

BIRDS
--OF--
ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL
PARK

By
H. R. GREGG
Park Naturalist



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION

Publication No. 4

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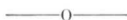
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PREFACE



The material in this publication has been made available through the courtesy of Rocky Mountain National Park, from the records and files maintained in its offices.

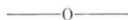
Rocky Mountain Nature Association publishes this book as a contribution to the spread of knowledge concerning the natural and human history of the park, this being one of a series of subjects presented in similar manner.

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Especial credit is given here to Nature Magazine, and to Messrs. Alfred M. Bailey and Robert J. Niedrach, of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, for the use of illustrations appearing in this volume. Acknowledgment likewise is tendered to Mr. Gordon Alexander, of the Department of Zoology of Colorado University, to Ed. Andrews, of Estes Park, and to Mr. Niedrach for suggestions and contributions that have aided in the compilation of this list.

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INTRODUCTION



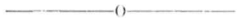
Hobbies are an important factor in the enrichment of life. Almost all humans possess some mild mania for pursuit of a special interest. Craftwork, stamps, antiques, knitting, and painting are examples of popular hobbies. In Rocky Mountain National Park, an absorbing, year-round hobby begs for followers. The study of the types, habits, movements, and relative abundance of birds offers a splendid field of interest, and one that requires little specialized knowledge. Because this study has been only poorly pursued during past years, the knowledge of the true status of the birds of Rocky Mountain National Park is necessarily limited. Thus, the present list will be enlarged from time to time by discoveries of observers who work in the region, and it should not be understood that this publication is all-comprehensive.

This book is not intended as a field guide for identification of birds, but finds its usefulness as a check against the identifications made with manuals prepared for that purpose. Seeing a bird in the field, one may use an illustrated or descriptive manual, and find what appears to be its description. Referring to this book, the status of the species in Rocky Mountain National Park can immediately be determined. If the bird in question does not appear in this list, either the observer has added to the list a new species or form, or his identification is erroneous. In the former case, he will have had the thrill of contributing an original record in this region; in the latter instance, he can re-check, and arrive at proper identification.

To assist the summer visitor in identifying birds seen in the park a simple artificial key is included in the appendix. This key, with a few additions and alterations, is that devised by Mr. Dean Babcock in the publication **BIRDS AND PLANTS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK**, a volume that is now out of print. It is reproduced by his kind permission.

This list follows the order established by the American Ornithologists' Union **CHECKLIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS**, Fourth Edition, 1931. Both common and scientific names are cited.

Frequent reference is made to authors and authorities for records. The appendix provides a bibliography and directory for these references.



GAVIIFORMES

Family—Gaviidae. Loons

Lesser Loon—(*Gavia immer elasson*.)

Probably a rare migratory visitant at Grand Lake. Specimen collected on Grand Lake some 25 years ago, now is a mount in the Kaufman House, at Grand Lake. This subspecies is accepted for the specimen on the basis of analysis of all known Colorado skins of *Gavia immer* by Bailey and Niedrach of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, as discussed in **THE AUK**, Vol. 54, No. 4, P. 524. They found only one skin among those examined that was attributed to the subspecies *immer*.

COLYMBIFORMES

Family—Colymbidae. Grebes

Eared Grebe—(*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*.)

Known as a spring and fall migrant at the east edge of

the park. Records for 1936-37 by Potts and Gregg, from Lily and Mary's lakes. Sclater quotes breeding record at Grand Lake, 8300 ft., by E. R. Warren. A letter from Mr. Warren states he did not see them breeding. It is doubtful if it can be referred to as "frequent breeder up to 9,000 ft." as classed by Babcock.

Western Grebe—(Aechmophorus occidentalis.)

Sclater cites Kellogg for a record at Estes Park, fall migrant. An unidentified grebe, of the larger group, possibly referable to this species was seen on Mary's Lake in the spring of 1937 by Gregg. It should be considered a rare migrant.



Western Grebe



Great Blue Heron

Pied-Billed Grebe—(*Podilymbus p. podiceps*.)

Spring and fall transient, regular, in small numbers. Several fall records for 1936 by M. K. Potts, at both Lily and Mary's lakes, and Mary's Lake record, 5-8-37 by Gregg.

CICONIIFORMES

Family—Ardeidae. Herons and Egrets

Great Blue Heron—(*Ardea h. herodius*.)

Regular spring migrant in small numbers, and occasional fall migrant. Several spring records in park files, at Moraine Park, Sheep Lake, Mary's Lake, and Beaver Point. A November record for 1937, on Thompson River, just east of Estes Park Village, was established.

Family—Threskiornithidae. Ibises and Spoonbills

White-Faced Blossy Ibis—(*Plegadis guarauna*.)

Irregular spring migrant or vagrant on lakes at east boundary of park. One record from Mary's Lake, 5-11-37, Gregg.

PELECANIFORMES

Family—Pelecanidae. Pelicans

White Pelican—(*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*.)

Probably only occurs as a rare or accidental vagrant in migration. Only record based upon mounted specimen in cottage of Mr. George A. Peak,, at Grand Lake. This bird was killed on Grand Lake several years ago.

ANSERIFORMES

Family—Anatidae. Swans, Geese, and Ducks

Canada Goose—(*Branta canadensis* ssp.)

(It is problematical whether the geese migratory in this region are of *canadensis*, *hutchinsi*, or *minima*, there being no skins from the park, and all three subspecies being known from Colorado.)

Babcock cites it as migrant, spring and fall. No definite records are in park files, but it doubtless crosses the eastern edge of the park in migration on occasions, and may sit down on some of the lakes or marshes. It is likely a regular migrant at Grand Lake.

Common Mallard—(*Anas p. platyrhynchos*.)

A common migrant and frequent summer resident, breeding in the park up to 8,500 feet or higher. Numerous records, from March to November, are in park files.

Gadwall—(*Chaulelasmus streperus*.)

Probably a regular migrant in small numbers at eastern edge of park. One female was seen on Sheep lake, in October, 1937 by Robert J. Niedrach and Alfred M. Bailey. Kellogg reported the species as breeding in Estes Park in 1890, and Niedrach believes it may breed in small numbers in the park.

Baldpate—(*Mareca americana*.)

Probably a regular migrant in small numbers in the spring, at the east edge of the park. A pair were seen on Mary's Lake on 3-24-37 by Potts and Gregg. Identification was unmistakable through powerful glasses with several manuals in hand.

American Pintail—(*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*.)

Regular migrant in small numbers at east edge of park. Spring records on Mary's Lake: 4-16-36, Potts; 3-12-37, seven birds, R. K. Grater. One fall record, Sheep Lake, 11-1-34, by Quaintance.

Green-Winged Teal—(*Nettion carolinense*.)

Kellogg referred to this species as a common summer resident at Estes Park in 1890; Babcock calls it summer resident on lakes and ponds below 9000 feet. It is common in migration, and at present is occasional breeder in park.



Blue-Winged Teal

Blue-Winged Teal—(*Querquedula discors*.)

Fairly common as migrant in April and May, and in September and October on ponds and lakes on the eastern edge of the park. Records are from Sheep Lake, Rearing Pond in Horseshoe Park, and Mary's Lake by Potts, A. Murie, and Gregg.

Cinnamon Teal—(*Querquedula cyanoptera*.)

Probably a migrant regularly in small numbers. Records in park files are: 5-9-35, Sheep Lake, Potts; 4-16-36, Mary's Lake, one pair; 4-29-36, Sheep Lake, one male, Potts.

Shoveller—(*Spatula clypeata*.)

Regular spring migrant in small numbers. Two records in park files: 4-16-36, Mary's Lake, one pair, Potts; 5-20-37,

Sheep Lake, one pair, together with pair of Blue-Winged Teal, Gregg.

Redhead—(*Nyroca americana*.)

Regular migrant and occasional summer resident, breeding lakes and ponds up to 9,000 ft. Definite records in park files: 10-26—11-5-37, Mary's Lake, two males, one female, Gregg; 11-8-37, Mary's Lake, four males, one female, Gregg. Ed Andrews tells me he saw a pair in midsummer while fishing on a beaver pond above Glacier Basin Campground on Boulder Brook, presumably nesting. Niedrach says he is familiar with the species as nesting in the park and at comparable localities north and south.

Canvas-back—(*Nyroca valisneria*.)

Occasional migrant at eastern edge of park. One record in park files: 10-22-36, Mary's Lake, Potts.

Lesser Scaup Duck—(*Nyroca affinis*.)

Common spring migrant, occasional fall migrant. Arrives on lakes at eastern edge of park as soon as there is open water in March, remaining until late May. One fall record, in park files, 11-3-36, Mary's Lake, Gregg.

Barrow's Goldeneye—(*Glaucionetta islandica*.)

Migratory in small numbers on lakes at eastern edge of park, and probably regularly at Grand Lake. Babcock cites it as "Occasionally seen on upper beaver ponds; possibly a rare summer resident." A pair was seen on Mary's Lake, November 4, 1936, by Potts and Gregg.

White-Winged Scoter—(*Melanitta deglandi*.)

Regular migrant at Grand Lake. Niedrach informs that he saw one on Grand Lake, fall of 1937.

Ruddy Duck—(*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*.)

Migrant, in small numbers on eastern lakes. Two records

in park files: 10-22-36, Mary's Lake, Potts and Gregg; 10-27-36, Sheep Lake, Potts.

American Merganser—(*Mergus merganser americanus*.)

Regular migrant in small numbers on eastern lakes, probably regularly on Grand Lake. Park records are: 4-20-36, Sheep Lake, one pair, Potts; 4-21-37, Lily Lake, one pair, Potts.

FALCONIFORMES

Family—Cathartidae. American Vultures

Turkey Vulture—(*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*.)

Babcock: "Irregular visitant at low altitudes." Probably describes status at present. Three records in park files: 4-22-36, Deer Mt., three birds, Potts; 5-7-36, Black Canyon, one, Potts; 5-18-36, McGregor Ranch, one bird, Potts.

Family—Accipitriidae. Kites, Hawks, and Allies

Eastern Goshawk—(*Astur a. atricapillus*.)

