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A HISTORY OF THE FIRST RECORDS OF ALL THE BIRDS
REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SEEN WITHIN THE PRESENT BOUNDARIES
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of
Arts of the University of Denver

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PREFACE

A comparison of the sixty first records here presented, with those now published in works on Colorado Ornithology, will show that twenty-one of the records are the same and that one is of a subspecies more recently recognized. The remaining thirty-eight average more than thirty years earlier than the published dates. The differences range from seven to seventy years.

Florence Merriam Bailey's nomenclature has been followed, and the numbers of the Check List of the American Ornithologists' Union have been placed in parentheses after the scientific names.

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INTRODUCTION

The history of Colorado begins with a slave-catching expedition by Juan de Archuleta in the middle of the seventeenth century, but the first journal here available is the account of a more pious march by two Franciscan friars, Silvestre Velez de Escalante and Francisco Atanasio Dominguez. In their attempt to discover a route from Santa Fe to the new colonies in Alta California, they traversed almost the full width of western Colorado in 1776, converting the Utes, and recording the consumption of the first bird reported from Colorado, a Dusky Grouse, taken between the San Miguel and Uncompahgre Rivers on August 26. It was "exceedingly palatable."

Zebulon Montgomery Pike, thirty years later, came up the Arkansas Valley on a mysterious military journey which he pretended to be a search for the headwaters of the Red River. Near Lamar, a Merriam Turkey was killed and for two weeks no other sort of bird is mentioned. Then on November 27, after the brave but futile effort to reach the top of Pike's Peak, the four hungry and exhausted soldiers returned to their camp at the foot of Cheyenne to find that of all their provisions, the American Ravens had taken everything but "a piece of deer's ribs". This small expedition to what was then called "Highest Peak" returned to the main camp on the Arkansas, and on December 1 camped in a very deep snow at the mouth of Turkey Creek. The American

Magpies, made bold by hunger, took food from the hands of the men, and tortured the horses by pecking at their sore backs.

After a trip through South Park the company again returned to the Arkansas and Christmas Day was spent in camp near Brown Canyon. A Road-runner was trapped and this curious meat-eating bird, which looked like a pheasant, afforded a bit of diversion. When a companion was put into the same cage they fought until the intruder was killed.

Across the Sangre de Cristo range in mid-winter Pike made his way at the cost of terrible suffering, and reached the San Luis Valley, far within the territory of Mexico. On the Conejos, a tributary of the Rio Grande, he built a fort and waited, apparently, for the Spaniards to come and capture him. This they politely did, and on February 26, 1807, he entertained the two officers from Santa Fe at a breakfast of Canada Goose.

Through the valley of the South Platte, Major Long's expedition from Pittsburg entered this region. They proceeded up the river, and on the Fourth of July, near the mouth of the St. Vrain, found the nests of the Western Mockingbird. On July 5, while camped at the mouth of Clear Creek, then called Cannon Ball because of the size and shape of the boulders in its bed, some of the men essayed a short walk to the mountains. They had the experience common to those who are deceived as to distances by the clear atmosphere, and so had to make a meal, away from camp, on a

couple of Long-billed Curlews. The sandstone banks of the stream at this place were covered with the nests of Cliff Swallows, and at the main camp on the Platte, near Denver, Western Robins were numerous.

Thomas Say, a trained ornithologist, was a member of this party, and the next day, at the mouth of Platte Canyon, he described the Rock Wren as a hitherto unknown species, as was also the case with the Band-tailed Pigeon, taken near Sedalia on July 9.

South along the front of the range and over the divide on to the waters of the Arkansas brought them to the vicinity of Colorado Springs, where, on July 12, the Arkansas Goldfinch and the House Finch were collected. Pike's Peak, dominating this region, had not yet been climbed by any man and while the others remained in camp, the ascent was attempted by Dr. Edwin James and two unnamed companions. The top was reached on July 14 and they had time to get back down to timber-line that night.

The next day, while returning to camp, a great number of birds were noted along Fountain Creek: Desert Sparrow Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Western Mourning Dove, Winter Wren, Spurred Towhee, and Long-tailed Chat, and on the same day Mr. Say added a description of the Burrowing Owl.

The Arkansas River was the next stopping place. Two days were spent near Turkey Creek while Captain Bell and Dr. James took a side-trip up to the Royal Gorge. A Lazuli Bunting was seen on July 18, and on the 20th, while the

company was passing down the Arkansas opposite the mouth of the Huerfano, the Arkansas Kingbird was added to the species theretofore unknown to science.

While some of the party continued to follow the river to the states, another group turned south to the Canadian River. Just before crossing the Colorado-New Mexico line they saw some Desert Horned Larks and some Cowbirds, one of which followed them for five or six miles, standing by at times, to watch the procession go past.

Beaver hats were the fashion in those days, and among the many trapping expeditions was one led by Jacob Fowler, up the Arkansas, over Sangre de Cristo Pass to Taos, and then on up to the headwaters of the Rio Grande, where the late winter of 1821-1822 was spent catching beaver. When spring came, geese were added to the daily fare, and on March 30, in addition to five geese, a Sandhill Crane was killed.

Prior to 1826 C. L. Bonaparte had somehow obtained a specimen of Say Phoebe from Colorado; but the next journal of a traveler who added new birds to the list is that of Thomas Jefferson Farnham. At Peoria, Illinois he formed a group which set out for "Oregon or the Grave". A poor route was chosen - up the Arkansas, through South Park, and over the continental divide to the Blue River. On July 29, 1839 they crossed the Colorado River, and Farnham took time to mention the birds of the region. The new species were: Rocky Mountain Jay, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, Turkey

Vulture, Bald Eagle, and Western Meadowlark.

Thus far the visitors to Colorado seem all to have had some rather definite purpose, but Rufus B. Sage merely was hunting game for food and adventures for a book. Out near the sources of the Arikaree the American Crows nested in huge colonies, and for several days in June 1843, Sage feasted on their eggs, boiled, fried, and roasted. He gathered them six and ten dozen at a time. By November 10, he was in the region of the North St. Vrain, and came upon the old camp of some Indians who had been catching Golden Eagles for their highly valued feathers. It had been a successful hunt, for thirty-six birds were found piled up on the ground.

John Charles Fremont crossed the state many times on the various expeditions which won for him the name of "Pathfinder". (Which, after all, is a very good name, for most of the "paths" were well worn many years before he "found" them.) On returning from his first trip to California, he crossed southward through North, Middle, and South Parks, and on June 20, 1844, while in Middle Park, saw Sage Grouse near the Blue River.

Fremont's third exploration really started from Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River, between La Junta and Las Animas, in August, 1845. A survey of the country south of that point was ordered to be made by Lieutenant J. W. Abert, who crossed Raton Pass to the Canadian River, but before leaving Colorado he reported the Northern Flicker

and the Long-crested Jay, on August 22.

War with Mexico came in 1846, and while following the mountain division of the Santa Fe Trail to that town, which was occupied very easily, Lieutenant W. H. Emory noted near the head of Timpas Creek the Kingbird and the Lark Bunting, now the State Bird of Colorado.

At this same time Francis Parkman, the historian, was traveling along the eastern base of the mountains, and on August 12, added some Western Crows to his picture of the desolation along a dry tributary of the South Platte.

Lieutenant Abert had come out with the army which General Kearny led to Santa Fe and California, but illness had detained him at Bent's Fort. While there, on August 26, 1846, he was brought a specimen of Killdeer, and on September 13, when he had recovered and was on the way to Santa Fe, he saw Red-shafted Flickers and large flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds along the Purgatory River.

