

ADDITIONS TO MITCHELL'S LIST OF THE SUMMER BIRDS OF SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.¹

BY FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY.²

IN THE course of our Biological Survey work in the summer of 1903, when on our way from the Staked Plains to the southern Rocky Mountains in June, and afterwards in rounding the southern end of the mountains and following up the eastern side of the range in July and August, Mr. Bailey and I spent nearly two months in San Miguel County, crossing a large part of its territory. From the Staked Plains we drove north almost half way across the county to the Canadian River, where we were only about twenty-five miles from the eastern boundary of the county, when we turned west, crossing to the extreme western boundary, between Pecos and Glorieta. Through the northwest corner of the county we made two sections, following north into Mora County on the Pecos River Forest Reserve, and after our return to Pecos making another north and south section, driving from Bernal up through Las Vegas and across the northern line of San Miguel into Mora County.

In this way we worked the most marked types of country that the county affords, crossing the plains, climbing the mesas that, in the breaking down of the Rocky Mountain plateau are left as river-cut blocks on the plains, following along the rich fertile bottoms and narrow cañons of the Pecos River, and exploring the mountains of the county on the way to the head of the Pecos. The plains and mesas of the northeastern part of the county, however, we did not visit at all, and work in that section should be done to complete the county records.

In the breeding season the birds of the treeless plains which we crossed in the south central part of the county were Horned Larks and Meadowlarks, the Meadowlarks being found only in

¹ The Summer Birds of San Miguel County, New Mexico. By Walton I. Mitchell. *Auk*, Vol. XV, 1898, pp. 306-311.

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depressions on the plains where there was moisture. In the higher reaches of the juniper and nut pine — Upper Sonoran — section, some of the characteristic birds were Piñon and Woodhouse Jays, Western Lark Sparrows, Cañon Towhees, Gray Titmice, and Lead-colored Bush-tits. In going from the Staked Plains northwest toward the Rocky Mountains, the mesas rising from the plains grew successively higher, and Transition zone yellow pines were reported to us as far east as Pablo Montoya Grant. The first that we saw were in the central part of the county, on the top of Mesa del Agua de la Yegua, which reaches an altitude of 7000 feet, rising 1000 feet from the juniper plain. With the pines we found many of the birds that usually penetrate the Transition zone, including the Long-crested Jay, Lewis Woodpecker, the Western Wood Pewee, Western Chipping Sparrow, Grace Warbler, and the Rocky Mountain and Pygmy Nuthatches. In the southwestern part of the county the cultivated bottom lands of the Pecos afforded such birds as the Kingbird, San Diego Redwing, Black-headed Grosbeak, Arkansas Goldfinch, Yellow Warbler, and Long-tailed Chat. The extreme northwestern part of the county takes in the southeastern end of the Rocky Mountains and part of the upper Pecos River. This Dr. Mitchell writes me he did not explore, his mountain work being confined to the "eastern drainage of the Vegas ranges." Most of the mountain birds were found by him, however, on the eastern side of the range. Those which we found on the Pecos within the county included such species as the Dusky Grouse, Band-tailed Pigeon, Merriam Turkey, Clark Crow, Mountain Chickadee, Solitaire, and Chestnut-backed and Mountain Bluebirds. As the San Miguel County line apparently crosses the mountains of the Upper Pecos at about 10,500 feet, I have not listed species such as the Gray-headed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Audubon Hermit Thrush, which we found at 11,000 feet, although there are peaks east of the Pecos that we did not visit which reach as high as 11,500 feet, on which these birds probably occur, and all of the species of course belong to San Miguel County as migrants, passing through it on their way to and from the higher parts of the mountains.

As we entered the county too late to find the spring migrants

and left it too early to see most of the fall migrants, we recorded mainly resident birds. To Dr. Mitchell's list of eighty-five species we added fifty-six species from actual records within the county lines, and four others from inference, as they breed five hundred feet above and must descend to migrate. As Dr. Mitchell's work was done, as he explains, "in spare moments and on Sundays," and as our work was done, of necessity, largely in passing, more thorough work in the region, especially during the migrations, would doubtless furnish additional species as well as much interesting material. In going over the following list it should be borne in mind that no work was done, either by Dr. Mitchell or ourselves in the northern part of the county, east of the line between Las Vegas and Mora, and that the high mesas east of Mesa del Agua de la Yegua, if carefully worked, would probably give eastward extensions of range to the mountain birds of the county.

Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis. BLACK TERN.—Several seen August 31 on a pond near Las Vegas.

Querquedula discors. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—A pair were seen June 20 on a pond on the plains west of Mesa Rica. Dr. Mitchell says that the Blue-wing while common in migration "does not remain to breed," but several pairs were seen June 2 on a pond at Santa Rosa about forty miles southwest of Mesa Rica, and three full grown young were shot on Black Lake, in Colfax County, September 9.

Ardea herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON.—Seen July 2, along the Pecos at Ribera.

Phalaropus lobatus. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—One seen August 31 in the gray winter plumage, on a pond near Las Vegas.

