

NOTES EXTENDING THE RANGE OF CERTAIN BIRDS
ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

BY J. H. BOWLES.

AFTER a careful study of the new A. O. U. Check-List it seems to me probable that the following notes may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk.'

All observations in the State of Washington were made in the western part of the State, mostly near Tacoma and Seattle in the vicinity of Puget Sound. The northeastern part of the State is represented by specimens from the vicinity of Newport, a small town near the Idaho border, which, together with those taken near Lake Chelan, make up the greater part of the records mentioned for the east side of the Cascade Mountains. A number of the Washington records appeared in the 'Birds of Washington,' by Dawson and Bowles.

The Santa Barbara, Cal., records, unless otherwise stated, were all based on specimens personally collected by myself. All specimens, unless otherwise stated, were prepared by myself and the identification made positive through the kindness of Dr. A. K. Fisher and Mr. H. C. Oberholser.

In my Santa Barbara work, I wish also to acknowledge here the unremitting efforts of Mr. Watson Snyder and Mr. E. S. Spaulding, who have spared no pains in locating new birds.

MARbled MURRELET (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*).— Given in the Check-List as breeding "south to Vancouver Island."

These birds are regular residents on Puget Sound throughout the year, though less abundant in summer than in winter. In the waters surrounding Fox Island, a small island situated in the sound about ten miles from Tacoma, three or four to a dozen of these murrelets may be found any day during the summer. Although I have never heard of a nest being found, the additional fact that immature birds appear with the old ones during June makes it appear probable that they breed in the vicinity. From all that I can learn this is about as good evidence as we have concerning most of the breeding localities of this species.

PACIFIC EIDER (*Somateria v-nigra*).— In 'The Auk' for April, 1906, Vol. XXIII, I recorded the occurrence of these birds in Puget Sound, as seen by myself, during January and February of that year.

My attention was first drawn to them by a local gunner who asked me to name a duck he had shot that was, "a good deal like a hen mallard, only about twice as big and with a very stout bill." He had secured it on the Nisqually Flats, near Tacoma, but unfortunately had devoted it to the pot. I at once visited the locality and was fortunate enough to see two female eiders feeding in a muddy slough. They allowed me a prolonged and excellent view, but flew too soon for a successful shot. A few days later, while crossing in front of these flats in a small steamer, the boat passed a magnificent male of this species, which allowed an approach of not more than fifty yards before diving.

Although no skins were secured, there seems no possible doubt as to identification. I believe this to be the southernmost record for these birds, and it must be most unusual, since I never saw or heard of any others during fourteen years' residence in the State.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (*Oidemia deglandi*).— Monterey, California, is the southern summer limit given in the Check-list for this species on the Pacific coast.

During the past summer of 1910 both Mr. Bradford Torrey and myself noted daily a flock of some fifteen or twenty of these birds close to the beach at Santa Barbara. Mr. Torrey says he saw nothing of them in the summer of 1909.

BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).— Breeding records for this bird in the State of Washington are rare, if, indeed, any have been yet published. The only instance that has come to my knowledge is kindly given me by Mr. D. E. Brown, of South Tacoma, Wash., who took a set of four eggs from Douglas County, Wash. The nest was placed on the ground in tall grass a short distance from a pond, the location being a large field instead of the customary swampy ground. The date was June 3, 1908.

NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*).— Northern Oregon is given in the Check-List as the northern breeding limit for these birds. During early June of 1906 Mr. Dawson and I found these birds numerous on a chain of small lakes in Douglas

County, Wash. There was practically no doubt of a nesting ground in the vicinity, but unfortunately we were unable to locate it.

LITTLE BROWN CRANE (*Grus canadensis*).— Given in the Check-List as “casual west to California.”

There is little doubt in my mind that a majority of the cranes seen in Washington west of the Cascades are of this species. I collected an adult male near Tacoma on October 10, 1909. I have no positive record for *Grus mexicana* excepting east of the mountains.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Steganopus tricolor*).— I believe this Phalarope has been unusually numerous in the vicinity of Santa Barbara during the past summer of 1910.

July 22 is my first record, when two were together down on the flats, one evidently adult, the other probably young of the year.

On August 4 I saw three others, all in fall plumage, and on September 8 two more, of which I collected one. Between the dates given I saw frequently what were probably the same birds, but those given on the above date were most probably different individuals. Mr. Torrey saw these birds as well, and also has a record of a male and female seen April 30, 1909.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Pisobia maculata*).— Given in the Check-List as, “In migration very rare on Pacific coast south of British Columbia, except in Lower California.”

In the Puget Sound district of Washington this sandpiper is an irregular, but hardly a rare, spring and fall migrant. Some seasons it is almost or quite absent, while in others it is fairly common.