From Mexico, George Frederick Ruxton came north into Colorado by way of the San Luis Valley and Sangre de Cristo Pass, and spent the winter of 1846-1847 hunting along Fountain Creek and in South Park. The ice went out of the Arkansas on March 24, and soon thereafter came the Mountain Bluebirds, and toward the end of the month, Prairie Chickens were booming as he rode north up the Fountain.

A railroad to the Pacific Ocean was projected in 1853 and many surveying parties were sent into the field to determine a route. One of them, under Captain J. W. Gunnison,

crossed Colorado, up the Arkansas, over Sangre de Cristo Pass, through the San Luis Valley, over Cochetopa Pass, and down the Gunnison and the Colorado Rivers into Utah, where Captain Gunnison was killed by Indians. Mr. F. Kreutzfeldt accompanied this expedition and collected specimens of the Swainson Hawk, Western Red-tail, Marsh Hawk, American Long-eared Owl, Western Nighthawk, and Redhead, which were sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and reported upon by Spencer F. Baird.

Northeastern Colorado was traversed in the summer of 1856 by a party under Lieutenant Francis T. Bryan, returning to Fort Riley from Fort Bridger by way of the Cache la Poudre, South Platte, and North Fork of the Republican. W. S. Wood was with them, and shot a Ferruginous Rough-leg and a White-crowned Sparrow. They were sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

That same institution, in 1857, received the collection of specimens which Dr. D. W. C. Peters had made in the vicinity of Fort Massachusetts on Ute Creek in Costilla County. It included the American Rough-legged Hawk, Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker, Dipper, Long-tailed Chickadee, and Pinyon Jay.

The strenuous march in mid-winter, made by Captain R. B. Marcy from Fort Bridger to Fort Massachusetts for supplies, is noteworthy for its heroism and for the fact that W. W. Anderson, who was with Marcy, collected near Cochetopa Pass, the first specimens of the Southern White-tailed

Ptarmigan found within the United States. The pass was crossed on January 2, 1858.

In this year "settlement" began, at Cherry Creek and the South Platte, though there are, in the San Luis Valley, towns founded by the New Mexicans at earlier dates in the same decade.

No new birds were added by the accounts of the following persons who were in this region during the period. They were: 1811, Ezekiel Williams; 1821, Thomas Becknell; 1824, James Ohio Pattie, M.M. Marmaduke, William H. Ashley; 1831, Zenas Leonard; 1835, Lieutenant Kingsbury, Captain Ford, Hugh Evans; 1839, F. A. Wislizenus; 1842, A. Lawrence Lovejoy; 1845, S. W. Kearny; 1846, John T. Hughes, Lewis Garrard; 1847, William Gilpin, Susan Shelby Magoffin (1846); 1848, Micajah McGehee; 1853, Gwinn Harris Heap, S. N. Carvalho; 1856, Francis T. Bryan.

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Section 1

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I. THE FIRST RECORDS OF ALL THE BIRDS REPORTED TO
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Marila americana (A.O.U. 146)

Redhead

September 16, 1853

F. Kreutzfeldt

"*Aythya americana*, Bon. (p 793) - Redhead.

"Sp. Ch. - Bill as long as the head, broad, blue, the end black; the region anterior to the nostrils dusky. Head, and neck for more half its length, brownish red, glossed above and behind with violaceous red. Rest of neck and body anterior to the shoulders, lower part of the back and tail coverts black. Beneath white, sprinkled with gray and black anterior to the crissum; the sides, interscapulars, and scapulars finely lined with undulating black and white in nearly equal proportions, imparting a general gray tint. Wing coverts bluish gray, finely sprinkled with whitish. The speculum, consisting of the ends of the secondaries, hoary grayish blue, lightest externally, and the innermost narrowly edged externally with black. Basal portion of inner primaries somewhat similar to the speculum. Tail of fourteen feathers.

"Female with the head, neck, and fore part of body brownish; the region round the base of the bill whitish. Length of male, 20.50; wing 9.50; tarsus 1.60; commisure, 2.30.

"9787. Salt Lake City. 9786 . Uncompagne river, Utah. (26.)" - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume X, Beck-

with's Report, page 16.

"Catal. No. 9786. Locality. Uncompagre river, Utah. Whence obtained. Capt. Beckwith. Orig. No. 26. Obtained by - Mr. Kreutzfeldt." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, page 794.

The territory west of the Continental Divide was at that time called Utah. The Uncompahgre River lies entirely within the present boundaries of Colorado, and so this is a Colorado record in spite of its Utah label. The expedition which collected this specimen was making a survey for a route for a railroad to the Pacific Ocean. On September 16 they reached the Uncompahgre and followed it to its mouth.

The report is by Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution.

Branta canadensis canadensis (A.O.U. 172)

Canada Goose

February 26, 1807

Zebulon Montgomery Pike

"We first breakfasted on deer, meal, goose, and some biscuit which the civilized Indian who came out as a spy had brought me." - Coues' edition of Pike's Account, page 508.

This breakfast was attended by the two Spanish officers who had come with one hundred men to Pike's fort on the north bank of the Conejos, five miles up from the Rio Grande in San Luis Valley. Pike was politely taken prisoner because of his invasion of Spanish territory. He pretended to think that he was on the headwaters of the Red River.

This species is assumed to be the one referred to because it is so common and because the other species are so rare. It is improbable that any of those others would be simply called a "goose", without any descriptive adjective.

Grus canadensis mexicana (A.O.U. 206.)

Sandhill Crane

March 30, 1822

Jacob Fowler

"the Snow is about four Inches deep Caught one beaver
Killed one Sand Hill Crain and five gees - the day is Warm
- the snow all gon out of the valleys but the mountains are
all Covered moved down to the old Camp". - Coues' edition
of Fowler's Journal, page 128.

The spelling of this journal is original and the only
mark of punctuation is the dash. Fowler and his men had
come up the Arkansas River and had then travelled the Taos
Trail to Taos. The winter was spent trapping beaver up on
the headwaters of the Rio Grande in the San Luis Valley.
The "old Camp" is located by Coues at Hanging Rock near
Pintada Peak in the San Juan Mountains.

Numenius Americanus americanus (A.O.U. 264.)

Long-billed Curlew

July 5, 1820

Edwin James

"Mr. Peale and Dr. James, with two riflemen, went out for an excursion on foot intending to ascend the Cannonball creek to the mountains, which appeared to be about five miles distant.....

"The detached party extended their walk about eight miles without finding that they had very considerably diminished the apparent distance to the base of the mountain. They had unluckily forgotten to make any provision for dinner, and now found themselves fatigued and hungry at the distance of eight miles from the encampment of the main body and so far from the mountains, that it was evidently impossible they should reach them and return on the same day. It was therefore determined to relinquish the attempt, and Mr. Peale was fortunate enough to kill a couple of curlews, which were roasted and eaten without loss of time." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XV, page 280.

The main camp was on the Platte River at the mouth of Clear Creek, near Denver. Similar stories of attempts to walk over to the hills and back in an afternoon have been told of tourists to this day.

Since nothing to the contrary is said it is assumed that this species of curlew was the same as that which had been noted previously along the Missouri River. (see page 322 of the same volume.)

Oxyechus vociferus vociferus (A.O.U. 273.)

Killdeer

August 26, 1846

J.W. Abert

"During the day, Mr. Nourse, of Washington, who had remained with me ever since I had been sick, kindly procured me some ornithological specimens; among these were the killdeer plover, *charadrius vociferous*, the dove, *ectopistes carolinensis*." - House Executive Document 41, 30th Congress, 1st Session, page 420.

Because of illness, Abert was forced to remain at Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River between La Junta and Las Animas, while the rest of the military expedition proceeded to Santa Fe.

Dendragapus obscurus obscurus (A.O.U. 297.)