Babcock classed this species as a rare winter resident. It is doubtless an occasional resident species on the east slope of the park, and regularly resident on the west slope in the vicinity of Grand Lake. Park records on the east side are: 4-28-36, Fall River, Potts; 5-7-36, Beaver Meadows, Potts; 5-12-36, Horseshoe Park, Potts; 4-30-37, Utilities area, Gregg. West slope records are: 8-27-36, Colorado River, 3 miles below Grand Lake, Potts; last week of June, 1928, near Grand Lake, Fred D. McLaren.

Sharp-Shinned Hawk—(*Accipter velox velox*.)

Babcock describes the species as rare summer resident in higher mountains, frequent in fall migration. Records in park files: 10-27-36, Sheep Lake, Potts. Probably Babcock's classification is descriptive of present status.



Eastern Goshawk

Cooper's Hawk—(Accipiter cooperi.)

Listed by Babcock as rare summer visitant. Widmann recorded one over Elkhorn Lodge, Estes Park, July 2, 1910. One record in park files: 5-20-37, Beaver Meadows, Gregg. Probably "not common" more accurate than rare as description of status.

Western Red-Tailed Hawk—(Buteo borealis calurus.)

Called a summer resident, May to October, by Babcock. It is doubtless far more common during this period, but is not uncommon throughout the winter in the open valleys of the park. Numerous records in park files.

Swainson's Hawk—(Buteo swainsoni.)

Called rare, at lower altitudes, by Babcock. Widmann saw one over Old Man Mountain July 12, 1910. One was seen October 6, 1936, in Tuxedo Park, by Potts and Gregg. It is probably best called uncommon summer resident. A mounted specimen, locality unknown, is in the Moraine Park Museum.

American Rough-legged Hawk—(Buteo lagopus s. johannis.)

Called a winter visitant at the park by Babcock. Probably describes its status at present. Two records in park files, 11-16-37, Beaver Meadows, Gregg, and Tuxedo Park, 1-5-38, Potts.

Ferruginous Roughleg—(Buteo regalis.)

Recorded as common in 1890, by Kellogg. Babcock calls it not common, a summer resident in lower altitudes. Widmann reported two over Fall River Valley on June 10, 1910. No definite records are included in park files, but it is probably a fairly common summer resident.

Golden Eagle—(Aquila chrysaetos canadensis.)

Permanent resident of higher elevations in small numbers.



Western Red-Tailed Hawk

Has been taken in bobcat trap on McGregor Ranch: (Shogren, Jan. 29, 1937, mounted specimen now in Hdq. Museum.) Several records for past two years from Loch Vale, Forest Canyon, Bighorn Mt., and Thunder Lake.

Bald Eagle—(*Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus*.)

Considered a rare migrant in 1890, by Kellogg; Babcock calls it "Rare but widely distributed; seen occasionally in the fall." No recent records are known, no records whatsoever in park files. Its status probably remains as described by Babcock.

Marsh Hawk—(*Circus hudsonius*.)

Babcock states: "Transient, common in fall migration (About Aug. 1st to Sept. 15.) Usually seen flying low over wet meadows, but sometimes along high ridges at timberline or above." Kleinschnitz calls it a "vertical migrant in late summer—one was seen flying high above Boulder Field on Long's Peak." Park records indicate a broader seasonal distribution, from September to April, probably making it a migrant in both spring and fall seasons, commonly in fall, occasionally in spring. 1-4-37, Beaver Meadows, Potts. (Only known winter occurrence:) 4-6-37, Meadows west of H-G Ranch, Devil's Gulch Road, Gregg; 9-2-36, Cirque below Fall River Pass, Gregg; 10-8-36, Mary's Lake, Potts and Gregg; 10-18-36, Moraine Park, Gregg.

American Osprey—(*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*.)

An occasional migrant on east side of park, and at Grand Lake. Sclater cites W. G. Smith: "Loveland, April 8, — and nesting in the mountains up to about 9,000 ft." Niedrach tells of seeing ospreys at Grand Lake, and in Estes Park, in recent years. No definite records are in park files at present.

Duck Hawk—(Falco peregrinus anatum.)

Kellogg considered the species rare in 1890. Babcock does not list it. Two spring and one summer records are in park files: 3-24-37, Stanley Meadows, Potts, (a pair of birds); 4-23-37, Stanley Meadows, one bird, Potts; 7-31-37, Specimen Mountain, pair in flight, H. C. Bryant, Gregg, Grater. From these records, it may be inferred that this species is a regular migrant in small numbers, and is an occasional summer resident.

Sparrow Hawk—(Falco sparverius ssp.)

Bergtold cites the Desert species, phalaena as frequent



Sparrow Hawk



Dusky Grouse

resident, particularly in southern Colorado, and common summer resident. Babcock referred to the specimens for the park as phalaena. Checklist distribution would indicate that local occurrences are of *s. sparverius*. It is a common summer resident, and has been seen as late as November 22.

Richardson's Pigeon Hawk—(*Falco columbaris richardsoni*.)

Kellogg classed the species as not uncommon at Estes Park in 1890. (Babcock refers to Kellogg's observation being referred to *c. columbaria*, the Eastern Pigeon Hawk, but unless observation was supplemented with specimen so classified, it probably refers to *richardsoni*.) Babcock called the species uncommon, transient. No definite records are in park files, but Niedrach informs that he has seen them here in recent years.

GALLIFORMES

Family—Tetraonidae. Grouse and Ptarmigans

Dusky Grouse—(*Dendragapus o. obscurus*.)

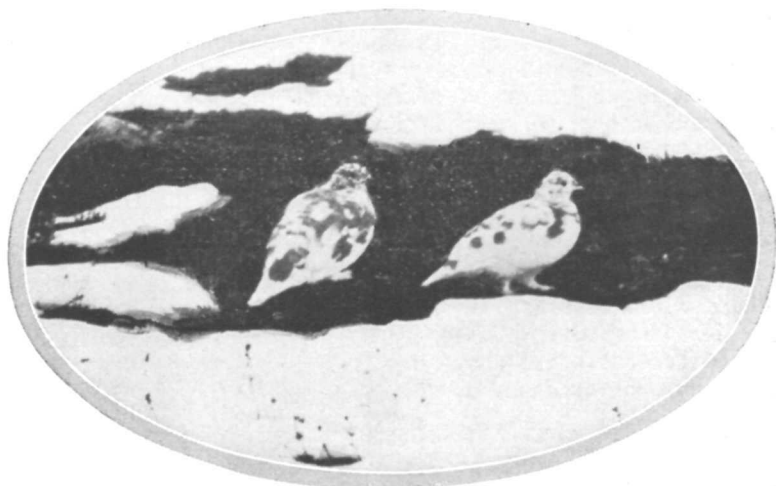
Common permanent resident in the forests up to 10,500 ft. More frequently encountered during the summer in the Lodgepole belt.

Gray Ruffed Grouse—(*Bonasa umbellus umbelloides*.)

While there are no recent records of this bird, Cooke reported a family of young and old on South Fork, in Estes Park, on August 12, 1899. It is considered a rare resident in the mountains in Colorado, and may possibly still occur in the park.

Southern White-Tailed Ptarmigan—(*Lagopus leucurus altipetens*.)

Common permanent resident, nesting in the alpine meadows; in late summer, and in winter, at lower elevations in the forest. Ed Andrews observed a flock on the lake at



Southern White-Tailed Ptarmigan

Sprague Hotel for a considerable period during a winter spent at this point. (About 9,000 ft.)

Ring-Necked Pheasant—(*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*.)

Introduced species, invading lower elevations in park. Babcock reports it as ranging up to 7,000 ft., once seen at 9,000 ft. During the summer of 1937, a pheasant cock was heard frequently near Moraine Park Museum, at approximately 8,100 ft.

Family—Rallidae. Rails, Gallinules, and Coots
Sca—(*Porzana carolina*.)

Babcock refers to this species as a rare summer resident. No definite records are in park files. Widmann saw one near Long's Peak Inn on July 9 and 10, 1910, at 9,000 ft. Its status is probably as described by Babcock.

American Coot—(*Fulica a. americana.*)

Babcock called the Coot an "irregular transient on montane ponds and streams." It appears that it may be called a regular migrant, spring and fall, in small numbers. It is not known to remain in the park during the summer, the latest record in the park files being: 5-20-37, Sheep Lake, one bird, Gregg. Latest known fall record is: 10-22-36, Mary's Lake, four birds, Potts and Gregg.

Semi-Palmated Plover—(*Charadrius semipalmatus.*)

Probably a rare migrant in the Grand Lake region. There is one record, from the 1870's, by Carter, who records the bird from Grand Lake, apparently from a specimen. No recent records are known, but it is likely to be discovered by careful observation in season.

Killdeer—(*Oxyechus v. vociferus.*)

Common migrant at lower elevations, fairly common summer resident along streams and around marshy ponds. Earliest and latest records: 4-14-36, Sheep Lake, two birds, Potts; 10-8-36, Utilities area, one bird, Gregg.

**Family—Scolopacidae. Woodcock, Snipe, and Sandpipers
Wilson's Snipe—(*Capella delicata.*)**

Babcock calls it "summer resident, May to August, in open marshes, 9,000 ft. and lower." Widmann reported several near Estes Park, at an elevation of 9,000 ft. in July, 1910. Park files contain two records: 5-5-37, Beaver Meadows, one bird, Gregg; 10-11-37, Cub Creek, three birds, Gregg. This would indicate fall migration, or that summer residents remain until October.

Spotted Sandpiper—(*Actitis macularia.*)

Babcock calls it "common at all elevations up to timberline; summer resident, breeding." This probably describes



Killdeer

its present status, although park records are only from Sheep Lake, Mary's Lake, and Moraine Park. It nests regularly at Sheep Lake and in Moraine Park. Doubtless is common on the Colorado River and in the vicinity of Grand Lake.

Western Sandpiper—(*Eureunetes maurii*.)

Irregular spring migrant. One record, a flock of more than eighty birds, at Sheep Lake, May 24, 1935, Potts.

Solitary Sandpiper—(*Tringa solitaria cinnamomea*.)

This species was first recorded for the park on 9-13-38, in Cub Creek valley, by Grater. It is probably regularly migrant with other small shorebirds.



