1885.] DREW on the Vertical Range of Birds in Colorado.

ON THE VERTICAL RANGE OF BIRDS IN COLO-RADO.

BY FRANK M. DREW.

COLORADO, lying between 37° and 41° north latitude and 102° and 107° west longitude, is preëminently a mountain state. Of its 104,500 square miles fully one-half is mountainous, the average elevation of the State being 6000 feet, with extremes of 3500 and 14,500 feet. Rising slowly from the Missouri River, the treeless plains, having already reached an altitude of 3500 feet at the eastern border of the State, thence continue to rise more rapidly, but yet gradually, to nearly half way across the State. There, at an elevation of about 6000 feet, the outlying foothills throw up a dam stretching north and south the full length of the State. Up into these foothills surge the waves of bird migration in spring to about 8000 feet - the altitude of the Great Parks which stretch their huge treeless surfaces atop the hills. And down these hills comes the return tide of birds in fall, a few to linger near the base, but by far the greater part passing on and down to an altitude lower than any found within the State.

Despite its latitude, which causes very hot summers, the average temperature is below that of other States in corresponding parallels. At an elevation of about 7000 feet, an approximate average for the year gives a temperature of $+47^{\circ}$ F.; for winter — December, January, February — of $+26^{\circ}$; spring — March, April, May — of $+47^{\circ}$; summer — June, July, August — of $+69^{\circ}$; autumn — September, October, November, — of $+46^{\circ}$. Missouri, in nearly the same latitude, has an approximate mean annual temperature of $+55^{\circ}$

The average temperature on the higher peaks, reaching up to from 12,000 to 14,000 feet, usually ranges from 20° to 30° lower than these figures, the difference being greatest in summer. Continued observations at several stations give an average of about $+ 48^{\circ}$ for the mean annual temperature at 6000 feet, and of $+38^{\circ}$ at 10,000 feet elevation. Timber-line, which varies from 11,000 feet to 12,000 feet, has an average annual temperature — according to Gannet — of $+ 30^{\circ}$. Notwithstanding the heavy and longcontinued snows of winter, and the frequent rains in summer,

II.

the mean annual precipitation will not exceed 20 inches, being 12 to 14 inches on the plains, and increasing to 32 inches in the mountains.

As is well known, the flora of the plains is strongly characterized by buffalo grass, sun flowers, and cacti, and as a natural result, Fringillidæ and Raptores predominate there over all other forms of bird life.

Entering the foothills, which reach an average elevation of 8000 feet, the piñon (*Pinus edulis*) and dwarf oak (*Quercus alba gunnisoni*) at once become abundant, and their matted clumps and tangled underbrush make hiding places for many Warblers. On the shoulders of the foothills rest the mountain parks, with a mean elevation of 8000 feet. They are treeless and plain-like, being covered with grass and sage, save where the grass has been killed out by grazing herds; then the shifting sands prevent aught but sage from maintaining a foothold.

The bases of the main peaks have an elevation of about 8000 feet; thence they rise rapidly, drawing themselves aloof from the life of the plains. And, indeed, it is only those birds which pass up into these uppermost levels which can properly be called mountain inhabitants, the great parks thus forming the real dividing ground between the summer camps of the hardier lowland birds and the homes of those to the manor born. Nor do the straggling migrants but rarely wander over the mountains themselves, but, instead, into these parks.

The latitudinal range of birds in the United States has been quite fully worked out, and notes on the close connection between vertical and geographical distribution are not few; yet, so far as I know, no one has tabulated the vertical range. References to elevations at which birds have been found in summer are quite frequent. Especially is this the case in Allen's 'Ornithological Reconnoissance in Kansas,' etc., and Ridgway's 'Ornithology of the 40th Parallel,' and many are given by Mr. T. M. Trippe in Coues's 'Birds of the Northwest.' I have freely borrowed from these sources, as well as from Henshaw's 'Report' on birds in volume V of Wheeler's Surveys, and from Ridgway's paper on Colorado Birds in 'Bull. Essex Inst.', Vol. V, No. 11.

One working in different parts of the State will soon perceive the floral limits to be quite sharply defined. To a certain, though less extent, the birds also are shut in by almost intangible barriers.

1885.] DREW on the Vertical Range of Birds in Colorado.