Dusky Grouse

August 26, 1776

Dominguez and Escalante

"...and there is a kind of chicken whose size and shape are very much like those of our domestic fowl, only that it has no crest; its flesh is exceedingly palatable."
- Harris' The Catholic Church in Utah, page 144.

This is given as a part of the description of the country lying between the San Miguel and the Uncompahgre Rivers, which had just been traversed. By calling the bird a chicken all the species of quail were eliminated as possibilities. The absence of a crest distinguishes it from the Gray-Ruffed Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, and James Sharp-tailed Grouse. The Southern White-tailed Ptarmigan would not be found at such a low altitude in August, and the flavor of the flesh of the Sage Grouse could not be described without mentioning sage. This leaves only the Dusky Grouse, which answers the description in all respects, and thus is the first bird to be reported from Colorado.

Lagopus leucurus altipetens (A. O. U. 304.)

Southern White-tailed Ptarmigan

About January 2, 1858

W. W. Anderson

"The only object of interest that presented itself to our observation in crossing the mountains was the 'Sagopus leucurus,' a white-tailed Ptarmigan, a species of which but two or three specimens are said to exist in any ornithological collections, and those are in Europe. This beautiful bird, which in its winter plumage is as white as the snow upon which we invariably found them, was supposed to be confined to that part of the Rocky mountain range north of latitude 50° north. These specimens, which have been sent to the Smithsonian Institution, are said by Professor S. F. Barid to be the first indications of their occurrence within our territory, and it extends their supposed ranges about a thousand miles to the south." - Senate Executive Document 1, 35th Congress, 2nd Session, page 192.

"*Lagopus leucurus*, Swainson. White-tailed Ptarmigan.

...

"Sp. Ch. - Bill slender. Plumage in summer barred with brownish yellow. In winter pure white, including the tail feathers. Length, 13 inches; wing, 7; tail 4.35."

...

"The two skins of this bird before me, and probably the only ones in any American museum, were collected in January, 1858, by Captain R. B. Marcy, on his march from Fort Bridger across the Rocky Mountains to Santa Fe, in search of provisions and animals for the Utah army under Colonel Johnston. They were met with near the summit of the mountains, probably near the Cochetope Pass.

"List of specimens. Catal. No. 10081. Locality. West side Rocky mts., near Cochetope pass, lat. 39°. When collected. Jan. __, 1858. Whence obtained. Capt. Marcy, U. S. A.. Collected by - Dr. Anderson. Length. 13.00. Stretch of wings. 21. Wing. 7.00." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, pages 636-637.

Marcy crossed Cochetopa Pass about January 2, and on January 18 reached Fort Massachusetts in Costilla County.

Tympanuchus americanus americanus (A.O.U. 305.)

Prairie Chicken

"Towards the latter end of March", 1847

George Frederick Ruxton

"Turkeys, too, were calling in the timber, and the boom of the prairie-fowl, at rise and set of sun, was heard on every side. The snow had entirely disappeared from the plains, but Pike's Peak and the mountains were still clad in white..." - Ruxton's *Wild Life in the Rocky Mountains*, page 165.

Ruxton, a young English officer, who had come up from Mexico in the fall of 1846 was now going up Fountain Creek on a hunting expedition.

This species is noted for its booming, and the range of the Lesser Prairie Chicken does not extend as far west as the region to which this record refers.

Pediocetes Phasianellus columbianus (A.O.U. 308a.)

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse

July 29, 1839

Thomas Jefferson Farnham

"The birds of these regions are the sparrow-hawk, the jack-daw, a species of grouse of the size of the English grouse; colour brown, a tufted head, and limbs feathered to the feet; the raven, very large, turkey, turkey-buzzards, geese, all the varieties of ducks known in such latitudes, the bald and grey eagle, meadow lark and robin red breast."
- Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XXVIII, page 222.

Farnham was leading a small party of emigrants from Peoria, Illinois to Oregon. They had come up the Arkansas River and had crossed the continental divide on to the Blue River which was descended to the Colorado River. On the day of this entry in the journal the Colorado River was crossed.

Of the crested Gallinae only two are found in Middle Park, and only this bird has the tarsus completely feathered to the toes. It is about the size of the Red Grouse of England.

Centrocerus urophasianus (A.O.U. 309.)

Sage Grouse

June 20, 1844

John Charles Fremont

"The coq de paririe (tetrao europhasianus) was occasionally seen among the sage." - Fremont's Narrative of Expeditions in 1842, 1843-1844, page 177.

On his return from California Fremont had come into Middle Park from North Park, and was now ascending the Blue River to the continental divide.

Meleagris gallopavo merriami (A.O.U. 310.)

Merriam Turkey

November 13, 1806

Zebulon Montgomery Pike

"Killed one turkey, the first we have seen since we left the Pawnees." - Coues' edition of Pike's Account, page 442.

Coues locates the camp of November 12, four miles west of Carlton, Colorado, and that of November 13, two miles east of Lamar. The route followed closely the right bank of the Arkansas.

Chloroenas fasciata fasciata (A.O.U. 312.)

Band-tailed Pigeon

July 9, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"A beautiful species of pigeon was shot near the mountain. The head is of a purplish cinereous colour; the back of the neck, and its sides, brilliant golden-green; the feathers at the base brownish purple; above this patch, and at base of head is a white semi-band; the under part of the neck is pale vinaceous purplish; this colour becomes paler as it approaches the vent, which, with the inferior tail coverts, is white; anterior portion of the back, the wing coverts and scapulars are brownish ash; the larger wing feathers dark brown, approaching black; the exterior edges whitish; the lower part of the back, the rump and tail coverts, inferior wing coverts and sides, bluish ash; paler beneath the wings; the shafts of the body-feathers and tail coverts are remarkably robust, tapering rather suddenly near the tips; the tail is medial, rounded at tip, consisting of twelve feathers, a definite black band at two-thirds their length from the base, before which the colour is bluish ash, and behind it dirty whitish; the bill is yellow tipped with black, and somewhat gibbous behind the nostrils; the irides red; the feet yellow; claws black.

"This species seems to be most intimately connected to the ring-tailed pigeon (*C. caribæa*), from which it differs

in the color of the legs and bill, and in not having the gibbosity at the base of the bill so remarkable. It is possible that it may be an intermediate link between the ring-tailed pigeon and the stock pigeon of Europe, with the latter of which it has in common, the exterior white edging to the greater wing-feathers. It may be distinguished by the name of band-tailed pigeon (*Columba fasciata*, Say); and may be seen, with other specimens of natural objects collected on this expedition, in the Philadelphia Museum."

- Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XV, pages 299 - 300.

Thwaites says the location of this day's camp was near Sedalia. The expedition had followed up the South Platte, and now was about to cross the divide on to the waters of the Arkansas River.

Zenaidura macroura marginella (A.O.U. 316a.)

Western Mourning Dove

July 15, 1820

Edwin James

"In the timber along the creek, the sparrow-hawk, mocking-bird, robin, red-headed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, dove, winter wren, towhe, bunting, yellow-breasted chat, and several other birds were seen." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, page 26.

Dr. James and two unnamed companions had made the first known ascent to the summit of Pike's Peak and were returning down Fountain Creek to the camp at the mouth of Cheyenne Creek, near Colorado Springs.

The only other Colorado doves are the Band-tailed Pigeon minutely described and named six days earlier, and the Western White-winged Dove, which is very rare and therefore would probably have received special mention from these scientists.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis (A.O.U. 325.)

Turkey Vulture

July 29, 1839

Thomas Jefferson Farnham

"The birds of these regions are the sparrow-hawk, the jack-daw, a species of grouse the size of the English grouse; colour brown, a tufted head, and limbs feathered to the feet; the raven, very large, turkey, turkey-buzzards, geese, all the varieties of ducks known in such latitudes, the bald and grey eagle, meadowlark and robin red breast."
- Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XXVIII, page 222.

