

then to the other. Deciding there was nothing worth working for, he flew to the other side of the cottage, alighting on an oak tree, and then I saw that his mate was busy at the base where I had seen one the other day.

As far as I know, this is the first time the pair was ever seen together here. The one flew from the tree but the other worked at the decayed base for over half an hour after I first saw it. This gave me plenty of time for its study.

It was working with its back toward me and did not appear to be watching in this direction but was not going to let anything slip up on the other side of the tree. It would take two or three strokes with its bill, then its head would bob around the left side of the tree, and then around the right. Its long neck made this possible without moving its body.

One stroke of its powerful bill, a twist of its head, and a chip flew off. It worked steadily until it had bored quite a hole, then it reached in very carefully and seemed to have found something to eat. It started another place but that was on the live part of the tree so it worked only a little while, then flew away.

I saw the pair again on the hard maple tree. One stayed only a few minutes. The other worked a while, then flew to a nearer tree, and then moved to one about twenty-five feet from me.

They are the most interesting birds I have ever seen, and the most striking in appearance. The body is a dull grayish black, the face is a clear white with a dark streak through the eye, extending a little back. A black streak runs down the back and the front of the neck, and the high crest is a brilliant red. The powerful bill seemed to be partly white. Their attitude was alive and alert, and not timid or afraid, just peppy.—M. ELLEN THORNBURGH, *McGregor, Iowa.*

Some New and Unusual Bird Records from Utah.¹—Since 1926 the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Brigham Young University has been attempting to build up a representative collection of Utah birds. This collection now (1937) numbers nearly 1800 study skins and about 200 mounted specimens representing over 250 species and subspecies of the State. A large part of this collection has been obtained through the direct efforts of staff members of the institution, but a considerable number of valuable specimens were obtained from other sources. In 1931 the University obtained about 350 mounted bird specimens from the Latter-Day-Saints Museum of Salt Lake City. Many of these, however, were from localities other than Utah. In the same year fifty mounted specimens of Utah birds were obtained from Mr. R. G. Bee of Provo, and since that time Mr. John Hutchings of Lehi, Utah, has contributed a number of interesting mounted birds including beautiful specimens of the Wood Ibis and the Sandhill Crane.

In the spring of 1937 a series of about 200 study skins of Washington County birds was contributed to the collection by Dr. D. E. Beck and Floyd Atkin of the Dixie Junior College at Saint George, Utah.

During the accumulation of the collection, particularly within the past few years, a number of species and subspecies apparently new to the State, or at least of sufficient rarity to be of interest, have been brought to light. It is the object in this paper to place these occurrences on record and to make some comments as to the distribution of some of the forms within the State.

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The writer is indebted to Drs. Clarence Cottam and H. C. Oberholser, of the U. S. Biological Survey, for the identification of some of the doubtful specimens.

Lesser Loon. *Gavia immer elasson*. This subspecies appears to visit Utah in both autumn and spring but as far as I know does not breed within the State. An adult female was collected at the mouth of Provo River, Utah Lake, June 27, 1935, by D. E. Beck. The writer obtained the head and foot only of a specimen shot by a hunter on Utah Lake, October 30, 1932, which on the basis of available measurements seems to be of this subspecies. Still another specimen was collected at Veyo, Washington County, October 27, 1933. As far as I am aware this is the first published record of the Lesser Loon for Utah.

American Egret. *Casmerodius albus egretta*. A mature male specimen was captured alive at St. George, Washington County, by Dr. D. E. Beck and brought to the laboratory at Brigham Young University where it was kept alive for some time during the spring of 1934. It was finally killed and mounted and is now in the display collection of the University. This egret has been formerly recorded from the Bear River Marshes, North End of Great Salt Lake by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 1935, p. 133, 1926) and by Allee (Scientific Monthly, December, 1926, p. 488). Henshaw (Annals New York Lyceum of Nat. Hist., 11, p. 12, 1874) records it from Beaver, Beaver County, and Provo, Utah County. This bird has apparently always been rather uncommon in the State and is probably less common at the present time than formerly.

Wood Ibis. *Mycteria americana*. A mature specimen was obtained at Lehi, Utah County, during the summer of 1935 by Mr. John Hutchings. It was mounted by him and presented to the Brigham Young University. This species has been recorded from Rush Lake by Henshaw (Report of Expl. and Sur. West of 100th Mer., 5: p. 462, 1875), and from Utah by Ridgway (Manual of N. A. Birds, Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co., p. 125, 1900).