Hunting the Wilson's Snipe is one of my favorite sports, which may very possibly account for my seeing more of these sandpipers than the average observer. They frequent the same localities as the snipe, and I have several times seen as many as six or eight at one time scattered over an acre or two of wet meadow land. Incidentally they are so tame as to let a good dog “point” them repeatedly, much to the detriment of the sportsman's temper. I killed only a couple of specimens for my collection, but a hundred individuals would be an exceedingly low estimate of the number I saw during my fourteen years' residence in the State.

The experience of Mr. J. M. Edson at Bellingham, Wash., has been very similar to my own. He writes me: “Concerning the

Pectoral Sandpipers, I may say that I have taken at least eight specimens of this species on various dates between and including September 2, 1899, and October 10, 1908. On one date I saw as many as thirty or forty, and on another I noted about two dozen. Specimens were secured each time."

I have been here at Santa Barbara only during the past year (1910), but I noted this species once on April 14, for the spring migration, and twice in the fall, September 8 and 9. The last two dates may possibly represent the same bird, as I collected it and have seen no others since. Mr. Torrey also reports these birds for 1909 (see *Condor*, Jan.-Feb., 1910). On September 17 he saw one bird, two on the following day, and three on the 20th, all in the same place and within the city limits of Santa Barbara.

KILLDEER (*Oxyechus vociferus*).—For the Pacific coast the Check-List does not give this bird as wintering north of California. It would perhaps be scarcely correct to go on record as stating that this species is a regular winter resident on Puget Sound, but in the vicinity of Tacoma it is seen so frequently at that season as to attract scarcely more than passing notice. I have seen them during all the winter months, although they cannot be found with any certainty. Beyond a doubt many do winter, mostly in good sized flocks that pass their time on one or another of the many different marshes and mudflats.

SNOWY PLOVER (*Ægialitis nivosus*).—The Check-List gives Oregon as the northern limit for this species.

My brother, C. W. Bowles, took a specimen at Grays Harbor, Wash., which is now in our collection. The date was September 3, 1899, the bird being the only one of its kind noticed.

MOUNTAIN QUAIL (*Oreortyx picta picta*).—Given in the Check-List as occurring "from southwestern Washington south," etc. In the vicinity of Tacoma and throughout most of the Puget Sound country this quail is an abundant resident. Owing to different previous importations of both forms, occasional examples showing traces of *O. p. plumifera* are found, but *picta* is the typical form.

SPARROW HAWK (*Falco sparverius sparverius*).—Range given in the Check-List as "North America east of the Rocky Mountains."

There seems no reasonable doubt that this is the resident form

in northwestern Washington. Specimens personally collected by myself near Tacoma several years ago were identified by Mr. Joseph Grinnell as typical *sparverius*. Also a specimen collected by Mr. D. E. Brown on September 11, 1910, near his home at South Tacoma, was identified by Mr. Oberholser as true *F. s. sparverius*. These birds are common summer residents, but not often seen during the winter months. I have never seen any birds in western Washington that I believe could be referable to *F. s. phalæna*, and doubt if this subspecies often drifts over onto the west side of the Cascade Mountains.

SAW-WHET OWL (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*).—Not recorded in the Check-List as breeding in any of the Pacific coast States.

Mr. D. E. Brown took a set of four eggs of this owl, together with the parent bird, in the vicinity of North Yakima, Wash., on April 12, 1909. This was in an old nest of the Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*), Mr. Brown having taken a set of the rightful owner from the same hole in 1908.

RICHARDSON'S OWL (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*).—Records of this owl are sufficiently rare in the United States to be of interest. Mr. D. E. Brown took a specimen near Bellingham, Wash., on January 17, 1905.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens*).—Not recorded as breeding north of southern Washington. On May 23, 1903, on the outskirts of North Yakima, Yakima County, Wash., I watched one of these flycatchers building a nest in an abandoned hole of the Red-shafted Flicker. Being unable to wait for eggs, I examined the cavity and found that the flycatchers must have used the same site on the previous year, as an old and heavy mass of cow hair made evident.

These birds are exceedingly rare in Washington on the west side of the Cascades, the only record I have being of a pair I saw at Tacoma on May 21, 1905. These did not remain to breed.

MAGPIE (*Pica pica hudsonia*).—Not recorded as occurring west of the Cascades. The Magpie is a regular and not uncommon winter visitor to the tide flats and prairies in the vicinity of Tacoma. Occasionally I have seen as many as fifteen or twenty in a flock, but usually not more than half a dozen are seen together. Beyond a doubt they are voyagers over the mountains from their summer home on the east side of the Cascades where they are very plentiful.