Farnham led a small party from Illinois to Oregon by a route that followed the Arkansas River, crossed South Park and the continental divide to the Blue River, and descended the Blue to the Colorado, which was crossed on this day.

Circus cyaneus hudsonius (A.O.U. 331.)

Marsh Hawk

From about August 9 to September 22, 1853

F. Kreutzfeldt

"*Circus hudsonius*, Linnaeus, (p.38) - The Marsh Hawk.
Falco hudsonius, Linn. Syst. Nat. I, 128, (1766).

"Adult - Form rather long and slender; tarsi long; ruff quite distinct on the neck in front. Entire upper parts, head, and breast, pale bluish cinereous; on the back of the head mixed with dark fulvous; upper tail coverts white. Under parts white, with small cordate or hastate spots of light ferruginous; quills brownish black, with their outer webs tinged with ashy, and a large portion of their inner webs white; tail light cinereous, nearly white on the inner webs of the feathers, and with obscure transverse bands of brown; under surface silky white; under wing coverts white.

"Younger - Entire upper parts dull umber brown, many feathers edged with dull rufous, especially on the neck; under parts dull reddish white, with longitudinal stripes of brown, most numerous on the throat and neck before; tibiae tinged with reddish; upper tail coverts white.

"Young - Entire upper parts dark umber brown; upper tail coverts white. Under parts rufous, with longitudinal stripes of brown on the breast and sides; tail reddish brown, with about three wide bands of dark fulvous, paler

on the inner webs. Tarsi and toes yellow.

"Total length, female, 19 to 21 inches; wing $15\frac{1}{2}$, tail 10 inches. Male, total length 16 to 18 inches; wing $14\frac{1}{2}$, tail $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 inches.

"6859. Rocky mountains. (4) - Desert between White river and San Rafael creek, Utah. (28.) " - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume X, Beckwith's Report, page 12.

"Catal. No. 6859. Locality. Rocky mountains. Whence obtained. E. G. Beckwith. Original No. 4. Collected by - Mr. Kreutzfeldt." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, page 40.

This expedition was surveying for a route for a railroad to the Pacific Ocean near the 38th and 39th parallels. The only "Rocky mountains" crossed were in Colorado. The report on the specimens collected was made by Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution.

The form described as "younger" was probably an adult female."

Buteo borealis calurus (A.O.U. 337b.)

Western Red-tail

From about August 9 to August 13, 1853

F. Kreutzfeldt

"*Buteo calurus*, Cassin, (p.22) - Red-tailed Black Hawk Plate XIV. *Buteo calurus*, Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. VII, 1855, 281.

"Similar in general form to *Buteo vulgaris* and *Buteo augur*. Bill rather strong; edges of the upper mandible with distinct rounded lobes; wings long, fourth and fifth quills longest; tail moderate, or rather short; tarsi feathered in front for nearly half their length; naked behind, naked portion in front having about ten transverse scales; claws large, strong, full curved.

"Tail bright rufous above, white at base, with about eight to ten irregular and imperfect narrow bands and one wide sub-terminal band of brownish black, and narrowly tipped with reddish white.

"Entire plumage above and below brownish black, deeper and clearer on the back and abdomen, and paler on the throat and breast. Plumage of the upper parts with concealed transverse bands of white at the base of the feathers; and of the under parts with circular spots and transverse bands of the same also at the base of the feathers; quills brownish black, with a large portion of their inner webs

white, banded and mottled with pale ashy brown; under tail coverts transversely barred with brownish black and pale rufous.

"Total length, female about 21 inches; wing $16\frac{1}{2}$, tail 9 inches. Male rather smaller.

"Not rare in the Rocky mountains." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume X, Beckwith's Report, page 11.

The only "Rocky mountains" crossed by this expedition surveying for a route for a railroad to the Pacific Ocean near the 38th and 39th parallels, were the mountains of Colorado. The report of the Smithsonian Institution on the specimens collected was made by Spencer F. Baird. F. Kreutzfeldt collected the birds.

The hawk described is a dark phase of the Western Red-tail. A bird of the light phase was taken by the same party on Sangre de Cristo Pass, August 13, 1853. (see Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume X, Beckwith's Report, page 12.

Buteo swainsoni (A.O.U. 342.)

Swainson Hawk

Between August 13 and September 2, 1853

F. Kreutzfeldt

"*Buteo swainsoni*, Bonaparte. (p.19) - Swainson's Buzzard. Plates XII and XIII. *Buteo swainsoni*, Bonap. Comp. List, p. 3 (1838). *Buteo vulgaris*, Rich. & Sw. Faun. Bor. Am. Birds, p. 47.

"There are few results of any of the expeditions more interesting than the discovery by Captain Beckwith's party that this hawk was abundant in the Rocky mountains. The species first figured and described by Richardson and Swainson as the common buzzard of Europe has been variously identified by American authors, but most agreed in supposing it to be the young bird of the western red-tailed hawk, now known as *Buteo montanus*. That such is not the fact, however, is clearly shown by Captain Beckwith's collection, in which are three good specimens, all differing from each other, and one of them exactly in the plumage figured in the Fauna Boreali-Americana, as quoted above.

"8540. Cochetope Pass. Iris grayish brown (24.) - 8539 do. same locality. Iris whitish 25. - 8541. San Luis valley, 13. Iris whitish." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume X, Beckwith's Report, page 11.

"Catalogue number. 8541. Locality. San Luis valley.

Whence obtained. Lieut. Beckwith. Collected by - Kreuzfeldt." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, page 21.

This expedition was making one of the surveys under the direction of the Secretary of War, to determine a route for a railroad to the Pacific Ocean. San Luis Valley was entered by way of Sangre de Cristo Pass on August 13, and left by way of Cochetopa Pass on September 2, 1853, so that the specimen obtained in the San Luis Valley is the earliest record. The reports on the birds collected were made by Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution.

Buteo Lagopus sancti-johannis (A.O.U. 347.)

American Rough Legged Hawk

From 1852 to 1857

D. W. C. Peters

"Archibuteo lagopus, Gmelin. Rough-legged Hawk."

...

"Tarsi densely feathered in front to the toes, naked behind, wing long; tail rather short.

"Adult. - Head above yellowish white with longitudinal stripes of brown tinged with reddish, especially on the occiput. Back, scapular, and shorter quills pale cinereous, with partially concealed transverse bands of white and dark brown, the latter frequently predominating and giving the color on the back; rump dark umber brown; longer quills, and wing coverts umber brown; primaries edged externally with ashy, and with a large space on their inner webs at their base, white, with a silky lustre. Under parts white; throat with longitudinal stripes of dark brown; breast with large spots and concealed stripes of reddish brown; abdomen, with numerous transverse narrow bands of brownish black, most conspicuous on the flanks and tinged with ashy; tibiae and tarsi barred transversely with white and dark brown, and tinged with reddish; under tail coverts white. Upper tail coverts white at base, with a wide subterminal band of black and about two other bands of black alternating with others of light cinereous. Cere and toes yellow. Under

wing coverts white, with spots of brownish black, and on the longer coverts with a large space of ashy brown."

...

"Total length, female, 21 to 23 inches; wing, 16 to 17 inches; tail, 9 inches. Male, total length, 19 to 21 inches; wing, 15 to 16 inches; tail, 8 to 8½ inch(es)."

...

"List of specimens." Inter alia - "Locality. Fort Massachusetts. Whence obtained. Dr. Peters." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, pages 32-33.

Fort Massachusetts, built on Ute Creek in 1852, was about six miles north of Fort Garland in Costilla County. In this vicinity Dr. Peters made the collection of specimens which was received by the Smithsonian Institution in 1857. The report is by Spencer F. Baird.

