

Laguna Magdalena, 7 October) are beginning the prebasic molt and little may be discerned regarding the color phase they represent. In both, the region below the eye is white. Among three small downy Western Grebes at hand from Delta, Manitoba, one (Cornell 23156) is pale pearly gray above, resembling the apparently pale young in the photo published by Dawson (Birds of California, 1923, p. 2046), but with a less well demarcated ear patch than illustrated in that early photo. Two Delta young are of the dark phase, as are two small young (Manitoba and Saskatchewan). One of the dark phase Manitoba specimens, AMNH 75357 collected in 1901, is foxed and demonstrates the more sharply bicolored head illustrated in the Dawson photo. Three additional downy young are larger and considerably faded (as well as foxed) and do not appear to be useful for color-phase studies. Ventrally, three of the four small dark-phased young have the pale gray throat sharply demarcated from the white breast and belly. In the fourth dark-phased and in the pale-phased young, there is blending of the gray and white areas without a sharp line.

Apparently the nesting season of the Western Grebe in México is quite extended. The two large, downy young in prebasic molt, mentioned above, were collected 25 May and 7 October on Laguna San Pedro Lagunillas, Nayarit, and Laguna Magdalena, Jalisco. Five nests with eggs were also found at the former locality on 7 October and a single egg, apparently

"dumped," was found on the shore of Laguna, San Felipe, Puebla, 7 May.

In Nayarit the local name for the Western Grebe is "cabildo." *Additional Specimens Examined:* Total 35. Nayarit: Laguna Santa Maria del Oro, 4 ♂, 6 ♀; Laguna San Pedro Lagunillas 6 ♂, 3 ♀, 1 Natl.; Jalisco: Laguna Magdalena 1 ♂, 3 ♀, 1 Nat.; 2 miles NNE Lago de Moreno 1 ♂. Guanajuato: Lago Yuriria 1 ♀. Guerrero: Laguna de Tuxpan 4 ♂, 2 ♀. Pueblo: Laguna San Felipe 1 ♀. San Luis Potosi: Laguna Rusias 2 ♂; Laguna Media Luna [♂]. An additional locality is the Presa Pena de Aguila, 18 miles by road north of Ciudad Durango where Western Grebes were seen on 7 June 1958 by Bruce Hayward and me.

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RE-EVALUATION OF SOME MONTANA BIRD RECORDS

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Concepts of the status of four species in Montana are subject to revision after a re-examination of specimens and records in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM).

Numenius borealis. Eskimo Curlew. Baird et al. (1858:745) list three specimens collected on the "upper Missouri" by Dr. Hayden and obtained from Lt. Warren. One specimen is not numbered and is dated 1841 (sic). The other two are numbered 4881 and 6572 and are not dated. Saunders (1921:53) accepts these as Montana records, although Baird et al. give the range as "eastern and northern North America" and note that "we have never seen it from the western countries of the United States." None of these specimens is currently in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History, but the catalog refers to three specimens (USNM 4881, 4882, and 6572) taken by the Warren Expedition. No collection data are given for the first two, but the last is listed as taken on the "upper Missouri and Yellowstone." That specimen was sent to Wells College in 1872, but is no longer there (Charles Burch, pers. comm.). In 1856, the Warren Expedition collected along the

Missouri River from Nebraska to 80 miles above Fort Union (near the present Montana border) and along the Yellowstone River to the Powder River. Those specimens specifically designated as taken above Fort Union are dated July and August 1856, and bear catalog numbers in the 5000's. Specimens of other birds cataloged with the 4880 series were taken at localities in Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri between 22 April and 17 May. Although the birds were not invariably cataloged in chronological order, it seems likely that USNM 4881 and 4882 were taken during spring migration while the expedition was en route to Montana, and that USNM 6572 was taken in the fall on the return trip, in both cases perhaps far to the east of the present borders of the state. The only other record of the Eskimo Curlew in Montana, properly questioned by Saunders (1921), is the report (Cooper 1869) that the species bred in 1860 near Fort Benton "where young were caught in July, still downy." This record was repeated by Baird et al. (1884). We thank Chandler S. Robbins for pointing out that Cooper (1886) later noted that the young birds caught in 1860 were probably *Limosa fedoa*, adding "It is my recollection, however, that old Curlews were about also, possibly barren birds." Unless further information on the Warren Expedition specimens is uncovered, the occurrence of this species in Montana can only be considered hypothetical.

Erolia fuscicollis. White-rumped Sandpiper. Baird et al. (1858:723) list one specimen taken on the Yellowstone River by the Warren Expedition (USNM 5442). The catalog at the National Museum shows that this bird was collected 40 miles up the Yellowstone River, on 26 July 1856. However, the catalog entry indicates that the bird was subsequently re-identified as *E. bairdii*. It was later sent to the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The only other

specimen reported from Montana is a bird collected on the Yellowstone River above Fort Keogh (Miles City) between 8 and 13 August 1878 (McChesney 1879); others were reportedly seen. However, McChesney also stated that a few remained to breed in the Big Horn region; this casts some doubt on the validity of the identification. The location of McChesney's bird specimens from Montana is not known to us, so this record can be neither verified nor refuted. Although the absence of a verifiable specimen leads us to place this species in the hypothetical category, the White-rumped Sandpiper undoubtedly occurs in migration in Montana, probably regularly so in the east; there are four recent sight records (Skaar, unpubl.).

Sterna albifrons. Least Tern. The only record of this species for Montana is a bird (USNM 8999) said to have been collected by the Warren Expedition, 2 July 1857, locality "Yellowstone" (Baird et al. 1858: 864). However, the 1857 operations of the Warren Expedition were along the Platte River and Loup Fork. Another Least Tern (USNM 9005) is listed by Baird et al. as collected 10 July 1857 on the Platte River, and a third (USNM 9007) is listed from Loup Fork in 1857, with no specific date. Birds of other species taken by Warren at Fremont on the Platte River on 1 July and Loup Fork on 3 July are cataloged in the same series. Specimen 8999 is no longer at the USNM, but the catalog indicates that it was taken "50 miles above the mouth of the Platte." This would place the locality in Nebraska rather than in Montana. After reaching this conclusion, we were informed that a note indicating that this bird was really taken in Nebraska, in W. W. Cooke's handwriting, is on file at the Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland (C. S. Robbins, pers. comm.). This species should not be included in the list of Montana birds.

Thryothorus ludovicianus. Carolina Wren. Thorne (1895) cited three records of the Carolina Wren from Lane Deer, and two "on the divide between Powder and Tongue Rivers." Three Lane Deer specimens, taken by Thorne and originally identified as Carolina Wrens, are cataloged in the USNM. These were long ago reidentified as House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon parkmanii*); only one of them is presently in the USNM.

In view of Thorne's wording, it is not certain that his other records involved specimens. The only other indication of the occurrence of the Carolina Wren in Montana is the entry in Saunders (1921): "Seen near Billings in 1918 (Thomas, MS)." Apparently, Saunders included this wren in his list mainly on the basis of Thorne's specimens (which he cites), since he relegated several other (less improbable) species, supported only by sight records of G. B. Thomas, to hypothetical rank. A long-hand account of birds observed by Thomas near Billings in 1917 and at least the first half of 1918, and some notes for 1919, are on file in the Parmley Billings Memorial Library; these contain no mention of the Carolina Wren (W. F. Hoheisel, pers. comm.). There seems to be no sound basis for the inclusion of this species in the list of Montana birds.

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