Steganopus tricolor. WILSON PHALAROPE.—A flock seen August 31 about a pond near Las Vegas.

Actodromas bairdi. BAIRD SANDPIPER.—Seen August 29 to 30 near Las Vegas along a small creek in a field, and one taken September 2 at a pond on the plains twelve miles north of Las Vegas.

Actodromas minutilla. LEAST SANDPIPER.—Seen August 29 to 31 along the stony bottom of a small creek near Las Vegas.

Totanus flavipes. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—Several seen August 31 on a pond near Las Vegas.

Helodromas solitarius cinnamomeus. WESTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Several found August 29 to 31 along a meadow creek near Las Vegas.

Numenius longirostris. LONG-BILLED CURLEW.—Three pairs were

seen on the plains June 20, one with three half grown whitish downy young. On June 22, two or three pairs were found driving a lobo from their nesting ground.

Callipepla squamata. SCALED PARTRIDGE.—Common in the juniper and piñon pine belt across the southern part of the county as far north as Ribera.

Columba fasciata. BAND-TAILED PIGEON.—A few were seen on the Upper Pecos.¹

Accipiter velox. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—One seen August 28 near Las Vegas.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus. BALD EAGLE.—Seen at 8000 feet in the Pecos Mountains.

Bubo virginianus pallescens. WESTERN HORNED OWL.—Heard in the Pecos Mountains, and at Solitario on the eastern foothills.

Asyndesmus torquatus. LEWIS WOODPECKER.—Seen June 25 at about 6500 feet in the yellow pines on the Mesa del Agua de la Yegua, and on September 4, in the pines near Solitario Peak.

Selasphorus rufus. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD.—At Pecos, at the south base of the Rocky Mountains, on August 25, an adult male *rufus* was seen, doubtless on its way down from the mountains. On August 29 another was seen a few miles north of Las Vegas.

Stellula calliope. CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD.—On the western border of the county, three miles south of Pecos, a Calliope Hummingbird was taken August 25.

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—Though apparently unrecorded from New Mexico, Kingbirds were found on the Pecos River in two localities. Between La Cuesta and Sena on June 30 we saw them over the cultivated fields and orchards of the bottom lands. At Ribera on July 2, when we were camped in the junipers above the Mexican corn fields, a Raven (*Corvus sinuatus*) stole into the junipers apparently in search of a brood of nestling robins. The cries of the old robin attracted a kingbird which flew in protesting vociferously, and gave chase so hotly that the raven beat a hasty retreat. While neither the plains, the deserts, nor the mountains offer attractions to kingbirds, this section of the Pecos River, with its rich bottom lands which have been cultivated for centuries by the Mexicans of the old pueblos, affords ideal breeding grounds for the birds, and had it not been for the absence of naturalists their presence would doubtless have been discovered long since.

Tyrannus vociferans. CASSIN KINGBIRD.—Common. Often seen with *T. verticalis*.

Myiarchus cinerascens. ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER.—*Myiarchus* was a common bird of the junipers in the southern part of the county in

¹ Additional Notes on the Birds of the Upper Pecos. Auk, Vol. XXI, 1904, pp. 349-363.

June. It was also seen, June 25, at about 6500 feet in the yellow pines on top of Mesa del Agua de la Yegua.

Nuttallornis borealis. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—Found in the Pecos Mountains.

Contopus richardsonii. WESTERN WOOD PEWEE.—Near the Canadian River on June 21, *richardsonii* was found brooding eggs in a hackberry. Pewees were also seen June 25, at about 6000 feet on the side of Mesa del Agua de la Yegua, and on August 26 at Ribera on the Pecos.

Otocoris alpestris occidentalis. MONTEZUMA HORNED LARK.—A form of *Otocoris*, identified as *occidentalis* by Mr. Oberholser, was common on the driest part of the plains in the south central part of the country.

Corvus brachyrhynchos. CROW.—Seen along the Pecos from El Macho to Ribera, at Old Bernal, and near Solitario Peak north of Las Vegas.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.—Eight were seen on August 29 a mile north of Las Vegas.

Hesperiphona vespertina montana. WESTERN EVENING GROSBEAK.—Flocks and a few pairs were found in the Pecos Mountains.

Carpodacus cassinii. CASSIN FINCH.—One seen July 15 in the Pecos Mountains.

Loxia curvirostra bendirei. BENDIRE CROSSBILL.—Common at 11,000 feet in the Pecos Mountains and seen August 21 at 8000 feet.

Spinus pinus. PINE FINCH.—Common in the Pecos Mountains.

Passer domesticus. ENGLISH SPARROW.—Dr. Mitchell states that at Las Vegas "the House Finch takes the place of the English Sparrow, which is conspicuously absent," but in its rapid movement westward the sparrow has now thoroughly established itself in New Mexico, and was found by us not only on the line of the railroad at Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Las Vegas, but at the remote Mexican adobe towns of Sapello and Taos.