Buteo ferrugineus (A.O.U. 348.)

Ferruginous Rough-leg

September 16, 1856

W. S. Wood

"*Archibuteo ferrugineus*, Lichtenstein. California
Squirrel Hawk."

.....

"Adult. - Larger than either of the two preceding;
bill wide at base; wings long; tarsi feathered in front to
the toes; naked and scaled behind. Tibiæ and tarsi bright
ferruginous, with transverse narrow stripes of black. En-
tire upper parts dark brown and light rufous, the latter
predominating on the rump and wing coverts; quills ashy
brown, with the greater part of their inner webs white;
tail above reddish white, mottled with ashy brown; beneath
pale yellowish white, with narrow longitudinal lines and
lanceolate spots on the breast of reddish brown, and narrow
irregular transverse lines of the same color and of black
on the abdomen; flanks and axillary feathers fine bright
ferruginous."

...

"Total length, female, 23 to 25 inches; wings, 17 to
17½; tail, 9 inches."

...

"List of specimens." Inter alia - "Catal. No. 5577.
Sex and age. Male. When collected. September 16, 1856.

Whence obtained. Lieut. Bryan. Original number.338.
Collected by - W. S. Wood. Measurements. Length. 21.00.
Extent. 52.00." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX,
pages 34-35.

On this day, Lieutenant Francis T. Bryan's party travelled southeast through the prairie north and east of Akron in Washington County. From Bridger's Pass they were returning to Fort Riley, and had descended the Cache la Poudre and then the South Platte to a point fourteen miles below the mouth of Bever Creek. On September 15 they left the Platte and on September 17 reached a tributary of the North Fork of the Republican River.

Aquila chrysaetos (A.O.U. 349.)

Golden Eagle

Between November 10, 1843 and January 1, 1844

Rufus B. Sage

"My more lengthy rambles brought me to a large valley immured by lateral hills, that had been occupied a short time previous by a party of Indians, for the purpose of eagle-catching. As proof of their success, I counted the bodies of thirty-six eagles, lying in piles at their recent camp. They consisted of the only two varieties found in the mountains, viz: the American and bald eagle. The wing feathers of these birds command a ready sale among the Indians, by whom they are highly prized for the empluming of arrows." - Sage's Rocky Mountain Life, page 348.

Sage travelled back and forth across the state on various hunting trips. I believe that this camp was on the North St. Vrain.

Any Colorado eagle not a Bald Eagle is a Golden Eagle.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus (A.O.U. 352.)

Bald Eagle

July 29, 1839

Thomas Jefferson Farnham

"The birds of these regions are the sparrow-hawk, the jack-daw, a species of grouse the size of the English grouse; colour brown, a tufted head, and limbs feathered to the feet; the raven, very large, turkey, turkey-buzzards, geese, all the varieties of ducks known in such latitudes, the bald and grey eagle, meadow lark and robin red breast."
- Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XXVIII, page 222.

Farnham, with a party bound for Oregon from Peoria, Illinois, had crossed the continental divide and followed down the Blue River to the Colorado River, which was crossed this day.

I believe that "bald" and "grey" describe the same bird.

Cerchneis spaveria phalaena (A.O.U. 360a.)

Desert Sparrow Hawk

July 15, 1820

Edwin James

"In the timber along the creek, the sparrow-hawk, mocking-bird, robin, red-headed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, dove, winter wren, towhe, bunting, yellow-breasted chat, and several other birds were seen." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, page 26.

At this time Dr. James was returning down Fountain Creek from the first known ascent of Pike's Peak on July 14, with two unnamed companions. The camp was near Colorado Springs, where Cheyene Creek joins Fountain Creek.

This subspecies is chosen because of the extreme eastern range now assigned to *Cerchneis spaveria spaveria*.

Asio otus wilsonianus (A.O.U. 366.)

American Long-eared Owl

Between August 13 and September 2, 1853

F. Kreutzfeldt

"*Otus wilsonianus*, Lesson, (p.53) - The Long-eared Owl.
Otus wilsonianus, Lesson, *Traite d'Orn.* I, p 110. (1831)

"Sp. Ch. - Ear tufts long and conspicuous; eyes rather small; wings long; tarsi and toes densely feathered. Upper parts mottled with brownish black, fulvous, and ashy white; the former predominating. Breast pale fulvous, with longitudinal stripes of brownish black; abdomen white, every feather with a wide longitudinal stripe, and with transverse stripes of brownish black; legs and toes pale fulvous, usually unspotted, but frequently with irregular narrow transverse stripes of dark brown. Eye nearly encircled with black; other feathers of the face ashy white, with minute lines of black; ear tufts brownish black, edged with fulvous and ashy white; quills pale fulvous at their bases, with irregular transverse bands of brown; inferior coverts of the wing ashy fulvous, which are mottled as on the quills; bill and claws dark; irides yellow.

"Total length, female, about fifteen inches; wing 11 to 11½; tail 6 inches. Male, rather smaller.

"No. 9144. Cochetope Pass. (23) No. 9145. Rio Grande valley. (23.)" - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume X, Beckwith's Report, pages 12-13.

"Catal. No. 9145. Locality. Rio Grande valley. Whence obtained. Capt. Beckwith. Remarks. Eye with orange border."
- Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, page 54.

This expedition, surveying for a railroad route to the Pacific Ocean, entered the Rio Grande valley by way of Sangre de Cristo Pass, August 13, and left by way of Cochetopa Pass, September 2, 1853.

Specimens were collected by F. Kreutzfeldt and reported by Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea (A.O.U. 378.)

Burrowing Owl

July 15, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"In all the prairie-dog villages we had passed small owls had been observed moving briskly about, but they had hitherto eluded all our attempts to take them. One was here caught, and on examination, found to be the species denominated coquimbo, or burrowing owl, (*strix cunicularia*.) This fellow-citizen of the prairie-dog, unlike its grave and recluse congeners, is of a social disposition, and does not retire from the light of the sun, but endures the strongest mid-day glare of that luminary, and is in all respects a diurnal bird. It stands high upon its legs, and flies with the rapidity of the hawk. The coquimbo owl, both in Chili and St. Domingo, agreeably to the accounts of Molina and Vieillot, digs large burrows for its habitations, and for the purposes of incubation; the former author gives us to understand that the burrow penetrates the earth to a considerable depth, whilst Viellot informs us that in St. Domingo, the depth is about two feet.

"With us the owl never occurred but in the prairie-dog villages, sometimes in a small flock much scattered, and often perched on different hillocks, at a distance deceiving the eye with the appearance of the prairie-dog, itself, in an erect posture. They are not shy, but readily admit

the hunter within gun-shot; but on his too near approach, a part or the whole of them rise upon the wing, uttering a note very like that of the prairie-dogs, and alight at a short distance, or continue their flight beyond the view.

"The burrows into which we have seen the owl descend, resembled in all respects those of the prairie-dog, leading us to suppose, either that they were common, though, perhaps not friendly occupants of the same burrow, or that the owl was the exclusive tenant of a burrow gained by right of conquest. But it is at the same time possible, that, as in Chili, the owl may excavate his own tenement.

"From the remarkable coincidence of note between these two widely didtinct animals, we might take occasion to remark the probability of the praries-dog being an unintentional tutor to the young owl, did we not know that this bird utters the same sounds in the West Indies, where the prairie-dog is not known to exist.

"It may be that more than a single species of diurnal owl has been confused under the name of cunicularia, as Viellot states his bird to be somewhat different from that of Molina; and we cannot but observe that the eggs of the bird described by the latter are spotted with yellow, whilst those of the former are immaculate.