But so evident is it that food supply is the main factor in bird distribution—this regulated by vegetation, and this in turn by climatic influences—that it only needs be said that where food is, there the birds will be found: as, *e.g.*, Creepers and Woodpeckers at 11.000 feet in winter, and Ouzels at the same season feeding in the icy torrents as high as 9000 feet.

Most birds range high up in summer and lower in fall; some have a range the reverse of this; while others early reach their nesting-sites and remain until the time for the complete semiannual migration comes round.

Mr. T. M. Trippe, in 'Birds of the North-West,' p. 228, has noted the over-migration in spring of *Oreoscoptes montanus*. This trait is common to many, if not all, birds in vertical migration, though I believe not in latitudinal movements. Another peculiarity of vertical migration is the upward range of many birds during the Indian summer days of autumn, e. g., Sturnella neglecta, Scolecophagus cyanocephalus, Gymnocitta cyanocephala. This I believe to be the result of a scarcity of food at lower levels, though a somewhat similar reverse migration has been noted at the same season on the New England coast. (See B. N. O. C., Oct., 1880, p. 237, and Coues, B. N. W., p. 521.)

The following list, containing the results of five years' work in the State, is believed to be a complete one of the birds found within the boundaries of Colorado. To the south, in New Mexico, climate, and to the north lower average elevation of the mountains, causes considerable variation in the vertical range of birds. But in Colorado, I think, this range is nearly uniform, there being but few birds of the list not of general distribution in the State, and these are chiefly found in the southern portion. Mountain ridges en échelon combine to catch many a straggling bird. Several such are entered on but a single record, and while showing nothing of distribution, yet may be of interest in future work. Some of those accredited on scanty data are followed by the name of the authority. In the parks are found the only apologies for lakes which the State affords, and around them the few Water Birds which remain during the summer cluster to breed. In many of the upper valleys beaver streams often provide suitable homes for isolated pairs of Ducks, but by far the greater number of our Water Birds are migrants.

No claim of completeness is made, the notes being offered as a basis on which to engraft other observations, and which,

13

14 DREW on the Vertical Range of Birds in Colorado. [January

with further notes on temperature and the flora, may eventually serve to show to what extent there is a correspondence between vertical and latitudinal distribution. As most of the birds noted are summer visitants, the column showing winter range is mostly blank. The upper nesting limit is usually easily determined; the lower not so readily, as many species, in suitable localities, nest down to sea-level. But in some cases, as in *Lagopus leucurus*, *Regulus calendula*, and some others, quite well-defined limits exist, above or below which few, if any, of these birds are found during the nesting season.

Lophortyx californianus, Ortyx virginianus, and perhaps some others, have been introduced in the vicinity of Denver, but probably as yet their range does not extend above 5000 feet.

The figures in the columns under the headings, 'Spring,' 'Summer,' etc., refer to elevations in feet above sea-level. The 'Breeding Range' will give the full summer distribution of those remaining through that season. In the records of spring and fall migrants I have aimed to show how *high* the birds wander, and so have merely noted the upper limit of the range of birds which are generally distributed below the altitude given. But in the case of birds of erratic or little-known distribution, both the upper and lower levels inclosing their range are given. A ? following the figures in a few cases means probability amounting almost to certainty. The 'Plains' include a large part of adjoining Kansas.

The nomenclature is that of Ridgway's 'Catalogue of the Birds of North America.' But if sub-species 'montana' is merely a modified form of Certhia familiaris rufa, why not put it so, and let it be understood that the last-named form is merely a modification of the preceding, as is now so well accepted in the case of varieties of the first remove? The same applies to Pipilo maculatus arcticus megalonyx. 1885.]