LARGE-BILLED SPARROW (*Passerculus rostratus rostratus*). Given in the Check-List as wintering "from San Pedro southward along both coasts of Lower California," etc.

During the winters of 1909-10 and 1910-11 these sparrows were common on the dock at Santa Barbara, where they were seen regularly by both Mr. Bradford Torrey and myself. They arrive about the middle of September and leave us early in March, the attraction here being undoubtedly the grain that is spilled when the boats unload.

NUTTALL'S SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*).—Recorded as breeding south as far as San Louis Obispo County, Cal.

On May 21, 1910, while on a collecting trip near Santa Barbara with Mr. E. S. Spaulding of that city, he called my attention to two pairs of these sparrows. One pair was feeding some bob-tailed young, evidently newly out of the nest, while the second pair showed every evidence of having a nest, although we failed to locate it.

Incidentally, a winter record of this sparrow from Washington may be of interest. On January 22, 1908, I collected near Tacoma a fine adult male in beautiful plumage.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia coronata*).—While walking through a large field of weeds near Tacoma on December 16, 1907, I saw two immature birds of this species and collected one of them. Returning on January 15, 1908, I found the other bird was still there, where he remained until spring. These are my only winter records for this species.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*).—Not recorded from the State of Washington. I collected a male of this species at Tacoma on February 4, 1909, and saw one other. They were feeding in the snow with a company of Shufeldt's Juncos (*J. h. connectens*), their plainer coloring at once distinguishing them among their western cousins.

SOOTY SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia rufina*).—At Takilma, Josephine Co., Oregon, my brother, Mr. C. W. Bowles, collected the nest and four eggs of a Song Sparrow, but was unable to secure either of the parents. Returning to the same locality a few days later he succeeded in collecting a bird that was identified by Mr. Oberholser as most closely corresponding to *M. m. rufina*.

This is, of course, not sufficient proof for a breeding record, but it strongly indicates the possibility of a summer resident.

VALDEZ FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca sinuosa*).—This new subspecies was recently described by Mr. Jos. Grinnell from specimens taken on the Alexander Alaska Expedition of 1908. The type, a male, was taken by Mr. J. Dixon, on August 26, 1908, at Drier Bay, Knight Island, Prince William Sound, Alaska.

I first saw this subspecies here at Santa Barbara on November 13, 1910, when I collected a female. Since then I have seen them here more or less commonly up to date of writing, December 31. I have taken other specimens on the following dates: a male November 18 and 23, and December 24. It is rather interesting to note that I saw none of these sparrows during the winter of 1909–10.

STEPHENS'S FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca stephensi*).—On August 30, 1910, Mr. E. S. Spaulding, of Santa Barbara, secured one of these sparrows for me at Little Pine, one of the higher peaks in the hills of Santa Barbara County, the elevation being nearly 3000 feet. Mr. Spaulding reported them as being numerous but it was, of course, too late a date to ascertain if they nested in the vicinity. This, I believe, makes a farthest north record for this subspecies.

It may, perhaps, be of interest to state that Mr. Spaulding saw the California Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator californica*) in the same vicinity where he took the *stephensi*.

FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*).—Although the title of this article does not, strictly speaking, apply to this case, another record of this sparrow in California may possibly be of some interest. On January 1, 1911, I collected a handsome male of this species here at Santa Barbara. It was in a mixed company of Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia coronata*) and Valdez Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca sinuosa*), from which it was at once distinguishable on account of its much brighter plumage.

ANTHONY'S TOWHEE (*Pipilo crissalis senicula*).—Given in the Check-List as occurring "south of the San Bernadino Mountains and on the Pacific side of Lower California south," etc.

A towhee that I collected here at Santa Barbara on March 9, 1910, one of a pair, is identified as *senicula*. This I believe to be our breeding form. It seemed unnecessary to collect others

during the breeding season as the very close examination that the other nesting birds permitted showed not the slightest variation from the specimen in hand.

During the coming winter I expect to collect others in order to ascertain if this is not the resident form, and whether or not *P. c. crissalis* occurs here at all.

WESTERN Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*).—Recorded as nesting in southern California only in the high mountains.

Although the elevations where I have seen them at Santa Barbara were at most only 600 feet, these tanagers might be found at any time during the summer of 1910 in the little cañons just outside of town. They were undoubtedly breeding, although lack of time prevented my locating a nest in the dense live-oaks which they frequented.

PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis subis*).—Given in the Check-List, "North and South America, except Pacific coast region."