"As our specimens do not in all respects correspond with the descriptions by the above-mentioned authors, of the Coquimbo owl, we have thought proper to subjoin such particulars as seemed necessary to be noted, in addition to

the description already given by those authors.

"The general colour is a light burnt brown spotted with white; the large feathers five or six-banded with white, each band more or less widely interrupted by the shaft, and their immediate margins darker than the other portions of the feathers; the tips of these feathers are white or whitish; the exterior primary feather is serrated, shorter than the three succeeding ones, and equal in length to the fifth; the bill is tinged with yellow on the ridges of both mandibles; the tarsi and feet distinctly granulated, the former naked behind, furnished before, near the base, with dense, short feathers, which, towards the toes, become less crowded, and assume the form of single hairs; those on the toes are absolutely setaceous and scattered; the lobes beneath the toes are large and granulated." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, pages 27 - 29.

This expedition, under Major Long, proceeded up the valley of the South Platte River and crossed the divide on to the waters of the Arkansas River. On this day the camp was where Cheyenne Creek empties into Fountain Creek, near Colorado Springs.

Geococcyx californianus (A.O.U. 385.)

Road-runner

December 25, 1806

Zebulon Montgomery Pike

"Caught a bird of a new species, having made a trap for him. This bird was of a green color, almost the size of a quail, had a small tuft on its head like a pheasant, and was of the carnivorous species; it differed from any bird we ever saw in the United States. We kept him with us in a small wicker cage, feeding him on meat, until I left the interpreter on the Arkansas, with whom I left it. We at one time took a companion of the same species and put them in the same cage, when the first resident never ceased attacking the stranger until he killed him. " - Coues' edition of Pike's Account, page 474.

Coues, in brackets, names the bird "Conurus carolinensis", which is the Carolina Paroquet, a mistake in identification which has been very generally perpetuated. It is improbable that Pike would have been at a loss for a name for a parrot or that he would have compared it in any respect to a pheasant. Coues locates this camp on Christmas Day at Brown Canyon on the Arkansas River, where the Road-runner is not a rare bird.

Dryobates villosus monticola (A.O.U. 393e.)

Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker

From 1852 to 1857

D. W. C. Peters

"*Picus harrisii*, Aud. Harris' Woodpecker."

...

"Sp. Ch. - Size and appearance of *P. villosus*. Above black, a white stripe down the back. The only white spots on the surface of the folded wings, are seen on the outer webs of the primaries and outer secondaries, (none on tertiaries.) Beneath whitish, with faint streaks on the side of the body. Two white and two black stripes on each side of the head; the latter confluent with the black of the neck, the upper white stripe nearly confluent. Three outer tail feathers with the exposed portions white. Length, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing 5 inches. Male, with a nuchal stripe and scarlet crest covering the white of the back of the head.

"Size and general appearance that of the hairy woodpecker, *Picus villosus*."

...

"List of specimens". Inter alia - "Catal. No. 8489. Sex. Male. Locality. Ft. Massachusetts, N.M. Whence obtained. Dr. D. C. Peters." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, pages 87 - 89.

Fort Massachusetts was north of Fort Garland in Costilla County. It was built in 1852, and in 1857 the collection which Dr. Peters had made in that vicinity was received by the Smithsonian Institution. The report is by Spencer F. Baird.

The subspecies is determined by the accurate description of the wing-spots and by the range.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus erythrocephalus (A.O.U. 406.)

Red-headed Woodpecker

July 15, 1820

Edwin James

"In the timber along the creek, the sparrow-hawk, mocking-bird, robin, red-headed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, dove, winter wren, towhe, bunting, yellow-breasted chat, and several other birds were seen." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, page 26.

Dr. James and two companions had accomplished the first ascent of Pike's Peak on July 14, and were returning down Fountain Creek to the main camp at the mouth of Cheyenne Creek, near Colorado Springs.

Asyndesmus lewisi (A.O.U. 408.)

Lewis Woodpecker

July 15, 1820

Edwin James

"In the timber along the creek, the sparrow-hawk, mocking-bird, robin, red-headed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, dove, winter wren, towhe, bunting, yellow-breasted chat, and several other birds were seen." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, page 26.

The creek is Fountain Creek. Dr. James and two companions had made the first ascent to the summit of Pike's Peak on July 14, and were returning to camp at the mouth of Cheyenne Creek, near Colorado Springs.

Colaptes auratus luteus (A.O.U. 412a.)

Northern Flicker

August 22, 1845

J.W. Abert

"Robins and flickers, '*picus auratus*', flitting gaily around, give life and animation to the scene. The last named bird is remarkable on account of the singular disposition of the roots of its tongue, which, passing along on either side of the neck towards the back of the skull, join on the top of the head, and are continued as far as the root of the upper mandible. Wilson remarks that in one species of the *picus*, it is wound around the orbital bone of the right eye, which projects considerably more than the left for its accomodation." - Senate Executive Document 438, 29th Congress, 1st Session, page 15.

From the Arkansas River, this expedition had followed up the Purgatory River nearly to its source, latitude $37^{\circ} 11' 02''$, longitude $104^{\circ} 35' 22''$, and thus was still in Colorado.

Such a minute description of a flicker, with no mention of the conspicuous differences which distinguish the Red-shafted Flicker of the west from the Norther Flicker of the east, leads to the conclusion that this bird was of the latter species. Abert was an ornithologist.

Colaptes cafer collaris (A.O.U. 413.)

Red-shafted Flicker

September 13, 1846

J.W. Abert

"We searched the Purgatory for plums, currants, and grapes. Although we found bushes and vines in abundance, the fruit had all gone. We here saw several flickers, with red lined wings and tails, (*picus Mexicanus*.) Also the common flicker, and large flocks of the yellow-headed black bird, or troopial." - House Executive Document 41, 30th Congress, 1st Session, page 436.

Abert was on the way from Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River between La Junta and Las Animas, to Santa Fe. He had gone up the Timpas Creek and had then crossed over to the Purgatory River.

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii (A.O.U. 418.)

Poor-will

Prior to 1856

Max. Greene

"In the list of birds are the wild turkey, quail, American crane, turkey vulture, rail-tailed buzzard, mock-bird, meadow lark, red-headed woodpecker, flickers, raven, whip-poor-will, Coquimbo owl, cow-bird, dove, magnificent crested blue-jay, and the singular and little known pasana."
- Greene's The Kansas Region, page 154.

This is part of a description of the region of the Wet Mountain Valley by an author who is presenting, "the condensed result of several years' travels upon the Grand Prairie and among the Rocky Mountains." The book was copyrighted in 1855.

The Whip-poor-will is so rare in Colorado, that this rather common bird is assumed to have been the species to which reference is made.

Chordeiles minor henryi (A.O.U. 420a.)

Western Nighthawk

Between August 13 and September 2, 1853

F. Kreutzfeldt

"*Chordeiles henryi*, Cassin (p. 153) - Western Nighthawk. Plate XVII. *Chordeiles henryi*, Cassin, Illustrations, I, Jan. 1855, 233.

"Sp. Ch. - Female similar to *C. virginianus*, but the upper parts much more mottled and more rufous. The males lighter.

"6698. Rio Grande valley. (10.)" - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume X, Beckwith's Report, page 13.

"Catal. No. 6698. Locality. Rio Grande valley. When collected, 1853. Whence obtained. Capt. Beckwith. Wing. 8.00." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, page 154.

This expedition, surveying for a railroad to the Pacific Ocean, entered the Rio Grande Valley through the Sangre de Cristo Pass on August 13, and left over Cochetopa Pass September 2, 1853. F. Kreutzfeldt collected the specimens, which were reported upon by Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution.

The subspecies is determined by present ranges.

Tyrannus tryannus (A.O.U. 444.)