Avocet

Family—Recurvirostridae. Avocets and Stilts

Avocet—(*Recurvirostra americana*.)

Regular spring migrant in small numbers. Probably occasional on Grand Lake, as evidenced by letter of summer of 1933, from Mrs. Mary Cairns, of Grand Lake, with photograph of two avocets killed on Grand Lake some 25 or 30 years ago. First known record on east side of park is May 5, 1933, at Utilities area pond, when one was seen and photographed by J. S. McLaughlin and Dorr G. Yeager. Nature Notes, 1933, Vol. VI, No. VIII, August, records avocet in Moraine Park "during the past month," without specific date or observer. One was observed on Mary's Lake by M. K. Potts, April 20, 1937.

Wilson's Phalarope—(*Steganopus tricolor*.)

Babcock calls it rare summer resident. Probably regularly nests in park in small numbers. Records in park files: 5-4-37, Mary's Lake, one pair; 5-20-37, Sheep Lake, one pair; 5-24 and 5-25, Sheep Lake, one pair; 5-28, Mary's Lake, three birds. Since nesting begins after the second week in May, it may be considered nesting at lower elevations in the park. It doubtless occurs along Colorado River on the west side of the park.

Ring-Billed Gull—(*Larus delawarensis*.)

A letter from Mrs. Mary Cairns, of Grand Lake, states that "California Gulls" come to the lake regularly in migration. Niedrach considers that her reference is to *delawarensis*. This species then, can be considered a regular migrant on the west side of the park. It is unknown on park waters on the east side.

Sabine's Gull—(*Xema sabini*.)

Probably irregular fall migrant at Grand Lake. Two immature birds were collected in recent years below Grand

Lake. A female, No. 12263, Colorado Museum of Natural History, is from Fraser, south of Grand Lake. ((10-21-32) (Auk, Vol. 54, No. 4, Oct. 1937, M. 524-27.)

COLUMBIFORMES

Family—Columbidae. Pigeons and Doves

Band-Tailed Pigeon—(*Columba f. fasciata*.)

Babcock calls it "infrequent summer resident; found mostly in yellow pine belt." The range probably is slightly higher than indicated. Ed Andrews and Paul Nesbit both report them as regularly seen near Loch Vale Junction. They were seen in summer 1937 on Fern Lake trail in Spruce-fir belt. Regularly at Salt above Sheep Lake in fall.

Western Mourning Dove—(*Zenaidura macroura marginella*.)

Babcock in 1923, listed the subspecies *carolinensis*, the eastern form, but in 1930, classed it as indeterminate. AOU Checklist distribution is for the western form, and most Colorado authorities place all state records in this group. In the park, it is a fairly common summer resident, nesting up to 8,000 feet.

STRIGIFORMES

Family—Strigidae. Typical Owls

Rocky Mountain Screech Owl—(*Otus asio maxwelliae*.)

Babcock places this as common permanent resident. Its present status probably is frequent, rather than common. In 1890 Kellogg cited Gilbert Pierce to the effect that it was rare at Estes Park. Widmann heard several at Estes Park in July, 1910. They have been heard frequently in recent years. Latest record was one bird, captured in Estes Park Sewage Plant, just east of village, examined and identified by Gregg, 10-29-37.

Flammulated Screech Owl—(*Otus flammeolus*.)

Babcock (1923) calls it "probably less common than the preceding" (*a. maxwelliae*.) This species definitely belongs on the check list for the park, with two nesting records for the park by Ed Andrews, collecting for F. M. Dille: 6-15-03, Moraine Park, at 8,000 ft.; and 6-18-03, Mill Creek, 8,500 ft. Sclater cites Dille and W. G. Smith for a 10,000 ft. breeding record at Estes Park. Kleinschnitz cites five specimens taken in the park by Dille and W. G. Smith. There is no reason to believe that the subspecies has disappeared, nest hunting and egg-collecting having been abandoned in the park since its creation in 1915, and detailed search and examination not having been made by observers. It should be retained in the list as an uncommon permanent resident. One was taken in Eagle county on 6-6-33 (Colorado Museum No. 12700 adult.) (Auk Vol. 54, No. 4, Act. M. 37, P. 526.)

Horned Owl—(*Bubo virginianus occidentalis*.)

AOU Checklist distribution places the above subspecies in the region including the park. Babcock lists *v. pallescens*, the Western form, and calls it regular but not common permanent resident throughout the park. The distribution and abundance is probably about as described. Three skins from the park are in the collections at Moraine Park Museum, and several sight and call records are in the files.

Rocky Mountain Pygmy Owl—(*Glaucidium gnoma pinicola*.)

The only definite record of this species known is cited in Sclater, (W. G. Smith apud Bendire,) a 10,000 ft. nesting record for Estes Park. There is no reason to challenge this record, and there is no reason why in small numbers this species may not still be present. It should be included on the list as a rare summer resident in high altitudes, migrating to lower elevations in winter.



Horned Owl

Saw-Whet Owl—(Cryptoglaux a. acadica.)

The only record known in the park is cited by Sclater, at 7,000 ft. (below the level of the present boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park,) a breeding record by W. G. Smith. Since its range in Colorado is placed up to 9,000 feet, it probably may be considered a rare resident at lower elevations on the east slope. Gale reported it in the vicinity of Ward, Boulder county, at 8,500 ft., with several records. This not more than fifteen miles airline from the southeast edge of the park.



Young Saw-Whet Owls

CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Family—Caprimulgidae. Goatsuckers

Nuttall's Poor-Will—(Phalaenoptilus nuttalli nuttalli.)

Babcock listed the species as summer resident at lower altitudes. It is cited by Sclater (W. G. Smith apud Bendire)

as nesting at Estes Park, and was reported by Widmann in the summer of 1910. Niedrach informs that it is heard regularly through the summer on Needles Ridge, within the park, at about 8000 ft. Its status probably is summer resident in small numbers in appropriate localities, at lower elevations.

Nighthawk—(*Chordeiles minor howelli*.)

Betts referred his specimens cited in his list for Boulder County, within which the southern part of the park lies, to henryi, the Western Nighthawk. Bergtold also calls Colorado records henryi. However, the more recent AOU distribution places howelli in this territory, giving northern limits of henryi in this state as southwestern Colorado. The Nighthawk is a fairly common summer resident, nesting up to 10,000 feet.

MICROPODIIFORMES

Family—Micropodidae. Swifts

White-Throated Swift—(*Aeronautes s. saxatilis*.)

Babcock lists it as "summer resident, at eastern edge of the park." It must be considered uncommon, no sight, specimen, or nesting records being known to the park files. By adding uncommon, or irregular, to the Babcock statement, the present status is probably best described. Nature Notes July 15, 1929, P. 3, describes colony north of Camp Olympus, east of Estes Park.

Black Swift—(*Nephoecetes niger borealis*.)

Gale listed this species without specific data from Boulder County, and Widmann cites two observations at Glacier Meadows, in the Long's Peak district, two birds on July 8, and three birds July 10, 1910. It may, therefore, be considered a rare and irregular summer resident at the eastern edge of the Park.



Broad-tailed Hummingbird

Family—Trochilidae. Hummingbirds

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—(*Selasphorus p. platycercus.*)

Common summer resident; many nesting records, at widely distributed points within the park.

Rufous Hummingbird—(*Selasphorus rufus.*)

Babcock calls it rare in the park, as a visitant. In Nature Notes, August, 1932, p. 76, Mrs. Walter Finn describes a visit of this species to the thistle bed outside her residence in Utilities area, giving a perfect description of the Rufous Hummingbird. (Presumably in late July or early August, 1932.) Nature Notes, October, 1934, p. 226-7 states: "The other species, the rufous hummingbird, is considered rather rare in the park and is far outnumbered by the other species.

This, however, in an "ordinary" year. 1934 is evidently an extraordinary year in many ways. The broad-tails are few and rufous hummers seem to be everywhere." It would seem, in the light of these records, that this species should be described as irregular summer residents. (Pair on trail to Flattop below timberline, 7-25-30, by John L. Sperry—Nature Notes Aug. 15, 1930, p. 20.)

CORACIIFORMES

Family—Alcedinidae. Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher—(*Megaceryle a. alcyon*.)

Common summer resident along streams and ponds up to 9,000 ft. Occasional in winter at lower elevations. Numerous records.

PICIFORMES

Family—Picidae. Woodpeckers

Red-Shafted Flicker—(*Colaptes cafer collaris*.)

Common resident in summer, occasionally seen above timberline; in winter, occasional at lower elevations.

Red-Headed Woodpecker—(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.)

Babcock calls it a breeder at lower altitudes, going occasionally up to 9,000 ft. It probably is rare as a nesting species within the park, but is seen occasionally during the summer. Park files contain two definite records: Deer Mt., Aug. 1928, M. P. Boos; and Hollowell Park, 6-8-37, Gregg. Kellogg considered it rare in 1890.

Lewis' Woodpecker—(*Asyndesmus lewisi*.)

Babcock lists it as "foothills resident, but straggles somewhat higher." No known records are in the files. It probably can be classed as an occasional summer visitant at lower elevations on the east edge of the park.

Red-Naped Sapsucker—(*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*.)

Common summer resident in aspen forests up to 9,000 ft., or occasionally higher.

Natalie's Sapsucker—(*Sphyrapicus thyroideus nataliae*.)

Fairly common summer resident up to 9,000 ft. Babcock records occurrence up to 10,000 ft.

Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker—(*Dryobates villosus monticola*.)

Common permanent resident, more abundant in the summer. Has been observed as high as Odessa Lake (10,000 ft.) on January 26, 1937.

Batchelder's Woodpecker—(*Dryobates pubescens leucurus*.)

Babcock calls it common permanent resident below 8,000 ft.; sometimes found higher. This describes its status fairly well, except that it is much more common in summer. Park nesting records are at Sheep Lake and Moraine Park, as recorded in files.

Alpine Three-Toed Woodpecker—(*Picoides tridactylus dorsalis*.)

Babcock called it a rare permanent resident of the subalpine forests, recorded as yet only from the west slope (1930.) Kellogg, 1890, recorded it for the Estes Park mountains, whether east or west slope is not known without reference to his notes. Park files contain two east slope records: 4-5-32, Camp Olympus, Alice Burke; Bierstadt Moraine (9600 ft.,) 10-28-37, two birds, Gregg. It should be described as permanent resident of the subalpine zone, drifting lower occasionally.



Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker

PASSERIFORMES

Suborder TYRANNI. Songless Perching Birds

Family—Tyrannidae. Tyrant Flycatchers

Eastern Kingbird—(*Tyrannus tyrannus*.)

Properly described by Babcock as summer resident below 9000 ft., not common. Widmann reported it for Estes Park, July, 1910. No definite nesting records are in park files. Only citation: 9-8-36, Bear Lake Road near Utilities area, one bird found dead at roadside, skin now in park collection. Gregg.

Arkansas Kingbird—(*Tyrannus verticalis*.)

Kellogg recorded this species as rare summer resident in Estes Park in 1890. Babcock (1923) records recent observations in sub-montane zone, probably a rare summer resident. Babcock (1930) says: "observed occasionally in the montane zone. Probably visitant only." No records are in park files. Babcock's latter statement probably best describes the present status of the species. Niedrach states it occurs in the park occasionally.

Cassin's Kingbird—(*Tyrannus vociferans*.)

Reported as breeding in Estes Park by Kellogg (Sclater.) N. DeW. Betts quotes Kellogg (1889) as reporting it common in Estes Park. Bergtold gives Colorado distribution as breeding up to 7000 ft., most common in mountains and foothills. Probably it should be considered an occasional visitant at the eastern edge of the park. Niedrach says it occurs.

Say's Phoebe—(*Saynoris s. saya*.)

Probably only a visitant after the nesting season, at

the eastern edge of the park. Only one record in park files: Wind River, (8100), 10-6-36, Potts and Gregg.

Little Flycatcher—(*Empidonax trailli brewsteri*.)

Babcock omits this species, or the subspecies *trailli*. Checklist distribution places *brewsteri* in this area. This flycatcher is fairly common along stream thickets. Grater observed it in Tuxedo Park on 6-13-37. It may be considered summer resident in moderate numbers.

Least Flycatcher—(*Empidonax minimus*.)

This may be considered a migrant in small numbers up to 8100 ft. Grater has observed it, and one record is in park files: 5-18-37, Beaver Meadows, one bird, identified by actions, habitat, size, and the distinct, frequently repeated "chebec" notes, Gregg.

Hammond's Flycatcher—(*Empidonax hammondi*.)

Babcock (1923) states that this species is known to occur, but less common than Wright's Flycatcher (*E. wrighti*.) One record is in park files, 4-16-36, Thompson River, 7700 ft., Potts. Niedrach informs that it occurs regularly in the park, and it is believed that it has been seen by Grater. It may be called a fairly common summer resident. Babcock says it nests up to 10,000 ft.

Wright's Flycatcher—(*Empidonax wrighti*.)

Babcock calls it a summer resident in open woods. Niedrach confirms this distribution in the park. Widmann reported the species at 9000 ft. at Estes Park, in July, 1910. Kellogg recorded it for Estes Park. Ed Andrews took a nest in Moraine Park, at 7800 ft., on 6-28-03. It is doubtless now a common resident in the montane zone in the park.

Western Flycatcher—(*Empidonax d. difficilis*.)

Kellogg recorded it for Estes Park at 8,000 ft. Widmann found it at several places in Estes Park in July, 1910. Park files include two records: 7-5-07, Moraine Park, at 7,900 ft., nesting, Ed Andrews; summers of 1928, '29, '30, Horseshoe Park, nested regularly at Hidden Valley Ranch, Ruth E. Ashton, (recorded in Nature Notes Aug. 15, 1930, p. 14.) It is to be considered a frequent summer resident up to 8,500 ft. at the present time; confirmed by Niedrach.

Western Wood Pewee—(*Myiochanes r. richarlsoni*.)

Common summer resident in montane zone. Numerous records in park files.

Olive-Sided Flycatcher—(*Nuttallornis mesoleucus*.)

Babcock (1923) described its status as: "Summer resident, June to August, in the coniferous forests up to timberline; generally distributed, but nowhere common." Nesting records in park files give 8100 ft. as the highest elevation. Its status probably is at present in conformance with Babcock's description.

Suborder PASSERES. Song Birds

Family—Alaudidae. Larks

Desert Horned Lark—(*Otocorius alpestris leucolaema*.)

Babcock (1923) says it is "occasional winter visitant at the eastern edge of the park; but might be expected in the alpine meadows in summer." Babcock (1930) calls it "Winter visitant at the eastern edge of the park, sometimes up to 9,000 feet. October to March." Present status has been established as summer resident above timberline, occurring regularly in migration at lower elevations, and occasional visitant in winter. They arrive above timberline by May 11, (5-11-37, Trail Ridge, 11,750 ft., birds feeding on snowbanks and grassy meadows, Gregg.) and are seen at these altitudes throughout the summer.

Family—Hirundinidae. Swallows

Violet-Green Swallow—(*Tachycineta thalassina lepida*.)

Babcock lists it as common and widely distributed from June to August, up to 9,000 ft.; nesting in cliffs, trees, or around buildings. Kellogg listed them for Estes Park. Park files include frequent summer records through montane zone, with earliest arrival 4-14-32, at Camp Olympus, observed by Alice Burke. They are recorded by Bergtold as nesting up to 10,500 ft. in the state, but no high-altitude nesting records in the park are in the files.

Tree Swallow—(*Iridoprocne bicolor*.)

Babcock (1930) calls it summer resident with nearly the same range as the Violet-Green Swallow, but much less common. One record is in park files: 5-21-32, Utilities area, Mabel Shaffer. Its status is more common than this one definite recording indicates, and Babcock's description may be accepted at present.

Rough-Winged Swallow—(*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*.)

Kleinschnitz cites Widmann observation of a pair on Fish Creek, east of Estes Park, at 7,500 ft., in June, 1910. No other actual records are known, but it is likely that it is a rare summer visitant at lower elevations on the east slope of the park.

Barn Swallow—(*Hirundo erythrogastrus*.)

Babcock calls it a summer resident, montane, around buildings, occasionally up to 9,000 ft. It is not recorded in park files. However, it may be considered an occasional summer resident at the east edge of the park, on the basis of recent oral reports, and Babcock's statement.

Cliff Swallow—(*Petrochelidon albifrons* ssp.)

Colorado records cited by Sclater, Bergtold, Cooke, and Betts were assigned to *P. lunifrons* or *P. l. lunifrons*, which apparently are included in *P. albifrons tachina* in the Fourth AOU Checklist. However, distribution in the Checklist would rather indicate that local occurrences are of *P. a. albifrons*, the northern form. Kleinschnitz has used this nomenclature. Babcock in 1923 called it summer resident, submontane, and in 1930, summer resident, montane, common locally. Kellogg recorded the species for Estes Park. A colony builds annually at Mary's Lake, and doubtless at other points within the eastern boundary of the park. It may be called a fairly common summer resident at the eastern edge of the park.

Family—Corvidae. Jays, Magpies, and Crows

Rocky Mountain Jay—(*Perisoreus canadensis capitalis*.)

Permanent resident of conifer forests above 8,500 ft., very common. In winter, wanders down to 7,500 ft. but is seen in subalpine forests above 10,500 ft. in midwinter.

Long-Crested Jay—(*Cyanocitta stelleri diademata*.)

Common permanent resident in montane zone, ranging higher in summer. Most common and conspicuous summer bird in Ponderosa Pine belt.

*Eastern Blue Jay—(*Cyanocitta c. cristata*.)

This may be included as a rare vagrant on the basis of a record of this species together with flock of Long-Crested Jays at Camp Woods, Tuxedo Park (7,800 ft.,) recorded in Nature Notes, Jan. 1932, p. 6.

American Magpie—(*Pica pica hudsonia*.)

Babcock calls it a permanent resident up to 9,000 ft., common but erratic. It is known to range above timberline (flocks on Trail Ridge seen by Ed Andrews and Dorr

G. Yeager early in October, 1932, recorded in Nature Notes, October, 1932, p. 100.)

American Raven—(*Corvus corax sinuatus*.)

Babcock (1923) calls it "apparently only an occasional visitant." His 1930 list says: "rare but apparently permanent resident at eastern edge of park." Kellogg had recorded it for Estes Park in 1890, calling it occasional visitant. It has been seen at various times during the summer above timberline in recent years, and has been noted flying over the Continental Divide below Fall River Pass in September (9-2-36, Gregg,) and over Hallett Peak (12,725 ft.), (3 birds, 10-13-37, McLaughlin, Gregg, Canfield.) It may be called a fairly common, but erratic, resident, infrequently seen at lower elevations in the summer.

Western Crow—(*Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis*.)

Properly described by Babcock as a rare and irregular visitant. One record in park files, at 8,200 ft. in the park, in October, 1936, by M. K. Potts.

Pinon Jay—(*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*.)

Regular fall vagrant on the east side of the park in the Ponderosa Pine belt. In some seasons they occur in flocks of hundreds, in others only in small bands. Ed Andrews informs that he has seen them regularly for years. Nature Notes, Dec., 1931, P. 56, records flocks; Gregg saw flock of 5 at Utilities area, 11-7-37.

Clark's Nutcracker—(*Nucifraga columbiana*.)

Regular, and common permanent resident, ranging above timberline in the summer, and frequently seen in lower elevations throughout the winter.



Clark's Nutcracker

Family—Paridae. Titmice, Verdin, and Bush-Tits
Long-Tailed Chickadee—(*Penthestes atricapillus*
septentrionalis.)

Babcock properly calls it resident, breeding mostly below 8,500 ft., wandering higher in fall and winter. It may be called fairly common, although it is far less abundant than the Mountain Chickadee.



Long-Tailed Chickadee



Rocky Mountain Nuthatch
Red-Breasted Nuthatch

Mountain Chickadee—(*Penthestes g. gambeli*.)

One of the most common birds of the park, ranging up to 10,000 ft. Nesting most frequently from 7,800 ft. to 8,500 ft.

Family—Sittidae. Nuthatches

Rocky Mountain Nuthatch—(*Sitta carolinensis nelsoni*.)

