

individual moving with no apparent difficulty *downward* on the trunk of a large tree. Except for its brown rather than blue-gray coloration, there is a striking resemblance of this bird to a feeding individual of *Sitta carolinensis*.

The White-throated Treerunner often responds to a human intruder by flying to a conspicuous perch and calling. Its call, a loud "peet, peet," is emitted as the bird jerkily swings its head to one side, pauses, then swings far in the opposite direction, in the manner of displaying Downy Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos pubescens*, pers. observation).

BIRD RECORDS FROM NEVADA

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Ruby Valley, a 75-mile-long hydrologically closed basin, lies in a land of high, rugged mountains and large, flat valleys in Elko County, northeastern Nevada. The southern portion of the valley is fringed by the Butte Range to the east and the majestic Ruby Mountains on the west. Nine peaks in the Rubies reach elevations of 11,000 ft or more.

Mist netting operations were carried on by Lewis in Ruby Valley during the fall migrations of 1966 and 1967 and the spring migration of 1967. The netting site was at 6000 ft elevation on Cave Creek, as it flows through the headquarters of the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Dominant plants in this area are aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), chokecherry (*Prunus*), sumac (*Rhus*), and wild rose (*Rosa*). This island of riparian habitat at the base of the Rubies is attractive to migrant birds. Observations during periods of migration indicate a pronounced mass movement northward in the spring, whereas migration in the fall is an indefinite, casual filtering of birds to the south.

All birds netted were identified, banded, and released, with the exception of those representing important records for Nevada or additions to the Refuge bird list. These were frozen and sent to the Bird and Mammal Laboratories of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife where they were prepared as specimens. All specimens, unless otherwise noted, are in the collection of the U. S. National Museum, where they were identified by Banks. More than 40 species were added to the Refuge list, including the state and regional records listed below.

Greater Scaup. *Aythya marila nearctica*. Linsdale (1951) mentioned only a single Nevada record, from Churchill County, but had previously (1936) referred to Ridgway's (1877:343, 625) statements that the species was "abundant" as a "winter visitant at Pyramid Lake." No specimen was taken by Ridgway, and at least the portion of his record concerning abundance is probably in error. Gullion (1952) recorded a specimen taken near Riverside, Clark County, and Austin and Bradley (1966) reported a sight record in Clark County in March. On 25 November

It might be noted that throughout much of its range in southern Argentina and Chile this species has few bark-feeding competitors, including the small Striped Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos lignarius*) and probably to some extent the Rayadito (*Aphrastura spinicauda*).

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1966 Lewis found a dead Greater Scaup near the Refuge Headquarters on Cave Creek. The bird was not sexed; plumage indicated that it was a female. The body was badly decomposed and only the head was saved. This appears to be the third specimen record of this duck in Nevada and the first in the northeastern sector. All the Nevada specimens were taken in November, during the hunting season; the recent sight record was in March. Additional observation in other months will probably reveal that this species is present in small numbers throughout the winter.

Band-tailed Pigeon. *Columba fasciata fasciata*. This species was considered a rare transient in Nevada by Linsdale (1951), who reported but a single record of the western race, *C. f. monilis*, from Churchill County. Linsdale apparently overlooked a second-hand sight record (Neff 1947:20) for the Duck Creek Range in eastern Nevada. More recently, Johnson (1965) reported that these pigeons occur as a breeding species in the Spring Range in Clark County, and tentatively assigned that population to the race *monilis* which is confined chiefly to the Pacific coastal drainage. Lewis collected a specimen of the Rocky Mountain race *C. f. fasciata* at Cave Creek in Ruby Valley on 25 October 1966. This bird was an adult male with testes measuring 6 × 3 mm and was moderately fat. The bird was accompanied by a single partner on the date of collection. One adult was observed in the same general area on 10 October 1967. This is the first record of this subspecies in the state, and the first report of the species in northeastern Nevada.

Saw-whet Owl. *Aegolius acadicus acadicus*. Linsdale (1936) reported a specimen taken in Thousand Springs Valley, Elko County, in 1868. More recent records of this species in Nevada (Linsdale 1951; Cottam 1954; Miller and Russell 1956) are from the western and southern portions of the state. Lewis collected a Saw-whet Owl at Refuge Headquarters on 28 October 1966. Two others, captured on 7 and 21 October 1966, were banded and released. The specimen is a male in immature plumage and is molting on the throat and crown. Measurements of the testes were 2 × 1.5 mm.