Kingbird

August 4, 1846

W. H. Emory

"We saw at times, during the day, a few antelopes, rabbits, wild horses, two jack dams, (magpies) meadow larks, king birds, and bob o' lincolns." - House Executive Document 41, 30th Congress, 1st Session, page 17.

This was a military expedition from Leavenworth to California. After reaching Bent's Fort, between La Junta and Las Animas, on the Arkansas River, the route up Timpas Creek was followed, and on this day the headwaters of that creek were reached.

This typical eastern form of the kingbird is not uncommon in eastern Colorado.

Tyrannus verticalis (A.O.U. 447.)

Arkansas Kingbird

July 20, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"A bird was taken, closely resembling in point of colouring a species preserved in the Philadelphia Museum, under the name of ruby-crowned flycatcher, said to be from the East Indies; but the bill differs in being much less dilated. We can hardly think it a new species, yet in the more common books we do not find any distinct description of it. It is certainly allied to the *tyrannus griseus* and *sulphratus* of Vieillot; but in addition to other differential characters, it is distinguished from the former by the simplicity of the colouring of the wing and tail feathers, and the absence of bands on the side of the head; the bill also is differently formed from that of either of those species, if we may judge from Vieillot's figures.³⁶

³⁶
Tyrannus verticalis, Say. - Head above pure pale plumbeous; vertex with a bright orange spot; back pale plumbeous, very slightly tinged with olivaceous; wings brown; tertials margined exteriorally with white; inner webs of the primaries towards the base whitish, narrowed at their tips, the first feather remarkably so; tail coverts and tail deep brown black; exterior web of the lateral tail feather white; a dusky line before the eye; chin whitish; neck beneath, colour of the head; breast, belly, and in-

ferior tail coverts bright yellow; bill furnished with clusters above, from the base to near the tip, where it rather suddenly curves much downward. Total length 8 inches; bill from the anterior edge of the nostrils to tip $11/20$ of an inch. - James" - Thwaites', Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, pages 54 -55.

During this day the expedition under the command of Major Long, proceeded down the north bank of the Arkansas River, passing the mouth of the Huerfano River.

Sayornis sayus (A.O.U. 457.)

Say Phoebe

Prior to 1826

C. L. Bonaparte

"25 Bonaparte, C. L. American Ornithology. 4 vols., Philadelphia, 1825, 4to. Original description of Sayornis saya from what is now the State of Colorado." - Sclater's History of the Birds of Colorado, page 536.

Bonaparte's work has not been available.

Otocoris alpestris leucolaema (A.O.U. 474c.)

Desert Horned Lark

July 28, 1820

Edwin James

"In the afternoon several magpies, shore larks, and cow buntings were seen." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, page 78.

This day's travel had begun ten miles south of the point at which the Purgatory had been crossed, and in the evening the Cimarron River, which flows eastward just south of the Colorado-New Mexico line, was crossed.

The subspecies is determined by range.

Pica pica hudsonia (A.O.U. 475.)

American Magpie

December 1, 1806

Zebulon Montgomery Pike

"The storm still continuing with violence, we remained encamped; the snow by night was one foot deep. Our horses were obliged to scrape it away to obtain their miserable pittance, and to increase their misfortunes the poor animals were attacked by the magpies, which, attracted by the scent of their sore backs, alighted on them, and in defiance of their wincing and kicking, picked many places quite raw. The difficulty of procuring food rendered those birds so bold as to alight on our men's arms and eat meat out of their hands." - Coues' edition of Pike's Account, Page 460.

Coues locates this camp on the south bank of the Arkansas River at a point near the mouth of Turkey Creek.

Cyanocitta stelleri diademata (A.O.U. 478b.)

Long-crested Jay

August 22, 1845

J.W. Abert

" There was also a jay whose plumage partook of the color of the darkest blue of a clear sky, but in manner, size, and disposition, bears a striking resemblance to our common blue jay, and, like the latter, it is fond of imitating and ridiculing other birds. I sometimes amused myself by repeating some of their notes, whereupon they would dart off in great rage, appearing to be most furiously incensed, manifesting the same feelings as a human being who possesses the same propensity for ridiculing others." - Senate Executive Document 438, 29th Congress, 1st Session, page 15.

On this day this expedition of soldiers had reached the headwaters of the Purgatory River, which had been followed from the Arkansas River.

This is the only Colorado jay, except the Northern Blue Jay, from which Abert distinguishes it, which is found with a crest.

Persioreus canadensis capitalis (A.O.U. 484a.)

Rocky Mountain Jay

July 29, 1839

Thomas Jefferson Farnham

"The birds of these regions are the sparrow-hawk, the jack-daw, a species of grouse the size of the English grouse; colour brown, a tufted head, and limbs feathered to the feet; the raven, very large, turkey, turkey-buzzards, geese, all the varieties of ducks known in such latitudes, the bald and grey eagle, meadow lark and robin red breast."
 - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XXVIII, page 222.

This party, on the way from Peoria, Illinois to Oregon, had crossed the continental divide on to the Blue River, down which they had gone to the Colorado River, which was crossed on this day.

In the United States the various grackles are sometimes called "jackdaws", but none of them are found in Middle Park. The European jackdaw belongs to the family Corvidae rather than Icteridae, and so I am assuming that Farnham's "jack-daw" is this bird, the only jay which, as far as I know, is ever called "jack". One of its many names is "Whiskey Jack" and in size and color it is not very far removed from the European jackdaw of the same family. Because of its habit of frequenting camps it must

upland
 jays
 juncos

have been well known to these men who had been in high altitudes.

Corvus corax sinuatus (A.O.U. 486.)

American Raven

November 27, 1806

Zebulon Montgomery Pike

"It began to snow, and we sought shelter under the side of a projecting rock, where we all four made a meal on one partridge and a piece of deer's ribs the ravens had left us, being the first we had eaten in that forty-eight hours." - Coues' edition of Pike's Account, page 459.

The forty-eight hours had been spent in the attempt to climb Pike's Peak. The provisions had been left at the foot of Cheyenne Mountain. Of course this statement about ravens merely indicates their presence in the region, for it is not said that ravens were seen upon this particular occasion.

Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos (A.O.U. 488.)

American Crow

"the middle of June", 1843

Rufus B. Sage

"The buffalo having left the vicinity soon after our arrival, we again moved camp eight or ten miles, to Beaver Creek, an affluent of the Platte, where we remained for fifteen or twenty days.

"Our stay at this place was one continued series of feasting, as we lacked nothing of all the varied delicacies procurable in a country abounding with game. But one item in our entertainment was indeed a novelty, - viz. crows' eggs. Almost every tree and bush, skirting the creek at intervals for miles above and below, had been appropriated to the use of the countless swarms of crows that populated the surrounding prairie. Sometimes four or five nests of these birds might be seen upon a single tree. On two or three occasions I obtained from six to ten dozen eggs in the course of an hour. These, whether boiled, roasted, or fried, were found quite an acceptable addition to our bill of daily fare." - Sage's Rocky Mountain Life, page 329.

The route followed from a point on the Arkansas near Las Animas, would identify this "Beaver Creek" as the pre-

ent Beaver Creek, which empties into the Platte River near Hillrose.

Because of the eastern location of this camp, near the headwaters of the Arikaree, this subspecies is chosen.

Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis (A.O.U. 488b.)

Western Crow

August 12, 1846

Francis Parkman

"On the fifth day after leaving Bisonette's camp, we saw, late in the afternoon, what we supposed to be a considerable stream, but on approaching it, we found to our mortification nothing but a dry bed of sand, into which the water had sunk and disappeared. We separated, some riding in one direction and some in another, along its course. Still we found no traces of water, not even so much as a wet spot in the sand. The old cotton-wood trees that grew along the bank, lamentably abused by lightning and tempest, were withering with the drought, and on the dead limbs, at the summit of the tallest, half a dozen crows were hoarsely cawing, like birds of evil omen. We had no alternative but to keep on. There was no water nearer than the South Fork of the Platte, about ten miles distant. " - Parkman's *The Oregon Trail*, Volume II, page 132.