Upper Limit of range in-Breeds-Spring Summer Autumn Winter from Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola Ι. 8000 8000 Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni Hylocichla unalashkæ auduboni Plains 2. 11000 0200 11000? 3. 11500 5000 11500 Merula migratoria propinqua 13000 Plains 10000 4. 11500 11500 5.6. Oreoscoptes montanus 6000 9500 8000 9500 9500 8000 66 Mimus polyglottus 6000 5000 Galeoscoptes carolinensis Harporhynchus rufus H. cinereus bendirei (*Brewst.*) 9200 8000 8000 7: 7500 6000 7500 7500 9. 10. Cinclus mexicanus S000 10000 11500 10000 9-6000 10000 "Saxicola œnanthe" (Minot) 11. Sialia sialis 12. 5500 7500 Sialia mexicana 6000 7500 11500 5000 Sialia arctica Myiadestes townsendi 14. 6-10000 13000 5000 15. 11500 8000 10000 10-9000 Polioptila cærulea Regulus calendula 7000 7000 5000 17. 7000 7000 6000 11000 11500 10000 Regulus satrapa 9000? 10000 11000 Lophophanes inornatus griseus 19. 5000 9200 5000 5000 5-9000 8000 2-8000 Plains 20. Parus montanus 6-9500 11500 11500 21. Parus atricapillus septentrionalis 8000 11000 11000 10000 Psaltriparus plumbeus. Sitta carolinensis aculeata Sitta canadensis 6500 22. 7000 11000? 23. 6000 11000 5000 8,00 24. 8000 5000 Sitta pygmæa Certhia familiaris rufa montana 25. 6000 10000 10000 26. Ranges to timber line the year round 11500 27. 28 6000 | 12000 | 13000 | "Resident at 6000 ft."-4 Salpinctes obsoletus Plains 12000 Catherpes mexicanus conspersus Troglodytes aëdon parkmani Anorthura trog. hyemalis (*Ridgw.*) Telmatodytes palustris paludicola Anthus ludovicianus Mniotilta varia Aiken. 6000 Plains 29. 11000 10000 10000 7000 30. 66 6000 8000 8000 31. 9500 32. 9500 13000 14000 12000 13000 5500 7500 33. Helminthophaga virginiæ 6000 8000 5000 34. 7500 Helminthophaga ruficapilla (Ridgw.) 35. Helminthophaga celata 36. 6000 6000 9000 9000 Helminthophaga peregrina Parula americana Dendrœca æstiva 37.38. 5500 5500 Plains 39 6000 8000 8000 Dendræca coronata 40. 9000 Dendræca auduboni 7500 5000 7500 41. 11000 9500 11000 Dendræca maculosa 42. Dendrœca cærulea 5000 43. Dendræca striata 6000 11000 44. 11000 Dendræca graciæ 7000 7800 8000 6000 45 7000 Dendræca nigrescens Dendræca townsendi 46. 9500 5500 47. 5000 8000 5500 8000 10000 Siurus auricapillus Siurus nævius 8000 49. Siurus nævius Geothlypis macgillivrayi Geothlypis trichas Icteria virens longicauda Wilsonia pusilla Setophaga ruticilla Vireosylvia gilva swainsoni Lanivireo solitarius plumbeus Junius borgalis 5000 50. 6000 9000 9500 9000 Plains 51. 6000 6000 6000 52. 6000 6500 6500 6000 53. 9500 12000 8000 12000 11000 8000 Plains 6000 54. 5000 10000 , 7000 7500 55. 56. 6000 5000 9000 Lanius borealis 12000 57· 58. 12500 *-0500 Lanius ludovicianus excubitoroides Ampelis garrulus Ampelis cedrorum Petrochelidon lunifrons Hirundo erythrogaster Plains 9500 9500? 59. 8000 9000 5500 0000 11000 10000 9500 .. 62. 7000 8000 11000 10000 Tachycineta bicolor 66 63. 10000 Tachycineta thalassina Cotile riparia 64. 5000 9500 10500 65. Plains 6000 7000 8000 7000 8000 Stelgidopteryx serripennis 6000 Progne subis Pyranga ludoviciana Pyranga æstiva cooperi Hesperiphona vespertina 67 68 6000 6000 10000 9000 9000 69. 5000

Pinicola enucleator

70.

* Plains.