Common permanent resident of Montane zone.

Red-Breasted Nuthatch—(*Sitta canadensis*.)

Permanent resident in small numbers, nesting largely in subalpine zone, ranging at lower elevations during the fall and winter, when they are more frequently seen.

Black-Eared Nuthatch—(*Sitta pygmae melanotis*.)

Fairly common in summer in montane zone, abundant at other seasons. It is erratic in distribution, but may be considered a common permanent resident of the park. It nests largely from 7,600 ft. to 9,000 ft. in the park, but may be found as high as 10,000 ft.



Ouzel

Family—Certhiidae. Creepers

Rocky Mountain Creeper—(*Certhia familiaris montana*.)

Permanent resident of the park in small numbers. Kellogg listed it as nesting at timberline, 1890. Betts records it at 8,500 ft. near Estes Park, on June 23. Summer observations by Gregg in upper montane confirm breeding range from 8,500 cr 9,000 ft. to near timberline. It is most frequently seen in the fall in the Ponderosa Pine belt.

Family—Cinclidae. Dippers

Ouzel—(*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*.)

Babcock properly describes its occurrence: "Common along streams; in summer up to the subalpine lakes, in winter only at lower altitudes. Nests throughout its range, often under bridges." Perhaps the word, "fairly," should precede the statement of Babcock.

Family—Troglodytidae. Wrens

Western House Wren—(*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*.)

Common summer resident in montane zone. Many records.

Winter Wren—(*Nannus hiemalis pacificus*.)

Cooke cited a record, presumed a nesting occurrence, by Gillette, "30 miles west of Ft. Collins, at 8,000 ft.," on July 7, 1896. Later the same season, Cooke says he saw several birds along the Big Thompson in Estes Park, at about 7,000 ft. The first record would place the occurrence only a few miles from the northeast corner of the park, the latter at its eastern boundary. No other records are known. It can be considered a rare or accidental summer visitant at the eastern edge of the park.

Canon Wren—(*Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*.)

Rare, but regular summer resident at the lower eleva-

tions of the eastern edge of the park. Late in season, it wanders to higher elevations, one being seen near Lake Haiyaha, over 10,000 ft. on Sept. 2, 1937, by Gregg. Nests regularly within park on Needles Ridge. One incident is recorded of occurrence in February at the home of the Assistant Superintendent of the park, on Needles Ridge, as recorded in Nature Notes, Feb. 1932, p. 14. One bird was frightened in the basement by J. C. Preston and Dorr G. Yeager, and identified. Preston says they winter regularly. In this case, it might be said that in rare instances, it remains overwinter in the park.

Rock Wren—(*Salpinctes o. obsoletus*.)

Well described by Babcock as "summer resident in rocky places, up to 11,500 ft.; widely distributed, but nowhere common." A. E. Shirling, at Camp Olympus found it "common in the Olympus Heights region" in the summer of 1929. Gregg observed it on Emerald Mountain, within the park, August 8, 1937. Kleinschnitz says he has seen "this bird as high as Granite Pass on Long's Peak" in late summer.

Family—Mimidae. Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Catbird—(*Dumatella carolinensis*.)

Babcock called it a "summer resident, submontane" (1923,) and in 1930, listed it as "summer resident below 8,000 ft." It is extremely doubtful if it occurs as a nesting species within the boundaries of the park. Ed Andrews collected a set of eggs in Thompson Canyon, at an elevation of 7,000 ft. on June 17, 1904, and Widmann observed the species at 7,500 ft. in Estes Park in June or July, 1910. No late records are known, but it probably occurs as an occasional summer visitant at the eastern edge, and perhaps at the western edge of the park. (Carter apud Cooke, as

recorded in Sclater, cites the migration in Middle Park, within which the Grand Lake area lies.)

Brown Thrasher—(*Toxostoma rufum*.)

Babcock (1923) lists this species as summer visitant, rare or accidental; the 1930 list calls it summer resident, rare or accidental. Babcock informs that he saw it at his home near Longs Peak Inn. Its normal range is up to 7,500 ft. which would be below a minimum elevation for the park.

Western Robin—(*Hurdus migratorius propinquus*.)

Permanent resident, or resident species. Abundant throughout the park during the summer, and remaining in flocks of varying size through the winter at lower elevations. The Eastern Robin was recorded on 5-29-37 in upper Moraine Park, by Grater. Niedrach says the type subspecies should occur here as occasional with the western form.

Audubon's Hermit Thrush—(*Hylocichla guttata auduboni*.)

Kleinschnitz includes both *g. auduboni* and *g. sequoiensis*, the Sierra form, stating that "recent collecting records seem to indicate that the sierra form is one most often found in Colorado . . . probable that both forms occur in the park." All other literature available assigns the local form to *auduboni*. The bird is a common summer resident in the upper montane and through the subalpine zones.

Olive-Backed Thrush—(*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*.)

Babcock's description, "summer resident, up to 9,000 ft., usually near streams," with the prefix, "fairly common" describes the present status adequately. Ed Andrews collected a number of sets of eggs in Moraine Park from 1903 to 1907. Widmann found them along streams at Estes Park from 6,000 to 9,000 ft. One recent record, 9-28-36, at Park Headquarters, by Gregg, is in park files.

Willow Thrush—(*Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola*.)

Babcock, who is quoted by Betts as saying they were frequently seen in the Long's Peak District in 1912, calls the species "rare and irregular summer resident along streams at 9,000 ft. and below" in his 1930 list. Widmann had reported several of the species at Long's Peak Inn vicinity in the summer of 1910. No recent records are in park files, and Babcock's description is accepted as presently accurate.

Chestnut-Backed Bluebird—(*Sialia mexicana bairdi*.)

Babcock's description of the species as an infrequent visitant, or rare summer resident at the eastern edge of the park, evidently is based too largely upon summer seasonal observations. Records during the past year indicate that it is a regular spring and fall migrant. Park files contain fall records for 1936 and 1937, with spring records for 1937, at points within the park. The summer occurrence is based upon Widmann's observation of two pairs in Estes Park, at 7,500 ft., in the summer of 1910.

Mountain Bluebird—(*Sialia currucoides*.)

Common summer resident throughout the montane zone into the lower subalpine. In late summer and early fall, may be encountered above timberline (Andrews Glacier, 9-28-37, one male, Gregg.) They arrive early, and depart late, records from park files from every month except December and January. Earliest date, Feb. 21, 1932, at Utilities area (Nature Notes, March, 1932, p. 22;) latest date, Nov. 5, 1937, Utilities area, Gregg.

Townsend's Solitaire—(*Myadestes townsendi*.)

Present status is as described by Babcock: "Widely distributed, from March to November, throughout the park, although nowhere common. A few usually remain through

the winter at the lower altitudes." In the fall and winter they are fairly abundant on the south slope of Needles Ridge, and in upper Moraine Park, at elevation from 7,800 to 8,300 ft. They sing especially beautifully throughout September and October.



Golden Crowned Kinglet

Family—Sylviidae. Warblers, Gnatcatchers and Kinglets

Western Golden-Crowned Kinglet—(*Regulus satrapa clivaceus*.)

Babcock's description seems adequate: "Rare summer resident in the dense subalpine forests; more common in migration, especially in the fall, at lower elevations." During the summer of 1937, they nested in some numbers on Twin Sisters Peak, and in August, 1937, were in con-

siderable numbers in the upper lodgepole pine forests. Whether this one season's observations in this area is sufficient to modify Babcock's classification of the species as rare, is problematical.

Eastern Ruby-Crowned Kinglet—(*Corthylio c. calendula.*)

Common summer resident in subalpine forests up to timberline. More numerous in spring and fall migration. They arrive about the first week in May, and may remain as late as the first of November as extremes.

Family—Motacillidae. Wagtails and Pipits

American Pipit—(*Anthus spinoletta rubescens.*)

Common summer resident above timberline, occurring in large flocks at lower elevations in migration. They arrive in the lower elevations of the park after mid-April, and may be seen above timberline by the first week of May. Until mid-June, storms may drive large flocks to lower elevations. They have been seen above timberline as late as October 2, (Trail Ridge, 10-2-36, Gregg.)

Family—Bombycillidae. Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing—(*Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps.*)

Babcock describes the species as winter visitant or resident, October to April; sometimes quite common. The only records in park files are of flocks of waxwings, assigned to this species, in October, 1936, in upper Moraine Park, and on Cub Creek. Evidently Babcock's statement is based on his own, or other observations, and may be accepted as descriptive of the present status.

Family—Laniidae. Shrikes

Northern Shrike—(*Lanius b. borealis.*)*

Described by Babcock as a winter visitant. Only records,

a questionable identification, by Pctts, and one bird in Moraine Park, 1-12-38, Gregg, is in park files. Babcock probably described its status upon personal observation, or records familiar to him, and it may be considered a rare winter visitant. Niedrach confirms this.

*Kleinschnitz, and Alexander, in 1937 publications, assign specimens to *Lanius borealis invictus*, the Northwestern form, basing distribution on the Fourth AOU Checklist. Probably this should be used for park list.

White-Rumped Shrike—(*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*.)

Babcock describes this as a transient visitant in spring and fall. Inasmuch as Bergtold says that in Colorado it is infrequent winter resident, the bulk leaving the state in September and October, and Alexander in his late Checklist for Boulder County calls it a fairly common summer resident on the plains, April to September, it would seem that the records in park files, 10-27-36 Moraine Park (specimen taken, skin in park collection;) and 11-19-37, Mary's Lake, Gregg, indicate that it may be winter visitant, from those over-wintering in the state, since it has been found after the migration dates cited. Sclater cites a May 11 record between Grand Lake and Sulphur Springs in Middle Park, by Warren, which may indicate that it is at least an occasional migrant in the park in the Grand Lake vicinity.

Family—(Vireonidae. Vireos

Plumbeous Vireo—(*Vireo solitarius plumbeus*.)