Black-bellied Plover. *Squatarola squatarola*. While undoubtedly a regular migrant visitor to the State, this species does not appear to have been often recorded in State lists. The only published record that I have noted is that of Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 146, p. 168, 1929) from Provo, Utah County, May 11. The writer has seen small flocks of this plover at Utah Lake on three occasions. Twelve birds were seen at Provo Bay on May 13, 1933, and a second flock of about the same number was noted flying over the lake on May 20 of the same year. On May 9, 1936, a flock of six birds was seen at Provo Bay and one male was collected from the group. Mr. Reed Fautin, a competent observer, reports having seen about fourteen plovers at the mouth of Provo River, May 5, 1937.

Red Phalarope. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Two specimens were collected by H. D. Wilkin at St. George, Washington County, October 14 and 15, 1934. The specimens are in typical autumnal plumage and their broad bills at once distinguish them from Wilson's Phalarope and the Northern Phalarope which also occur in Utah. To my knowledge, this is the first published record of this species for the State.

Flammulated Screech Owl. *Otus flammeolus*. One specimen was taken from Pine Valley Mountain, Washington County, October 20, 1935, by Floyd Atkin. Another adult female specimen was taken by the writer and Mr. James Bee at Mule Flat, Mt. Timpanogos, Utah County, July 3, 1937. The last mentioned specimen was removed from her nest which contained two downy white young that we judged to be about ten days old. The nest was in a large aspen tree in what was

apparently an old woodpecker hole and was situated about twenty-four feet from the ground. The bird allowed us to pluck her from the nest and offered little resistance when in hand. Aside from snapping the beak she showed no inclination to fight. The situation was interesting, furthermore, in that there were several nests of the Violet-green and Tree Swallows as well as one Purple Martin nest in the same tree. While this owl undoubtedly is generally distributed throughout the State in suitable habitats, I have not seen it recorded in any of the lists.

Northwestern Horned Owl. *Bubo virginianus lagophonus*. A specimen was collected near St. George, Washington County, October 22, 1933, undoubtedly a migrant individual. I have not noted any previously published record of this subspecies for the State. The status and distribution of the breeding horned owls of Utah are not as yet positively established from our collections. Considerable collecting during the breeding season should be done throughout the State. The Montana Horned Owl (*B. v. occidentalis*) has been established as the breeding subspecies of the Wasatch Mountains east of Provo. Mr. James Bee and the writer obtained a set of partially incubated eggs in South Fork, Provo Canyon, March 21, 1936, and took the female as she left the nest. The nesting site was in a cottonwood tree about fifty feet from the ground. On the same day a set of three eggs, advanced in incubation to the formation of small bones, was taken about one mile west of Charleston, Wasatch County. The nest in this case was also located in a cottonwood tree about fifty or sixty feet from the ground. We have noted that this subspecies also often nests in cliffs along the sides of canyons. The Western Horned Owl (*B. v. pallescens*) is undoubtedly the breeding bird of the southern part of the State, but the exact extent of its range is not evident from our collections.

Western Nighthawk. *Chordeiles minor henryi*. An adult female was obtained at 10-Mile Spring, south of Escalante, Garfield County, June 22, 1936, by D. E. Beck. Oberholser in his monograph of the genus *Chordeiles* (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 86, pp. 65-70, 1914) does not record this subspecies for Utah, but in his map (ibid., pl. 3) indicates its presence in the extreme southwestern corner of the State. A series of five specimens from the La Sal Mountains, Grand and San Juan Counties, taken by the writer in July, 1934, appear on the basis of Oberholser's descriptions and comparisons, to be intergrades between *C. m. henryi* and *C. m. howelli*. Such an intergradation would be expected on the basis of Oberholser's map of distribution. The establishment of the breeding range of these two subspecies as well as that of *C. m. hesperis* of the western part of the state will require considerable more collecting.

Alaska Hermit Thrush. *Hylocichla guttata guttata*. A specimen was taken on Pine Valley Mountain, Washington County, October 12, 1935, by D. E. Beck. While this subspecies undoubtedly migrates regularly through the State in autumn, this is the first specimen to come into our collection. It was reported by Ridgway (Bull. Essex Inst., 5: p. 170, 1873) as occurring in the Wasatch Mountains in autumn.—C. LYNN HAYWARD, *Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah*.

Neighboring Wood Thrushes and Other Birds.—The summer of 1936 was marked by the most prolonged heat and drought on record. This had its influence on the feeding habits of the late nesting birds. A pair of Wood Thrushes (*Hylocichla mustelina*) always nest in the yard and are very shy. On July 15 the second brood left the nest. The two young were just able to fly a short distance.