10000

8000

11500

10000 *-10000 10000 11500

16

DREW on the Vertical Range of Birds in Colorado. [January

Upper Limit of range in- Breeds -

-		Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	from	to
	Carpodacus cassini	6000	10000	0000	*-7000	5000	10000
72.	Carpodacus frontalis	0000	8000	9000	5000	4000	8000
73.	Loxia curvirostra americana	. 6000	8000		Plains	5000	8000
75.	Loxia leucoptera				10000	-	
70.	Leucosticte tephrocotis				6000		
77.	Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis				5-S000		
78.	Leucosticte atrata				5000		
79.	Leucosticte australis	12000	13500	13000	6-10000	12000	13500
80.	Ægiothus linaria	7-10000	10000	5000	*-10000	Plains	0000
81.	Astragalinus tristis	5000	0500	5000		r tains	9000
02.	Astragannus psatria	6-10000	11500	10000	*-10000	7000	11500
81	Plectrophanes nivalis (<i>Ridgway</i>)						
85.	Centrophanes lapponicus			7500	5000		
86.	Centrophanes ornatus	5000			5000	B. C. L.	
87.	Rhyncophanes maccowni	6000			5000		
88.	Centronyx bairdi	5000	8000	7000		Pl'ns?	
89.	Passerculus sandwichensis savanna	5000	5000				5000
90.	Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus	8000	12000			Plains	12000
91.	Poœcetes grammeus commis	4-10000	12000	12500			12000
92.	Chandestes grammicus strigatus	6-0000	10000	0000		66	10000
93.	Zonotrichia leucophrys	6-10000	12500	10000	6000?	8000	12500
91.	Zonotrichia gambeli intermedia	6000	12500	10000	0000.	0000	12300
95.	Spizella montana	0500			0000		
97.	Spizella domestica arizonæ	6000	9000	9000		5000	9000
98.	Spizella pallida	6000	6000	-		Plains	6000
99.	Spizella breweri	6-9000	8000			"	8000
100.	Junco aikeni	5-10000		9000	*-S000		3
101.	Junco hiemalis	8000			*-7000		
102.	Junco oregonus	6000		11500	*-6000		
103.	Junco annectens	0-10000	* 2000	10000	5000	-	10000
104.	Junco cantceps Amphicping helli (<i>Ridgrugy</i>)	0-10000	6500	9000	5000	7500	6500
105.	Amphispiza belli nevadensis		7000				7000
107	Melospiza fasciata fallax	6000	8000		5000	5000	8000
108.	Melospiza lincolni	6500	11500	, 9000	5	5000	11500
100.	Passerella iliaca schistacea (Ridg.)		7000				7000
110.	Pipilo maculatus arcticus megalonyx	9500	9000	8000	5000	5000	9000
III.	Pipilo chlorurus	7500	11500	9000		5000	11500
112.	Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus		0		5000		0
113.	Pipilo aberti Zeneladia malanaganhala	6000	8000	8000		Plains	8000
114.	Cuiraça corrulea	0000	5500	0000		1 Tams	5000
115.	Passerina cyanea (Ridgway)		5500				3300
117.	Passerina amœna	6000	7000	7000		66	7000
118.	Cardinalis virginianus		1		5000		
110.	Spiza americana		6000	6000		**	6000
120.	Calamospiza bicolor	6-9200	8000	8000		"	8000
121.	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	6000					0
122.	Molothrus ater	6000	8000				8000
123.	Xanthocephalus icterocephalus	6000	9500	9500			7500
124.	Ageiæus priæniceus	6000	9000	7000			8000
125.	Icterus sourius	0000	9200	10000		66	6000
120.	Icterns galbula		5000			1 66	6000
128.	Icterus bullocki	6000	10000			5000	10000
120.	Scolecophagus cyanocephalus	6000	10000	13000	4-0000	Plains	10000
130.	Quiscalus purpureus æneus		5000		1	66	5000
131.	Corvus corax carnivorus		13000	14000	5-10000		
132.	Corvus cyptoleucus		6000		5000	4000	6000
133.	Corvus frugivorus		7000	7000		1	7000
134.	Picicorvus columbianus	9000	11500	13000	7-9000	6500?	11500
135.	Bion mustica hudsonica	5000	8000	0-13500	0000	5000	8000
130.	Cyanocitta stelleri macrolopha	6-1000	11000	10000	3-9000	4000	10000
137.	Anhelocoma woodhousei	5000	8000	13000	5-10000	5000	8000
130.	Perisoreus canadensis capitalis	5000	1 +	9500	5000	\$000	11500
140.	Eremophila alpestris leucolæma	5-10000	13000	13000	5-9000)	13000
	and the second		0	0			

* Plains.

† Keeps near timber-line the year round.

1885.]