While omitted from the Babcock List, this species has been recorded as early as 1890 by Kellogg, and Widmann reported it in the Estes Park vicinity from 6,000 to 7,500 ft., in June or July, 1910. Ferd C. Kleinschnitz observed

it in the vicinity of Stead's Hotel, Moraine Park, on July 4, 1933. Nesbit orally reported hearing them throughout the summer in various points in the park during the summer of 1936, seeing one bird on Wind River on Sept. 2, 1936. Grater observed it on the Thompson River west of Moraine Park on 5-29-37, and Gregg heard and saw it on numerous occasions in this vicinity during the summer of 1937. In the light of these records, the bird may be considered a fairly common summer resident in the montane zone.

Western Warbling Vireo—(*Vireo swainsoni*.)

Properly classed as a common summer resident along streams or in aspen groves, by Babcock. Ed Andrews took nests up to 8,000 ft. in Moraine Park from 1903 to 1907. During the summer of 1937, it was observed by Grater and Gregg in Moraine Park and Beaver Meadows. Its status may be accepted as described by Babcock, within the montane zone.

Family—Compothlypidae. Wood Warblers

Orange-Crowned Warbler—(*Vermivora c. celata*.)

The only record known is from Nature Notes, Sept. 1931, p. 31, of one bird flocking with Audubon and Yellow warblers, by Ruth E. Ashton, on Sept. 11, 1931. It may be considered only as an accidental migrant, in view of its recognized Mississippi Valley migration route. A questionable record.

Virginia's Warbler—(*Vermivora virginiae*.)

Betts cites a June 20 nesting record in the Estes Park vicinity by H. G. Smith (Sclater); Sclater actually reads: "Estes Park, breeding (W. G. Smith, apud Chapman.')" Betts also cites Widmann as observing one in July at 8,000

feet near Estes Park. (Kleinschnitz says this was at Gem Lake.) Babcock considered it a rare summer resident at the eastern edge of the park, evidently based upon these records. No recent records are known, but in view of Alexander's 1937 Boulder County Checklist statement that it is a fairly common summer resident in the foothills, there is no reason why it may not be encountered occasionally at lower elevations within the park. Such inconspicuous species are easily overlooked.

Eastern Yellow Warbler—(Dendroica a. aestiva.)

Babcock describes this bird as a summer resident along streams; common below 8,000 ft.; rare above. Observations in 1936 and 1937 are in conformity with this statement. One nesting record, Cub Creek, 8,300 ft., 7-13-37, Gregg, is in park files. Numerous spring, summer, and fall observations are recorded in the montane zone.

***Audubon's Warbler—(Dendroica a. auduboni.)**

Fairly common summer resident, abundant in spring and fall migration. In summer, largely confined to Ponderosa Pine belt. Babcock's migrational period limits should be modified from "May 15 to Sept. 15" to April 25 to October 7, to conform with records in park files.

*Alexander informs orally that he has found numerous Myrtle Warblers with Audubon in migration, and that Myrtle warblers wintered on the campus of Colorado University at Boulder in 1931-32, as recorded in his 1937 Checklist. They should be looked for in the park.

Townsend's Warbler—(Dendroica townsendi.)

Babcock lists it as a fall migrant, fairly common. Apparently this record is based upon his observations and records not available to the park. Alexander records an

observation record at Stapp's Lakes, Boulder County, within a very few miles of the south boundary of the park, on August 7, 1934, and suggests that it may nest. He likewise indicates that it is fairly common in fall migration. These indications point to correctness of Babcock's statement for present conditions, despite the absence of records from park files.

Grinnell's Water Thrush—(*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*.)

Betts says Widmann saw one in the Yellow Pine Zone east of Estes Park, on July 16, 1910. Nature Notes, June, 1933, p. 68, records an observation by Robert B. Rockwell on Needles Ridge, near the Blickensderfer Cottage, immediately adjacent to the park boundary. In view of these records, the latter on May 29, 1933, it may be considered a rare transient at the eastern edge of the park. Recent Boulder County records cited by Alexander confirm this.

MacGillivray's Warbler—(*Oporornis tolmiei*.)

Babcock calls this bird "a summer resident along streams up to 9,000 feet at least; fairly common, but shy and inconspicuous." This apparently describes their present status. They were seen during the season of 1937 along the Thompson River west of Mcrairie Park at elevations in excess of 8,000 ft.

Western Yellow-Throat—(*Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*.)

Probably a rare summer resident, and occasional migrant at the eastern edge of the park. It has not been observed recently, probably due to lack of sufficient seasonal observation. Widmann observed a male on June 30, 1910 at an elevation of 7,500 ft. in Estes Park, on Prospect Mountain.

Northern Pileolated Warbler—(*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*.)

Fairly common summer resident, going as high as timberline to nest. More numerous in migration. More commonly found in willow thickets along streams.

American Redstart—(*Setophaga ruticilla*.)

This bird definitely belongs in the list for the park, having been seen within the park at 9,000 feet by Dean Babcock, as recorded in Betts' Boulder County Checklist. Babcock (1930) calls it a "very rare transient visitant. Seen once in the spring." Early records in Middle Park by Carter, and near Idaho Springs by Trippe, as recorded by Sclater, point to its nesting in that section. In view of these records, it may occur at the western edge of the park as migrant, or rarely as summer resident.

Family—Ploceidae. Weaver Finches

English Sparrow—(*Passer d. domesticus*.)

Uncommon resident at eastern edge of park, recorded in Estes Park village as early as 1910, by Widmann, who also saw them at Stead's Hotel in Moraine Park. Small flocks were observed in the village during 1937, and likely it occurs regularly about stables within the park during the summer.

Family—Icteridae. Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, and Troupilas

Bobolink—(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.)

Vagrant at the eastern edge of the park in the summer. Possibly occasional at the western edge of the park, as indicated by early records by Carter, in Middle Park. Widmann recorded a male in Estes Park on June 15, 1910, near the Elkhorn Lodge. Robert B. Rockwell observed the species on May 25 and May 30, 1929 on Thompson River just east of Estes Park village. Niedrach reports seeing the bird in this locality.

Western Meadowlark—(*Sturnella neglecta*.)

Fairly common summer resident, arriving in April, remaining until late September or early October. Nests in grasslands up to 8,500 ft., wanders to timberline or above in late summer. Kellogg reported its occurrence above timberline, as cited by Betts.

Thick-Billed Red-Wing—(*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*.)

Fairly common summer resident along flat streams and marshes, up to 9,000 ft.

Bullock's Oriole—(*Icterus bullocki*.)

Rare summer visitant at lower elevations. Recorded at Estes Park by Kellogg, who cited Pierce. Probably occasionally present now, although there are no recent records.

Rusty Blackbird—(*Euphagus carolinus*.)

Only one record, based upon observation, and questionable, by Potts, in October, 1936, at Utilities area. Probably refers to Brewer's Blackbird. It is considered a rare migrant, or winter visitant in Colorado.

Brewer's Blackbird—(*Euphagus cyanocephalus*.)

Common summer resident, arriving about the first week of May, remaining until October. Nesting records at about 8,000 ft. in Moraine Park are highest elevations recorded in Park files.

Nevada Cowbird—(*Molothrus ater artemisiae*.)

Babcock describes it as a visitant or rare summer resident in open pastures at lower altitudes. Whether this was based upon Widmann's record of this species in Estes Park village on July 3, 1910, or upon observations made personally, is not known. Its status may be accepted as described by Babcock.

Family—Thraupidae. Tanagers

Western Tanager—(*Piranga ludoviciana*.)

Fairly common summer resident in montane zone. Reported to nest up to 9,000 ft., but park files indicate nesting only up to about 8,300 ft.

Family—Fringillidae. Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows,
and Buntings

Rocky Mountain Grosbeak—(*Hedymeles melanocephalus*
papago.)

Occasional summer resident at eastern edge of park. Babcock places its range below 8,000 ft. During the summer of 1937, a female was observed feeding young that had left the nest along the Fern Lake Trail, in Thompson River Valley, at an elevation of approximately 8,200 ft., (Gregg.)

Lazuly Bunting—(*Passerina amoena*.)

Probably a regular summer visitant in the montane zone. Sclater cites Gillete's record for Little Beaver Creek, Larimer County, at 9,100 ft., a vicinity some fifteen miles north of the park boundary, but in similar terrain. Widmann observed several males and fully grown young near Drake, in the Thompson Canyon, on July 15, 1910. During the summer of 1937, a visitor, familiar with this bird, reported seeing it along the Thompson River west of Estes Park. Carter early found it in Middle Park, and it may be occasional on the west edge of the park.

Western Evening Grosbeak—(*Hesperiphona vespertina*
brooksi.)

Occasional summer resident, in montane zone. One nesting record is known, recorded by Dille as 9,000 ft., in Estes Park, on July 4, 1903. This nest was taken by Ed Andrews, and his original notes, examined by the park

naturalist, indicate that the elevation was 7,800 ft. Its status probably remains as rare.

Cassin's Purple Finch—(Carpodacus cassini.)

Described by Babcock as "resident in the region, but of irregular distribution, and migrating to lower altitudes in winter." No winter records are in park files. Known records indicate that it is summer resident in small numbers, migrating through the park in flocks.

Common House Finch—(Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis.)

Common village resident in summer (Babcock.) No records in park files, but it is observed regularly around the village, and may be found around resorts and stables within the park. It is recorded by Widmann in 1910.

Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak—(Pinicola enucleator montana.)

Common resident in the park. Spends most of year in subalpine forests, descending erratically to lower elevations during winter months, when it is found feeding upon alder seeds, and seeds of pines of the montane zone.

Hepburn's Rosy Finch—(Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis.)

Regular winter resident of the park, mixing with other *Leucostictes* in flocks, descending to the montane zone during storms. Park files contain records from Sheep Lake and Hollowell Park, during the winter of 1936-37. This species is least numerous of the winter-residing *Leucostictes*.

Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch—(Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis.)

Regular winter resident, flocking with other species of *Leucosticte*. More commonly found at lower elevations.



Eastern Goldfinch

Brown-Capped Rosy Finch—(Leucosticte australis.)

Permanent resident of the park, nesting at the highest elevations, descending to lower elevations in winter, especially during stormy periods.

Common Redpoll—(Acanthis l. linaria.)

Babcock calls it an irregular visitant, in small flocks, in fall and winter. No records are in park files. Its status may be accepted as described by Babcock.

Northrn Pine Siskin—(Spinus p. pinus.)