Yellow-shafted Flicker. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. This eastern race of flicker was first reported in Nevada by Ryser (1963) on the basis of a hawk-killed specimen from the Virginia Range near Sparks, Washoe County. Other records of Yellow-shafted Flickers are from the southern part of the state and have been referred to the race *C. a. borealis*. A female Yellow-shafted Flicker was collected on 16 October 1966 at the Refuge Headquarters and another was netted, banded, and released on that date. The specimen had only a trace of fat; the ovary measured 14 × 7 mm. It is referred to the subspecies *luteus*,

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and represents the second record of this form in Nevada. As Short (1965) has advocated the merger of the race *borealis* into *luteus*, we must point out that the subspecific identification here reported applies to *luteus* even in the older, stricter sense.

Western Flycatcher. *Empidonax difficilis hellmayri*. Linsdale (1951) refers to the race *E. d. difficilis* as a "summer resident in small numbers" in middle elevations on Nevada mountain ranges; he does not mention *E. d. hellmayri*, at that time not considered to extend west of the Rocky Mountains (Brodkorb 1949). The AOU (1957) Check-list includes "eastern Nevada" in the breeding range of *hellmayri*, but without specific locality or substantiating record. As far as we can determine, Johnson (1965) was the first to document the occurrence of this subspecies in Nevada, reporting it a "fairly common summer resident between 7,600 and 9,300 feet" in the Sheep Range in the southern part of the state. A Western Flycatcher taken 1 June 1967 in Ruby Valley is referable to *E. d. hellmayri*. This bird was a female with a trace of fat and an ovary measuring 5×4 mm. This is, to our knowledge, the first documented report of the occurrence of this subspecies in northeastern Nevada.

Catbird. *Dumetella carolinensis ruficrissa*. There are but three reports of this species in Nevada, two based on specimens and one a sight record (Linsdale 1951; Hayward et al. 1963). A third specimen was obtained at Ruby Lake Refuge on 23 September 1966. This bird, a male, was moderately fat. The skull was incompletely ossified. The use of the trinomial follows Aldrich (1946); presumably the subspecific identification reported for this specimen applies as well to the previously recorded individuals.

Red-eyed Vireo. *Vireo olivaceus*. A female of this species was taken on 12 June 1967 at Refuge Headquarters. The bird had a trace of fat and an ovary 6×3 mm. This species is listed (Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife 1967) as having occurred on the Desert National Wildlife Range in southern Nevada, and Hansen (in litt. 5 January 1968) tells us that "These have been observed by me and other local ornithologists at Corn Creek. One was caught in 1966 and is now in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Museum as a mounted specimen." The occurrence of this species in Nevada is by no means unexpected, as it breeds in the northwestern United States and is known at least casually from all surrounding states. No trinomial has been applied to this specimen although it presumably belongs to the western population called *caniviridis* (see Burleigh 1960).

Myrtle Warbler. *Dendroica coronata*. Linsdale (1951) reported May specimens from Humboldt, Nye, and Esmeralda counties, and Hayward et al. (1963) recorded others from Nye County. Dr. Fred Ryser (pers. comm.) considers the species a rare transient in Nevada. On 27 October 1966 Lewis netted a Myrtle Warbler at the Headquarters of Ruby Lake Refuge. This specimen of undetermined sex was probably a bird of the year; it weighed 11.2 g and had little fat. This is the first report of this species in northeastern Nevada. The specimen is now in the Nevada State Museum, Carson City, where it was identified by Ryser.

Blackpoll Warbler. *Dendroica striata lurida*. On 22 May 1967 a male Blackpoll Warbler was captured on Cave Creek at Refuge Headquarters, when the northward wave of migrant warblers appeared to be at its peak. The specimen had a trace of fat; the testes measured 4×3 mm. This is apparently the

first record of this species in Nevada. We follow Burleigh and Peters (1948) in the use of the trinomial.