17

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	-	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	from	to
141.	Eremonhila alnestris chrysolæma		7000			Plains	7000
142.	Tyrannus carolinensis	7500	6000			66	6000
143.	Tyrannus verticalis	6000	7000			66	7000
144.	Tyrannus vociferans	6000	7000			"	7000
145.	Myiarchus cinerascens		7000			4000	7000
146.	Sayornis sayi	6000	8000			Plains	8000
147.	Contopus borealis	6000	12000	10000		7000	12000
148.	Contopus richardsoni	6000	11500	10000		Plains "	11000
149.	Empidonax uniterns	0000	8000	8000		66	8000
150.	Empidonax pusitius	6000	0000	0000			0000
152.	Empidonax hammondi	6000	8000			66	8000
153.	Empidonax obscurus	6000	10500			7500	10500
154.	Trochilus alexandri (Ridgway)	0000	6000				6000
155.	Selasphorus platycercus	5000	13000	9000		4000	11000
156.	Selasphorus rufus	5	15000			6500	10500
157.	Cypselus saxatilis	6000	13500			6000	12500
158.	Cypseloides niger borealis		14000	14000		10000	12000
159.	Phalænoptila nuttalli	6000	8000			Plains	8000
100.	Chordeiles popetue henryi	5000	12000	9500			11000
101.	Picus villosus narrisi Diana publicaria maindroni	6-10000	11000	10000	5-10000	4500	11500
102.	Picus pubescens gairdneri Picuidas tridactulis dorsalis	0-10000	12000	10000	5-10000	4500	11500
103.	Sphurapiene varius (Ridgeway)	10000	12000	10000	10000	0000	12000
104.	Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis	8000	12000	0500		1000	12000
166	Sphyrapicus thyroideus	6000	12000	7000		5000	10000
167.	Centurus carolinus (<i>Ridgwav</i>)	0000	10000	1000		3000	10000
168.	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	6000	11000	5000		Plains	10000
160.	Melanerpes torquatus	6000	8000	7000	4-7000	5000	8000
170.	Colaptes auratus mexicanus	6-10000	12000	12000	3-5000	Plains	12000
171.	Ceryle alcyon	9500	9500		00	"	9500
172.	Geococcyx californiainus		5000		5000		5000
173.	Coccyzus americanus		8000			4000	8000
174.	Conurus carolinensis	,t	t t	T.	1	Distant	
175.	Asio americanus	6000	11000	10000	*-10000	Plains	11000
170.	Scops asio maxwellæ		0000	5000	5000	4000	8000
177.	Bubo virginianus arcticus	11000	11500	12000	*-11000	4000	11500
170.	Spectyto cunicularia hypogra	+ 11000	11500	13000	+	Plains	0000
180.	Hierofalco mexicanus polyagrus	6000	10000	10000	+	66	10000
181.	Falco peregrinus nævius	0000	10000			66	10000
182.	Æsalon columbarius		9500			66	
183.	Æsalon richardsoni	6000	11000			66	
184.	Tinnunculus sparverius	6-10000	11500	13000		66	11500
185.	Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis		9000	10500			9000
186.	Circus hudsonius	6000	10000	13500			10000
187.	Accipiter cooperi	0000	9000			66	9000
188.	Accipiter fuscus	9500	9000	1			10000
189.	Astur atricapillus striatulus	9500	10000	12500	\$ 10000	66	12000
190.	Buteo cooperi (<i>Ridgman</i>)	11000	12000	13300	-10000		12000
102	Buteo swainsoni	6-10000	10000	13000		"	11500
103.	Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis				6000		
194.	Archibuteo ferrugineus	6000			6000		10000
195.	Aquila chrysaëtus canadensis	6-10000	12000	14000	*-11000	6000	12500
196.	Haliaëtus leucocephalus	Sood					
197.	Cathartes aura	6000	10000	11000		Plains	
198.	Columba fasciata	7000	S000	8000		5000	8000
199.	Zenaidura carolinensis	6000	11000	12000		Plains	10000
200.	Melopelia leucoptera		11500	Post in the second	2 2 2 2 2 2		-
201.	Meleagris gallopavo americana	1	7000	TOTOS	H. 10000	6000	7000
202.	Ronasa umballa umballaidas	10000	11500	12500	7-10000	0000	7000
203.	Lagopus lengurus	12000	12500	12000	8-12000	11500	13500
204.	Cupidonia cupido	12000	13500	5000	*	Plains	5000
205.	Pedigecetes phasianellus columbianus	7000	7000	7000	*-7000	66	7000
207.	Centrocercus urophasianus	1000	9500	1 100	*-7000	66	9500
208.	Ardea herodias		5000			Sec. 1	5000
209.	Garzetta candidissima	ş	ş	ş	ş		

Upper Limit of range in - Breeds-

* Plains. ‡ Resident and breeds up to 9000 feet. † See B. N. O. C., Vol. II, No. 2, p. 50. § See American Naturalist, Vol. X, p. 430.