Common summer resident of montane zone, erratic in winter occurrence, numerous in migrations. Is credited with breeding up to timberline, but no records above 8,000 feet are in park files.

Pale Goldfinch—(Spinus tristis pallidus.)

Eastern Goldfinch—(Spinus t. tristis.)

No collection of specimens has been made in the park to determine the subspecific identity of the *Spinus tristis* occurring in this region. Inasmuch as the pale goldfinch is allocated to Southern Colorado and south, and the Eastern Goldfinch is accepted for Boulder County as a resident, and migrant up to 9,000 ft., the latter probably covers the occurrences here. Gregg observed the species on Thompson River near Headquarters, and the deep, rich yellow of the body appeared identical with the Eastern form with which he is thoroughly familiar. Its status in the park is probably regular migrant in spring, perhaps occasionally nesting at lower elevations.

Arkansas Goldfinch—(Spinus p. psaltria.)

Babcock calls this a rare migrant reported by several observers in late summer. Widmann observed a few at 9,000 ft. near Estes Park, in July, 1910, an elevation evidently within the boundaries of the park. Kleinschnitz

states that the species is "summer resident, probably breeds." He does not cite specific records. Two pairs were observed at Headquarters on May 19, 1932, by J. C. Preston and D. G. Yeager. It is probable that the species occasionally nests in lower elevations of the park.

Bendire's Crossbill—(*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*.)

Called an infrequent and erratic visitant or resident of the coniferous forests by Babcock, but on recent observation data, should probably be considered a regular resident of the park, erratic in vertical and areal distribution. They have been observed at altitudes ranging from 10,500 ft. at Thunder Lake (9-15-37) to Utilities area, 7,500 ft. (10-10-37,) and at widely distributed points in the park throughout the summer of 1932 (Nature Notes, July, 1932, p. 68.)

White-Winged Crossbill—(*Loxia Leucoptera*.)

The only available information on this species is Babcock's statement that it is a very rare winter visitant in the subalpine forests, since he once saw a sizeable flock on Flattop Mountain. No doubt more information and records on its occurrence would be obtained by seasonal observations at these altitudes, little of which has been done. Babcock's statement may be accepted as accurate at present.

Green-Tailed Towhee—(*Oberholseria chlorura*.)

Common summer resident of open sagebrush areas of montane zone in the park.

Spurred Towhee—(*Pipilo maculatus montanus*.)

Only one record is in park files, a spring observation at Utilities area, 5-8-37, by Gregg. Kleinschnitz calls it a "summer resident; not common except at lower edges of park." He cites a Widmann observation of fully grown

young at Drake in Thompson Canyon, in the summer of 1910. It is not likely that it is more than occasional as a resident even at lowest altitudes of the park, but it seems that it may be considered a regular transient, based upon oral discussions with bird observers in the area.

Lark Bunting—(*Calamospiza melanocorys*.)

Babcock did not record this species for the park, but Paul W. Nesbit, ranger-naturalist in 1936 and 1937, who formerly guided from Long's Peak Inn, informs that during August of 1926 or 1927, he saw a small flock of this species in the vicinity of Granite Pass, near Boulderfield on Long's Peak. Nature Notes, June 15, 1931, p. 6, describes a flock of buntings seen in the north end of Estes Park, near Devil's Gulch Road, adjacent to the east boundary of the park. Observer is not named in this account. From these records it seems that this species can be called an occasional transient vagrant on the east side of the park.

Nevada Savannah Sparrow—(*Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis*.)

Babcock lists the "Western Savannah Sparrow" (*P. s. alaudinus*.) stating that it is known as a visitant in late summer. Alexander, in his 1937 Boulder County Checklist says that Nevada Savannah Sparrow is moderately common summer resident, 8,000-9,500 ft., April to October. "Based on distribution, this should be our local subspecies, but *P. s. alaudinus* should occur, as a transient." Kleinschnitz says that the Nevada subspecies is a "summer resident; common, but seldom seen. Breeds in the mountain meadows of the broad valleys. A nest with four eggs was found in Moraine Park, June 17, 1936 by the writer." It seems that on this evidence, the Nevada Savannah

Sparrow may be accepted as a summer resident, and it is probable that Babcock's observations apply to this subspecies, although the Western may be considered a hypothetical migratory species in the park.

Western Vesper Sparrow—(*Poecetes gramineus confinis*.)

Babcock calls this a summer resident on dry grasslands. It is common in the open parks and meadows along the eastern edge of the park, where it was observed frequently in 1937 by Gregg. Sclater cites a record by Warren at Hot Sulphur Springs on April 26. Since this is not more than twenty miles by airline from the southwest corner of the park, and is of the same type of river valley land, it is probable that this species occurs regularly within the western edge of the park.

White-Winged Junco—(*Junco aieni*.)

Regular, but not common, winter resident, associating with other species of Junco. Babcock limits its vertical range to below 9,000 ft. All recent observations have been below that elevation.

Slate-Colored Junco—(*Junco h. hyemalis*.)

While not numerous, this species occurs in mixed flocks with other winter resident species. Birds taken for this species have been seen by Potts and Gregg during the winter of 1936-37 at various points on the east side of the park, within the montane zone. On November 13, 1937, Gregg made positive identification at close range of two of this species in flocks at the Brinwood Hotel in Moraine Park.

Shufeldt's Junco—(*Junco oreganus shufeldti*.)

Montana Junco—(*Junco oreganus montanus*.)

These two subspecies are both present in the winter

flocks found on the east side of the park. Shufeldt's Junco is known to be a common winter resident, mixing with flocks of Pink-sided Juncoes. Numerous records are in park files. Due to almost impossible separation of the Montana Junco in the field from the Pink-Sided, identifications of Montana Junco are subject to error, but it is concluded that it is present on the basis of its known distribution.



Shufeldt's Junco

Pink-Sided Junco—(Junco mearni.)

This is the most numerous of the winter resident Juncos. It is possible that some of the birds attributed to this species are the Montana Junco. Numerous records are in park files, some based upon specimens taken.

Gray-Headed Junco—(Junco caniceps.)

Permanent resident in the park, abundant in summer in the subalpine zone, less numerous, and ranging at lower elevations in the park in winter.

Western Tree Sparrow—(Spizella arborea ochracea.)

Common winter resident in the montane zone in the park. Most frequently recorded in park files from Moraine Park section. Specimen in park collections from this locality.

Western Chipping Sparrow—(Spizella passerina arizonae.)

Common summer resident, most abundant in migration. Nests in montane zone in the park.

Clay-Colored Sparrow—(Spizella pallida.)

Called a rare migrant and occasional summer resident by Babcock. Widmann observed an adult on July 10, and two young on July 11, 1910, near Long's Peak Inn. Kellogg secured a specimen at Estes Park, on August 10. Betts quotes Babcock as having seen the species in Estes Park in 1912.

Brewer Sparrow—(Spizella b. breweri.)

A bird thought to be of this species was seen in Beaver Meadows, 5-18-37. On 12-29-37, at this same locality, Niedrach found a nest in sagebrush which he says he is positive is that of the Brewer Sparrow. This evidence points to the occurrence of the species as a summer resident in montane sage-land.

Gambel's Sparrow—(Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli.)

White-Crowned Sparrow—(Zonotrichia l. leucophrys.)

Common summer resident in upper subalpine zone, and above timberline in the fringe of alpine marshes. Abundant in spring and fall migration at lower elevations, when mixed flocks of White-Crowned and Gambel's are frequently seen.

Gambel's Sparrow—(Zonotrichia laucophrys gambeli.)

This subspecies occurs only as a migrant, but is believed to be a regular transient in the eastern edge of the



White-Crowned Sparrow

park, though never abundant. Records in the files for 9-30-37, 10-6-37, and 10-7-37, observed by Gregg at and near the Utilities area, in mixed flocks with White-Crowned Sparrows, point to their regular occurrence. Previous lists do not include this subspecies, but its omission is explicable upon the basis of superficial examination of the flocks not revealing the presence of the Gambel subspecies.

Slate-Colored Fox Sparrow—(*Passerella iliaca schistacea*.)

Recorded by Babcock as "once noted as a summer resident in a marsh at 9,000 feet. It is considered rare in Colorado." Carter early recorded it from the Grand River and Blue River, in Middle Park, some distance from Grand Lake on the same drainage. It is possible that it is an occasional summer resident or migrant in that section of the park.

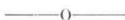
Lincoln's Sparrow—(*Melospiza l. lincolni*.)

Common summer resident in the park, nesting from the upper montane zone to timberline. Seen in abundance at lower elevations during migration. Eggs were collected as low as 8,000 feet in Moraine Park, 1903, by Ed Andrews.

Mountain Song Sparrow—(*Melospiza melodia fallax*.)

Fairly common summer resident in the montane zone in the park, frequenting thickets along streams and marshy places.

APPENDIX



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DIRECTORY

—0—

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**KEY TO SUMMER BIRDS OF
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK**

In the following list the more common birds found in the Park in summer are grouped according to habitat and general appearance and actions in the field. Brief descriptions of salient features are also given, so that this list, used in connection with the checklist, will often serve as a key to identification, especially for observers who have some general acquaintance with bird families.

- Group I** Aquatic. Birds found only near water or in wet places.
- Group II** Terrestrial. Birds usually on or near the ground, most frequently in open meadows or rocky places.
- Group III** Aerial. Birds of long and powerful flight, usually seen on the wing.
- Group IV** Arboreal. Birds occurring in forests, copses, or thickets; often, but not necessarily near streams.
- Group V** Miscellaneous. Birds of various habits and general or irregular distribution, found in almost all situations; often seen near ranches, hotels, or other habitations, and along roads. This group includes several familiar birds which are common and conspicuous.