Northern Waterthrush. *Seiurus noveboracensis*. An individual of this species was banded at the Refuge on 21 May 1963. On 18 September 1966 another bird was netted in Ruby Valley. This bird, saved as a specimen, was an immature female with heavy fat deposits. Although there are no references in the technical literature to prior specimens in Nevada, the species is listed (Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife 1967) as "uncommon" in spring and fall at the Desert National Wildlife Range in southern Nevada. Hansen (in litt. 5 January 1968) has informed us that "several birds of this species have been seen nearly every year in May and again in August and September and as late as the first of November" on that Range since 1960. He further states that "several have been banded at Corn Creek. There is a specimen in the Desert National Wildlife Range Museum collection that was taken by me in 1963." We follow Eaton (1957) who has suggested that the various named populations of this species are not well enough differentiated to merit recognition.

MacGillivray's Warbler. *Oporornis tolmiei tolmiei*. A male of this species was netted on 22 May 1967. Although the testes measured 7×5 and 6×4 mm, the bird was moderately fat, suggesting that it still had some distance to travel to complete its migration. Seven other birds of this species were banded and released during this study, four in the fall of 1966 and three in the spring of 1967. Linsdale (1951) considered Nevada birds of this species to be of the race *O. t. monticola*; Hayward et al. (1963) reported several specimens from southern Nevada which seemed not to be *monticola*, but expressed doubt as to the proper subspecific placement of the birds. The present record thus is the first definite one of the race *O. t. tolmiei* in the state. The trinomial is used here in the sense of the AOU (1957) Check-list, not in the strict sense of Phillips (1947).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. *Phaeucticus ludovicianus*. Sight records have been published for two occurrences of this species (three individuals) in southern Nevada (Rickard 1960). As far as we are aware, the species has not previously been collected in the state of Nevada. Lewis netted an immature male at Ruby Lake Refuge Headquarters on 15 November 1966. The bird had an incompletely ossified skull, very small gonads, and a trace of fat.

Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea*. There seem to be but two previous records of this species for Nevada, both in Nye County (Linsdale 1951; Richardson 1952), but Hansen (in litt. 5 January 1968) mentioned that this species is seen almost every year in the spring and fall at Corn Creek on the Desert National Wildlife Range. Two additional specimens, the first for northeastern Nevada, were taken at the Ruby Lake Refuge Headquarters, a male (testes 8×5 and 8×6 mm, cloacal protuberance 5×3 mm) on 1 June 1967 and a female (ovary 3.5×2.5 mm) on 7 June 1967. Both specimens appear to be typical of the species and show no intergradation with the Lazuli Bunting, *P. amoena*. The earlier reported specimens were both males taken in June, and both had enlarged testes. The male reported here would certainly have been considered a member of the breeding population had it been in its proper range. Vagrant late migrants such as these (which were in company with Lazuli Buntings) may be partly responsible for the extensive hybridization between

Indigo and Lazuli Buntings (AOU 1957:552; Sibley and Short 1959).

Harris' Sparrow. *Zonotrichia querula*. A male captured at the Refuge Headquarters on 29 October 1966 had an ossified skull, testes that measured 2×2 mm, and no fat. This is the second record of the occurrence of this species in northeastern Nevada, and apparently the fifth record for the state. The specimen that Gullion (1957) referred to as the third record for the state was actually the fourth (see Linsdale 1936, 1951).

White-throated Sparrow. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. A female netted on 15 November 1966 at Refuge Headquarters had an unossified skull and was moderately fat. Hansen collected a male of this species (now in the U. S. National Museum) at the Corn Creek Field Station of the Desert National Wildlife Range in southern Nevada on 21 October 1960, and reported (in litt. 5 January 1968) that several individuals were present during the year. These records seem to be the third and fourth for this species in Nevada (see Gullion 1953), and the first for the northeastern part of the state.

Lincoln's Sparrow. *Melospiza lincolni gracilis*. A specimen of this bird was taken on 12 October 1967 at the Refuge Headquarters on Cave Creek. It was an adult female with an ovary 4×2 mm and with moderate fat. The subspecific identification was made independently by Banks and by Roxie C. Laybourne. Although Linsdale (1951) cites records for other forms of this species, the northern Pacific coastal race *gracilis* has not previously been reported from Nevada.

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