18 DREW on the Vertical Range of Birds in Colorado. [January

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Upper limit of range in- Breeds-

-		Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	from	to
210. 211. 212.	Nyctherodius violaceus (<i>Ridgway</i>) Botaurus lentiginosus Tantalus loculator (<i>Ridgway</i>)	5000	7000			Plains	7000
213.	Plegadis guarauna		7000				70003
214.	Oxyechus vociferus	0000	10500			**	10500
216.	Podasocys montana	6000	8000	5000		**	8000
217.	Gallinago media wilsoni	10000	10000		5000	6000	10000
218.	Macroramphus griseus	6000	5000	10500			5000?
219.	Actrodomas bairdi		7000	13000			7000
221.	Actrodomas minutella		7000				7000
222.	Pelidna alpina americana (Ridgway)	-		-			
223.	Ereunetes pusillus	7000		7000		Pl: ins	7000 :
224.	Totanus melanoleucus		7000	1500		1	7000
226.	Totanus flavipes		7000				7000
227.	Rhyacophilus solitarius	6000	10000		•	5000	10000
228.	Symphemia seinipalmata	6000	7000			Plains	7000
229.	Tringoides macularius	6000	12000	0000			11000
230.	Numenius longirostris		5000	9000		,,	5000
232.	Lobipes hyperboreus	9500	Suoo		5000		
233.	Steganopus wilsoni (Ridgway)		6000				6000
234.	Recurvirostra americana	5000	8000	17.10.53		**	8000
235.	Rallus virginianus	1 5000	5000			SUL	5000
237.	Porzana carolina (Ridgway)		7000				7000
238.	Gallinula galeata (Allen & Brewster)	6000					-
239.	Fulica americana		8000				8000
240.	Grus canadensis		7500	14000		5000	7500
241.	Chen hyperboreus		1500	\$000	7500	3000	1300
243.	Bernicla canadensis	10000	10000		15		10000
214.	Bernicla canadensis hutchinsi				5000		
245.	Anas boschas	6000		10500	*-9500	5000	9000
240.	Chanlelasmus streperus		8000	10000		Plains	8000
245.	Dafila acuta		6000		5000		6000
249.	Mareca americana		8000	8000		66	8000
250.	Spatula clypeata	6000	8000	10000			8000
251.	Querquedula discors	10000	8000. 8000	10000		5000	8000
252.	Nettion carolinensis	10000	8000	10000		Plains	8000
254.	Aix sponsa		8000				8000
255.	Fulix marila			9000		1. S	
256.	Fulix affinis Fulix colloris			9000	11/13/1.91		
257.	Æthya vallisneria			0000	5000		
259.	Æthya americana (Ridgway)						
260.	Clangula islandica		8000		1.1.1	-	8000
261.	Clangula glaucium americana			9000	1. 1. 1.		
252.	Histrionicus minutus		10000	10000		7000	10000
254.	(Edemia americana (Ridgway)		10000	10000		1000	10000
255.	Erismatura rubida		10000	11000		7000	10000
266.	Mergus merganser americanus		11500				
267.	Pelecanus erythrophynchus (Ridgway)		1000				1200
200.	Larus delawarensis	6000	6000	0500			6000
270.	Xema sabinei (Ridgway)			3555			
271.	Sterna forsteri (Aiken)	6000				1 10 1	6000
272.	Hydrochelidon lari, surinamensis				5000		
273.	Podicens holboelli			10000		10000	
275	Dytes auritus californicus	7000	8000	10000			8000
276.	Podilymbus podiceps (Ridgway)				-		
277.	Colymbus torquatus (Ridgway)	1018					
					Contract in	1000	
			1	1	1		

* Plains.



Drew, Frank M. 1885. "On the Vertical Range of Birds in Colorado." *The Auk* 2, 11–18. <u>https://doi.org/10.2307/4625164</u>.

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