshy, with some water nearby. One hundred or more sparrows of various species were seen in the immediate vicinity, including Savannah, Marsh, Tree, Sage, and White-crowned sparrows. Twenty or thirty Leconte Sparrows were seen; perhaps there were more in the field.

The Leconte Sparrows were shy, flying low when flushed and dropping back into the grass. Sometimes they rested on wire fences, and occasionally they clung to sunflower stalks.

This is the first record of the species in New Mexico. Indeed, we believe there is no record of its occurrence nearer than Utah and central Colorado.—VETER MONTGOMERY, *Roswell, New Mexico, March 1, 1953.*

Perceptive Powers of a Duck Hawk.—On April 12, 1952, near Barr Lake, northeast of Denver, Colorado, I observed a flock of about eight Baldpates (*Mareca americana*) fly up from a pond in a pasture. Almost at once a Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus*) sailed in behind them and struck one to the ground, perhaps 250 yards from my car. When I drove to within approximately 100 yards of where the falcon was beginning to "work" on the duck, the hawk flew up and into a tree across the road so that I was now between it and the duck. After about a minute the duck flew up, apparently laboriously, and passed directly over my head, not more than twenty feet above the ground. As it flew over there was visible a bare patch on either side of the upper part of the neck, undoubtedly where the hawk had begun to pluck the feathers. The duck was able to return to the pond from which the flock had originally been flushed. I turned the car around and started back toward the pond. Before I had got very far, the Duck Hawk left its perch and flew back to the ground where the duck had been. I stopped to see what would happen. After looking around the area for a few moments, the hawk flew toward the car, coming fairly close. It then swerved off and again landed in the tree where it had previously perched. Although it must have seen the wounded duck fly back to the pond, it certainly did not realize it was the duck it had been working on, for it did not fly toward the pond in the period of my observation.—A. SIDNEY HYDE, *Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado, December 18, 1952.*

Bird Records from Northwestern Montana.—Saunders (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 14, 1921:37) lists no records of the Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) west of the continental divide in Montana. Hand (Condor, 55, 1953:45) records three non-breeding occurrences in Missoula and Sanders counties, western Montana, in 1941 and 1948. On June 11, 1945, on Island Lake, southeastern Lincoln County, Harry Wilson and I followed and studied a duck and her brood of 7 or 8 downy ducklings. We were often able to maneuver the boat to within 20 feet or less of them.

On June 12, 1945, I located this same duck and her brood and managed to secure close-up photographs of the ducklings (fig. 1). On comparing the prints, the ducklings were readily identified as Ring-necked ducklings. This is, then, the first observation of the breeding of this species in western Montana.



Fig. 1. Downy young of Ring-necked Duck in marsh growth at shore of Island Lake, Lincoln County, Montana. Photograph by John L. Blackford.

Saunders (*op. cit.*: 147-148) described the Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) as a migrant in eastern Montana, found only in the prairie region of the state, and so far reported only in spring. However, in citing migration records from Great Falls and Choteau, it is clear that he refers to Montana east of the divide, thus leaving only the western third of the state without records of occurrence. The breeding range of the species has been known to extend south to central interior British Columbia (specimens in Mus. Vert. Zool.).

On July 6, 1941, after several days of intermittent pursuit of a new songster, I finally identified a male Black-poll Warbler near my former home two miles north of Libby, Montana. On July 8, 11, 19, and 30 it was recorded as singing steadily or frequently. On August 10, 1941, I recorded it as singing occasionally.

The dates of these observations from July 6 to August 10, the presence of the singer for a week previous, and the behavior indicated that the species was probably breeding here that year. The area directly concerned in these warbler observations was at the foot of a hill in understory of birch, mountain maple, and young spruce beneath primal Douglas fir-western larch-yellow pine overstory. Occasional large spruces (white or Engelmann) were scattered through the area. The elevation was 1980 to 2020 feet.—JOHN L. BLACKFORD, *Libby, Montana, February 5, 1953.*

Forster Terns Breeding on San Francisco Bay, California.—In central California the Forster Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) has long been known as a nesting species at Elkhorn Slough near Moss Landing, northern Monterey County, and at Los Baños, Merced County. Grinnell and Miller (*Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:174-5*) knew of no breeding records for the San Francisco Bay region where the status of the species was considered by them to be that of a migrant and winter visitant. It seems likely, therefore, that the three breeding colonies which are here noted are of recent establishment.

On May 28, 1948, in company with the late Henry W. Carriger, Milton L. Seibert visited a colony containing an estimated 100 nests near the eastern approach to the San Mateo Bridge in Alameda County. This colony was first discovered by Mr. Carriger in 1947 or 1948. On May 6, 1951, near the eastern end of the Dumbarton Bridge in Alameda County, the writer noted adult Forster Terns carrying fish while in flight and saw adults apparently sitting on nests on a partly submerged dike in an evaporation pond of the Leslie Salt Company.