I. AQUATIC

- A.** Birds on lakes and beaver ponds, or in marshy places.
1. **Swimming Birds—(Ducks)**
- a. Head of male all green, relatively largeMallard
- b. Head of male chestnut, green patch behind eyes.....Green-winged Teal
- c. Head brick-red, body grayish.....Redhead

2. **Wading, or Shore Birds.**
 - a. Small, dull above, lighter beneath, breast distinctly spotted, "teetering" constantly **Spotted Sandpiper**
 - b. Larger, about 9 inches long, body distinctly mottled, bill relatively heavy and long, head with three buffy and two black stripes, lengthwise **Wilson's Snipe**
 - c. About size of **Wilson Snipe**, white beneath, washed with chestnut on throat and side of chest, broad whitish band over head and down back of neck **Wilson's Phalarope**
 - d. Bird with sharply marked black and white on face, two collar bands of black, white beneath, dull above, with chestnut rump visible in flight. Very noisy, usually running along shores..... **Killdeer**
3. **Birds frequenting thickets or bushy fringe of streams and marshes.**
 - a. **Shiny black bird with red or red-on-yellow shoulder patches on wings of male**..... **Thick-Billed Redwing**
4. **Birds that frequent rapid streams or cold lakes, often diving into the water.**
 - a. **Medium size; strong, sharp bill, color slaty blue-gray, dark collar separating throat and chest, chest with buffy color in female**..... **Belted Kingfisher**

- b. Small, dull gray bird, usually bobbing up and down, frequently swimming upon or under water. **Water Ouzel**

II. TERRESTRIAL

- A. Only above timberline in summer.
1. Hen-like birds, with feathered legs and feet **Ptarmigan**
 2. Sparrowlike bird, with conspicuous chocolate-brown above and below, abdomen and flanks washed with rosy pink **Rosy Finch**
 3. Small birds, grayish brown above, whitish to buffy below, more or less streaked; wags tail while perching. **Pipit**
 4. Brownish bird, tending to chestnut over back, black chest band, black and yellow markings on face **Desert Horned Lark**
- B. Below timberline, or occasionally above.
1. Large, hen-like birds, dusky mottled. **Dusky Grouse**
 2. Small plain gray bird with rufous patch on back, outer tail feathers white, flashing an inverted "V" pattern in flight **Gray-Headed Junco**
 3. Medium size, brown and yellow, with conspicuous black "V" on breast **Western Meadowlark**
 4. Sparrow with streaked underparts, white visible on outer vanes of tail, especially in flight **Vesper Sparrow**

III. AERIAL

A. Birds which fly mostly in the evening or at night

1. Flying high in open sky.

- a. Of slow, flapping flight, uttering nasal "peent" notes, swooping and making muffled booming noise at intervalsNighthawk

2. Flying low and silently—(Owls)

- a. Large, wing extent of 3 feet or more, ear tufts present; note a loud, deep guttural sound.....Western
Horned Owl
- b. Small; ear tufts present; note a plaintive wailScreech Owl
- c. Small; no ear tufts, note a rasping soundSaw-whet Owl

B. Birds which fly mostly in daytime.

1. Size large to very large—(Birds of prey)

- a. Very large, wing spread 6 or 7 feet, flight high, powerful gliding, little wing motion.....Golden Eagle
- b. Extent 4 or 5 feet; flight high and soaring, but with more or less wing motion, tail distinctly reddishRed-Tailed Hawk
- c. Extent less than 4 feet; flight mostly low and labored, usually over meadows or marshy flats, conspicuous white rump spot visible in flightMarsh Hawk

2. Size small; flight graceful—
(Swallows)
- a. Tail deeply forked Barn Swallow
- b. Tail not noticeably forked
- (1). Throat brownish Cliff Swallow
- (2). Upperparts glossy green-black, underparts immaculately white, sides of face and sides of rump white..... Violet-Green Swallow
3. Size very small; about 4 inches long; wing stroke very rapid, insect-like; swift of flight, often hovering over flowers, feeding through needle-like bill; metallic green upperparts Broad-Tailed Hummingbird

IV. ARBOREAL

- A. Birds which cling to tree trunks in an erect attitude only, often digging, probing, or hammering.
1. Small, plumage grayish brown, finely streaked Rocky Mountain Creeper
2. Small to medium; plumage always with more or less black and white (woodpeckers)
- a. Underparts pure white.
- (1). Length about 9 inches, male with red nape Hairy Woodpecker

- (2). Length about 8 inches, male
with golden-yellow crown
patch, sides sometimes faint-
ly barred Alpine Three-
Toed Woodpecker
- (3). Length about 6 inches, male
with red nape Batchelder's
Woodpecker
- b. Underparts with red or yellow
or both.
- (1). Top of head red Red-Naped
Sapsucker
- (2). Top of head black Natalie's
Sapsucker (male)
- (3). Top of head brown Natalie's
Sapsucker (female)
- B. Birds which cling to tree trunks, often
head downward, creeping up or down
and around trunk and large limbs;
small size, tail very short—(nut-
hatches)
1. Crown black, back solid slate gray,
underparts and sides of face pure
white; note a nasal "yank" Rocky Mountain
Nuthatch
2. Very small, crown gray, light patch
on back of neck, upper parts gray,
underparts often washed with dirty
buff; note high pitched Black-Eared
Nuthatch
3. Crown black, broken by white
stripe over eye, back slate gray,
underparts tinged with buffy to

- rufous chestnut Red-Breasted
Nuthatch
- C. Birds with the habit of catching insects on the fly, making short flights from a perch and returning to it (flycatchers); small, usually dull grayish to olive in color (Field identification of most species very difficult)
1. Sides of breast slightly streaked; call loud, of three notes Olive-Sided Flycatcher
 2. Sides of breast plain.
 - a. Call somewhat nasal, "pee-wee" note, rather snapped off on final syllable Wood Peewee
 - b. Call softer, not as loud, of varying pitch, usually one or two notes Empidonax Flycatchers
- D. Birds which perch among the branches of trees and bushes; habits various.
1. Found in pine and spruce forests.
 - a. Large hen-like bird Dusky Grouse
 - b. Medium size, plain gray, whitish on crown, with fluffy plumage, gliding among trees with silent, side-slipping flight, friendly to humans Rocky Mountain Jay
 - c. Relatively small; back plain dull brown, tail reddish or rufous, breast whitish with dark spots;

- song highly musical, of liquid notes **Hermit Thrush**
- d. Sparrow-like birds with relatively heavy beaks; males with more or less crimson, females usually with yellow.
- (1). About size of robin, body gray, head usually crimson in male **Pine Grosbeak**
- (2). About size of a bluebird
- (a). Bill with tips crossed, males usually with crimson, brightest on head and rump... **Bendire Crossbill**
- (b). Bill normal, red coloration more rosy, some streaking beneath..... **Cassin Purple Finch**
- e. Small, active, acrobatic birds, with gray body and black cap and throat patch, usually working at outer edges of trees among branches.
- (1). Underparts white, distinct white line over eye breaking black cap..... **Mountain Chickadee**
- (2). Underparts usually washed with buffy on flanks, black cap solid over upper half of head **Long-Tailed Chickadee**

f. Very small; body olive to grayish, more or less distinctive crown patch of red or yellow, two more or less distinctive wing-bars; usually working fairly high and out among smaller branches of trees.

(1). Crown patch golden yellow in females, golden yellow with deep orange center in adult males, wing-bars usually whitish, fairly conspicuousGolden-Crowned Kinglet

(2). Males with crown patch vivid scarlet, usually concealed; wing-bars usually buffy-tinged, not always conspicuous; sings loud, clear, modulated song of several notesRuby-Crowned Kinglet

2. Found in willow brush or other deciduous growth; often near streams; all relatively small birds.

a. Like the hermit thrush except tail grayish rather than rufous..Olive-Backed Thrush

b. Plumage of males mostly bright yellow on body, scarlet on head, wings dark gray to black.....Western Tanager

c. With yellow in plumage, but no red or brown patches.

- (1). Body largely yellow, tending to olive on back, faintly streaked on breast with brown or rufous Yellow Warbler
 - (2). Upperparts except slaty head olive-green; throat and chest streaked with slaty-blue and slaty-black; rest of underparts yellow McGillivray's Warbler
 - (3). Body olive-green above, dusky on wings and tail; crown glossy black, rest of face and underparts brilliant yellow Pileolated Warbler
- d. Sparrow-like birds; all with some brown.
- (1). Underparts streaked.
 - (a). With light buff chest band; chiefly above 8,500 feet Lincoln's Sparrow
 - (b). Without chest band, chiefly below 8,500 ft. Song Sparrow
 - (2). Underparts plain.
 - (a). Crown with conspicuous black and white stripes White-Crowned Sparrow
 - (b). Crown brick-red; back greenish-olive, lightest on rump and tail; throat whitish, contrasting sharply with

grayish underpartsGreen-Tailed
Towhee.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Size medium, length 10 to 18 inches.
1. With more or less brown.
 - a. A bird of prey with strong beak and talons, head with sharply defined "mustachios" of black. Sparrow Hawk
 - b. Pigeon-like, tips of outer tail feathers white, showing as a terminal band in flight Mourning Dove
 2. Colors only black, white, gray, or blue (Jay, or Crow Family)
 - a. Sharply black and white; long tail Magpie
 - b. Gray, with sharply marked black and white wings; when seen in flight, appearing white behind. Clark's Nutcracker
 - c. Body deep blue, head black, with long crest, white "eyebrows," very noisy bird Long-Crested Jay
- B. Size smaller.
1. Wholly black (Males with purplish iridescence over head and neck especially marked, females rather earthy-brown. Males have yellow eyes, females dark eyes) Brewer's Blackbird
 2. Back dull gray, uniform in color, breast chestnut or pale burnt-orange Western Robin

- C. Size small to very small; length 5 to 8 inches.**
1. Slender, all gray with light wing bars showing in flight, of nervous disposition, males perching at top of tree, singing long, varied, and musical song Townsend Solitaire
 2. Uniform light sky blue (females more grayish) Mountain Bluebird
 3. Brown, streaked, or mottled.
 - a. Sparrow with chestnut crown, white stripe over eyes, more or less distinct pair of wing-bars... Chipping Sparrow
 - b. Stubby-bodied bird, with relatively long and slender bill, with sooty brown, finely spotted or mottled plumage, no distinctive markings Western House Wren
 - c. Sparrow-like bird, heavily streaked with dark flecks above and below, wings and tail showing flashes of yellow in flight; note is a fine buzzing trill Pine Siskin
 - d. Body generally slaty, black-streaked, conspicuous yellow patches on crown, rump, and either side of breast Audubon's Warbler



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