The martins found in the vicinity of Tacoma and Seattle are all unquestionably of this form. I felt convinced of it when I first saw the living birds, and a female taken by myself at Tacoma was identified as typical *subis*. They are rather common summer residents, breeding entirely in buildings in the business portions of the cities, so far as I have seen. It seems more than probable that this is the form to be found throughout northwestern Washington, but just how much further south is still uncertain.

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireosylva olivacea*).—Not recorded as occurring on the west side of the Cascades.

Although a rather common summer resident in eastern Washington, it is only during the past few years that I have noticed this vireo west of the Cascades. I have recorded them once during migration in the vicinity of Tacoma, but the only locality where I have found them regularly is around the outskirts of Seattle. Here for the last few years it has been a not uncommon summer resident. I have seen several nests containing young or eggs, all of which were found by Miss Jennie V. Getty, near Kirkland, a suburb of Seattle.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata celata*).—Not recorded in the Check-List from the Pacific States.

It seems possible that this warbler is much more commonly

distributed along the Pacific coast than is generally supposed. I collected a specimen at Tacoma on May 8, 1907, that was identified by Mr. Oberholser. Concerning this bird my notes say: "I saw eight of them during the day." Before and since that date I have seen a few birds every season — spring and fall — that I am positive were this species, their duller coloration making them almost conspicuous among the brighter *V. c. lutescens*.

LUTESCENT WARBLER (*Vermivora celata lutescens*).—Recorded as breeding in southern California only in the mountains.

This warbler is a rather abundant summer resident at Santa Barbara, where I have found the nest only two miles back from the ocean, the elevation being less than 400 feet. It is less numerous during the winter months.

SIERRA CREEPER (*Certhia familiaris zelotes*).—Not recorded in the Check-List from north of Oregon.

This subspecies is a not uncommon summer resident in northern Washington east of the Cascades, a breeding specimen taken by Mr. Dawson and myself being identified by Mr. Oberholser. It is to be found in the vicinity of Lake Chelan at the mountain end, and in the northeastern part of the State along the Pend d'Oreille River.

CREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*, subsp.).—The Check-List does not mention any form of creeper as occurring on the coast of southern California.

For the present record I am indebted to Mr. Watson Snyder, who located one of these birds for me here at Santa Barbara, and which we collected on January 5, 1911.

Mr. Oberholser informs me that the specimen is not precisely referable to any of the specimens in the National Museum, although more closely approaching the Sierra Creeper (*Certhia familiaris zelotes*) than any other. It was taken in a clump of live-oaks close to the town, at an altitude of about 700 feet.

SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis aculeata*).—Recorded in the Check-List only in "Pacific coast region." *S. c. nelsoni* is the form given in the Check-List as occurring from the eastern base of the Cascades eastward. This is very possibly the case as regards central and southern Washington, but I do not believe it to apply to the northern part of the State. In the

region of the Pead d'Oreille River, in northeastern Washington, we found *aculeata* to be the summer resident, a breeding specimen taken by Mr. Dawson and myself being identified as such by Mr. Oberholser. It therefore seems fair to presume that this is the form occupying the entire northern border of the State, as well as the Pacific coast region.

CHICKADEE (*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*).—A breeding specimen, taken by Mr. Dawson and myself near Newport, Wash., was identified as more nearly approaching this form than any other. They are common in that locality where, it may be well to add, we saw nothing that we thought to be the Long-tailed Chickadee (*P. a. septentrionalis*).

CALIFORNIA BUSH-TIT (*Psaltriparus minimus californicus*).—Given in the Check-List as not occurring in California on the "coast strip."

This subspecies would appear to be the breeding form of Bush-Tit found in the vicinity of Santa Barbara, since one of a pair taken by me on March 10, 1910, was identified as *P. m. californicus*. It is quite probable that *P. m. minimus* occurs here during migrations; in fact, I am positive that I have seen much darker examples during the winter.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes townsendi*).—What I believe to be the most westerly breeding record for this species was made just outside the city limits of Seattle, Wash., by Mr. D. E. Brown. The locality is, of course, not at all mountainous. The nest was placed in a slight cavity in a cut-bank, and contained newly hatched young on June 3, 1907.

WREN-TIT (*Chamæa fasciata fasciata*).—Given in the Check-List as occurring as far south as the "southern shores of San Francisco Bay and adjacent Santa Clara Valley."

On February 18, 1910, I collected here at Santa Barbara a female of what appeared to me to be an unusual *Chamæa* for this vicinity. Mr. Oberholser recently identified it for me as typical *C. f. fasciata*, and I am positive that I have seen others here of the same type.

Ornithologists of much greater experience than myself have given the Pallid Wren-Tit (*C. f. henshawi*) as the breeding form for this locality, so it is possible that this family of birds may be migratory to a considerably greater extent than is generally supposed.