Coturniculus bairdii. BAIRD SPARROW.—One taken September 2 in the tall grass bordering a pond on the plains, twelve miles north of Las Vegas.

Spizella pallida. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.—Common the last of August in the fields north of Las Vegas.

Spizella breweri. BREWER SPARROW.—Flocks were seen the last of August in the fields and along the fences north of Las Vegas.

Amphispiza bilineata deserticola. DESERT SPARROW.—Seen June 24 in the southern part of the county as far up as Rio Concha. Seen July 7 at Santa Fe. These records help fill out the borderline of the range of the species.

Peucaea cassinii. CASSIN SPARROW.—Seen June 28 singing in the mesquite near Cabra Spring, in the south central part of the county.

Aimophila ruficeps scottii. SCOTT SPARROW.—One was taken June 25 in the Upper Sonoran zone at about 6000 feet, on the side of Mesa del Agua de la Yegua. This is a northward extension of range from western Texas.

Pipilo maculatus megalonyx. SPURRED TOWHEE.—Common June 25 in the scrub live oak and pines on the top of Mesa del Agua de la Yegua, and also in the juniper belt west of Pecos.

Guiraca cærulea lazula. WESTERN BLUE GROSBEEK.—Seen July 2 and 11, and August 26, in the junipers between Ribera and Glorieta.

Calamospiza melanocorys. LARK BUNTING.—A male was seen June 24 on the plains between Lopazville and Cabra Springs in the central part of the county. If this was a breeding record it would extend the breeding range southward from Colorado. From August 29 to September 1, a mile north of Las Vegas, small flocks were frequently seen passing over, and numbers were flushed from the fences.

Piranga ludoviciana. WESTERN TANAGER.—Found in the yellow pines in the Pecos Mountains and their foothills in the breeding season, and one was found at the foot of Bernal Mesa on August 27.

Piranga hepatica. HEPATIC TANAGER.—Found in the yellow pines of mesa tops—on June 25, a pair on Mesa del Agua de la Yegua, and August 27, two males and two or three females on Bernal Mesa. The Mesa del Agua record is a slight extension of range.

Hirundo erythrogaster. BARN SWALLOW.—Seen frequently about Mexican adobes. One was found June 29 nesting under the eaves of a house at Gallinas Springs.

Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides. WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE.—A shrike was seen on June 20 at its nest in a forestiera tree by the Rio Concha in the central part of the county. On September 1, two were seen on telegraph poles a few miles north of Las Vegas.

Vireo gilvus swainsoni. WESTERN WARBLING VIREO.—Found breeding in the Pecos Mountains.

Helminthophila celata. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.—Taken in the Pecos Mountains in July.

Helminthophila celata lutescens. LUTESCENT WARBLER.—Taken in the Pecos Mountains in August.

Dendroica nigrescens. BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER.—One taken three miles south of Pecos, July 3, when singing among the nut pines and junipers.

Geothlypis tolmiei. MACGILLIVRAY WARBLER.—Taken in the Pecos Mountains July 15.

Icteria virens longicauda. LONG-TAILED CHAT.—Seen June 30 to July 2 in the Pecos bottoms from La Cuesta to Ribera.

Wilsonia pusilla pileolata. PILEOLATED WARBLER.—Found in the Pecos Mountains.

Oroscoptes montanus. SAGE THRASHER.—Two seen August 27 in the junipers near Ribera.

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus. WESTERN MOCKINGBIRD.—Found in the Lower Sonoran zone in the south central part of the county. A nest containing young was found June 26 in a cactus tree (*Opuntia arborescens*) along the Concha.

Bæolophus inornatus griseus. GRAY TITMOUSE.— Common in the juniper and piñon pines of the Upper Sonoran zone.

Parus atricapillus septentrionalis. LONG-TAILED CHICKADEE.— Found in the Pecos Mountains.

Psaltiriparus plumbeus. LEAD-COLORED BUSH-TIT.— Fairly common in the junipers. On the side of Mesa del Agua de la Yegua it was found as high as 6500 feet.

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

BY R. W. WILLIAMS, JR.

THE present list is the result of spare moments devoted to ornithology since the summer of 1896. I had hoped, ere this, to present a more complete and satisfactory catalogue of the birds of my county, but the extensive field has proved too broad for the limited time I could give to the subject. I intend this as a basis for future work and publish it now in the hope that it may be of some value to workers in geographic distribution.

It will be noticed that many species, particularly of the Mniotiltidæ, which occur in the peninsula are not recorded here and I feel safe in asserting that they do not come to my part of Florida. They may pass over during migration but continue their course uninterruptedly to some other portion of the State. A few ducks which undoubtedly occur have escaped me. Some of the Limicolæ are not recorded, but that they occasionally visit the county there can be no doubt. I have here recorded only those species about which there could arise no question; have carefully eliminated inferences without strong evidence to support them, and where necessary have given the authority upon which I rely. The list has been annotated as briefly as was consistent with accuracy and a fair presentation of the subject.

A word about the topography and climate was considered advisable, and though very general, it is hoped will convey an idea of the country.



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