

two feet deep here. It was very beautifully and compactly built of a dark green moss mixed with its seed stalks, fine rootlets, and a few pieces of dead maple leaves on the bottom. The lining was made of fine white rootlets, each piece about two inches long and which resembled horse hair. The outside was about four inches in diameter and two inches in depth with walls three quarters of an inch thick. We again visited the same locality on June 6 with the hope of finding a second set, but a careful search of every root did not reveal one. Three males were singing a few hundred feet apart and two birds, each in different parts of the swamp, were feeding young, just able to fly, one of which I shot, as I did also a male.

Near my home in South Auburn in former years I have seen the Water-Thrush during the migration in spring as early as May 7, and they have lingered with us until the fifteenth of the month. Probably the birds are mated as soon as they arrive on their breeding ground and commence to build their nest at once, for the first egg was probably laid in this nest by May 12.

This is the first instance of its breeding in Rhode Island, and from the number of birds noted, it now can be called a rare local summer resident, and spring and fall migrant.— HARRY S. HATHAWAY, *South Auburn, R. I.*

A Robin's Nest without Mud.— In the Summer of 1900 or 1901 I noted a Robin on Boston Common building a nest on a linden. No mud was then accessible anywhere on the Common and the Robin had apparently put no mud into this nest. It appeared to be built wholly of the dry trash used by English Sparrows in nest-building. It was some 25 feet up from the ground and could not be closely examined but from all points of view, in bulk and shapelessness as well as in material, it presented the appearance of an English Sparrow's nest of average or a trifle less than average size. If I had not watched the Robin in building it I should have called it an English Sparrow's nest, without hesitation. When first seen, the nest was nearly finished.— FLETCHER OSGOOD, *Chelsea, Mass.*

The Birds of Wyoming: Some Corrections.— Prominent among the earlier articles on Wyoming birds is one published by Dr. Brewer, entitled 'Notes on the birds of Wyoming and Colorado Territories, by C. H. Holden, Jr.; with additional memoranda by C. E. Aiken' (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XV, 1872, pp. 193-210). Although not definitely so stated, the implication is strong that all of these records were made in the vicinity of Sherman, Wyoming. The Holden notes were really taken at this locality, but those of Aiken refer to his experiences in the vicinity of Fountain, Colo., near Colorado Springs. A few months after the issue of this paper, Dr. Coues called attention (Am. Nat., VII, 1873, p. 420) to the true location of the Aiken records, but previous to the discovery by him of the facts of the case, he himself had already incorporated in the manuscript of his 'Birds of the Northwest,' some of the Colorado

records and credited them to Wyoming. Later he neglected to make the necessary changes, and several appear in the printed volume with the wrong localities.

Thirty years later, 'The Birds of Wyoming' was published as Bulletin No. 55 of the Wyoming Experiment Station. Throughout this Bulletin, all of the Holden and Aiken notes are used as pertaining to Wyoming, and in addition some of the erroneous records are copied from 'Birds of the Northwest.'

There are twenty-six species whose standing is not changed by the mistake, and it is only necessary to strike out the words "found by Aiken at Sherman." The records of eighteen other species are more seriously affected.

The quotation under *Myiarchus cinerascens* is one of the Coues mistakes, and so also under the same species, the reference to a note by Aiken on the occurrence in Wyoming of *Myiarchus crinitus*. There never was any such note.

The Aiken record of *Aphelocoma woodhousei* should be omitted, and also one of the Coues records. Two specimens are recorded (Birds of the Northwest, p. 219) as taken in Wyoming, but No. 59864 was really taken in Colorado. The other, No. 61082, was taken October 10, 1870, on the Green River not far from the location of the present town of Green River.

All the Aiken records should be omitted under the following species: *Coccothraustes vespertinus montanus*, *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*, *Junco hyemalis*, *Helminthophila celata lutescens*, *Compsothlypis americana*, *Sitta pygmæa*, and *Psaltriparus plumbeus*.

The specimens of *Leucosticte tephrocotis* recorded as taken at Sherman were actually secured there, but not by Aiken.

The three species, *Helminthophila virginia*, *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*, and *Regulus satrapa* are admitted to the list of Wyoming birds on the strength of the Aiken records, and hence so far as these records are concerned should be dropped from the State list. The Cañon Wren has been credited to Wyoming in the latest reviews of the family, but such a statement of range seems to have no valid basis.

The 'Hypothetical List' of the Birds of Wyoming contains four species, that are said to have been recorded by Aiken in Wyoming. Each of these is really a record for Colorado. The Rusty Blackbird of the Hypothetical List is an error of identification by Holden and should have been the Brewer Blackbird.

The statement is made, in treating of *Dendroica auduboni*, that in the 'Birds of Colorado' this species is said to breed above timberline. What is really said is that the species breeds in Colorado from 7,500 to 11,000 feet. The author of the 'Birds of Wyoming' failed to consider that although 11,000 feet is above timberline in Wyoming, it is a thousand feet below timberline in southern Colorado.—WELLS W. COOKE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*



Cooke, Wells W. 1906. "The Birds of Wyoming: Some Corrections." *The Auk* 23, 464–465. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070446>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54325>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070446>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/86158>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.