Bisonette's camp, near the head of Horse Creek, in Wyoming, had been left on August 7, and Parkman was travelling south along the front of the mountains.

This subspecies is selected because of its western range.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus (A.O.U. 492.)

Pinyon Jay

March 28, 1856

D. W. C. Peters

"Gymnokitta cyanocephala, Pr. Max. Maximilian's Jay."

...

"Sp. Ch. - Wings considerably longer than the tail, and reaching to within an inch of its tip. Tail nearly even. General color dull blue, paler on the abdomen, the middle of which is tinged with ash; the head and neck of a much deeper and more intense blue, darker on the crown. Chin and fore part of the throat whitish, streaked with blue. Length, 10 inches; wing, 5.90; tail, 4.50; tarsus, 1.50."

...

"Specimens vary considerably in size. Thus No. 8488, from Fort Massachusetts, marked female, is 11.50 inches long; the wing 6; the tail 4.80. The color, too, is of a more intense blue throughout.

"List of specimens." Inter alia - "Catal. No. 8488. Sex. Female. Locality. Fort Massachusetts. When collected. March 28, 1856. Whence obtained. Dr. Peters. Orig. No. 14. Length. 11.25." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, pages 574 - 575 .

Fort Massachusetts was on Ute Creek in Costilla County.

The report is by Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution, which received Dr. Peters' collection in 1857.

Molothrus ater ater (A.O.U. 495.)

Cowbird

July 28, 1820

Edwin James

"In the afternoon several magpies, shore larks, and cow buntings were seen. One of the cow buntings followed us five or six miles, alighting on the ground, near the foremost of our line, and within a few paces of our horses' feet, where he stood gazing at the horses until all had passed him, when he flew forward to the front, repeating the same movement many times in succession." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, pages 78 - 79.

Since the Cimmaron River, only a short distance south of the Colorado-New Mexico line, was not crossed until evening, these Cowbirds were seen in Colorado.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus (A.O.U. 497.)

Yellow-headed Blackbird

September 13, 1846

J.W. Abert

"We searched the Purgatory for plums, currants, and grapes. Although we found bushes and vines in abundance, the fruit had all gone. We here saw several flickers with red lined wings and tails, (picus Mexicanus.) Also the common flicker, and large flocks of the yellow headed black bird, or troopial." - House Executive Document 41, 30th Congress, 1st Session, page 436.

Abert had reached the upper waters of the Purgatory River en route to Santa Fe from Bent's Fort on the Arkansas between La Junta and Las Animas, by way of Timpas Creek.

Sturnella neglecta neglecta (A.O.U. 501.1.)

Western Meadowlark

July 29, 1839

Thomas Jefferson Farnham

"The birds of these regions are the sparrow-hawk, the jack-daw, a species of grouse the size of the English grouse; colour brown, a tufted head, and limbs feathered to the feet; the raven, very large, turkey, turkey-buzzards, geese, all the varieties of ducks known in such latitudes, the bald and grey eagle, meadow lark, and robin red breast."
- Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XXVIII, page 222.

On their way from Peoria, Illinois to Oregon, these men followed up the Arkansas River, and crossed the continental divide on to the Blue River, which was descended to the Colorado, which was crossed on this day.

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis (A.O.U. 519.)

House Finch

July 12, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"*Fringilla frontalis*, Say. - Crimson-necked Finch.

Head, throat, neck beneath, and upper portion of the breast brilliant crimson, most intense near the bill and over the eyes; rump and tail coverts paler crimson; between the bill and the eye grey; bill dark horn colour; lower mandible paler; vertex, occiput, neck above and each side brown, tinged with reddish, the feathers margined with pale; back dusky brownish; wings and tail fuscous, the latter feathers edged on the inner side with white; the primaries broadly margined within, towards the base, with white, and exteriorly edged with a grayish; coverts and tertials edged with dull grayish; inferior portion of the breast, the belly, and vent whitish, each feather with a broad fuscous line.

"Female dusky brown, the feathers margined each side with dull whitish; wings fuscous, the margining and edging of the feathers not as distinct as in the male; all beneath, excepting the tail and wing feathers, whitish, each feather with a brown streak.

"This bird is much more closely allied, both in size and colouring, to the purple Finch (*F. purpurea*) than to the crimson-headed Finch (*F. rosea*), and may prove to be only a variety of it, when a comparison of many individu-

als can be made. The male, from which the above description is drawn out, may not be in its ultimate state of plumage, as it seems probable that the middle of the head, the upper part of the neck, and the back, in the perfect plumage, is more obviously tinted with crimson than we have observed those parts to be. It differs, however, from the Purple Finch in the tint of the crimson colour, which is far more lively and brilliant, and also in having each feather of the belly, vent, and inferior tail coverts broadly streaked with brown. We apply to it provisionally the name of *F. frontalis*. A prepared specimen of this bird is in the Philadelphia Museum. - James' - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XV, pages 313 - 314.

This expedition under the command of Major Long, had entered Colorado through the South Platte Valley and had travelled along the foothills, crossing the divide to the waters of the Arkansas River. Thwaites locates the camp of this day near Colorado Springs, where Cheyenne Creek flows into Fountain Creek.

Astragalinus psaltria psaltria (A.O.U. 530.)

Arkansas Goldfinch

July 12, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"*Fringilla psaltria*, Say. - A very pretty little bird, was frequently seen hopping about in the low trees or bushes, singing sweetly, somewhat in the manner of the American gold-finch, or Hemp-bird (*Fringilla tristis*). The tints, and the distribution of the colours of its plumage resemble, in a considerable degree, those of the autumnal and less brilliant vesture of that well-known species. It may, however, be distinguished, in addition to other differences, by the black tip of its tail feathers, and the white wing spot.

"The head is capped with black; the cheeks are dusky; the bill yellow, with a black tip; iris burnt umber; neck above, and half its side, back, and rump olivaceous, more or less intermixed with dusky; smaller wing coverts blackish, edged with olivaceous; greater wing coverts brown-black, tipped with white, forming a narrow band; primaries fuscous, and, excepting the exterior one, slightly edged with white; third, fourth, and fifth feather white towards the base, so as to exhibit a white spot beyond the wing coverts; secondaries margined with white exteriorly towards their tips; tail coverts black, varied with olivaceous on their shafts; tail emarginate, feathers blackish, slightly

edged with dull whitish; the three exterior ones pure white on their inner webs, excepting at base and tip; all beneath yellow; feet pale. A specimen is deposited in the Philadelphia Museum. - James" - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XV, page 313.

This is Major Long's expedition, which had followed up the valley of the South Platte River and had crossed the divide on to the waters of the Arkansas. Thwaites locates this day's camp at the mouth of Cheyenne Creek, on Fountain Creek, near Colorado Springs.

Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys (A.O.U. 554.)

White-crowned Sparrow

September 20, 1856

W. S. Wood

"*Zonotrichia leucophrys*, Swainson. White-crowned Sparrow."

...

"Sp. Ch. - Head above, upper half of loreal region from the bill, and a narrow line through and behind the eye to the occiput, black; a longitudinal patch in the middle of the crown, and a short line from above the anterior corner of the eye, the two confluent on the occiput, white. Sides of the head, fore part of the breast, and lower neck all round, pale ash, lightest beneath and shading insensibly into the whitish of the belly and chin; sides of belly and under tail coverts tinged with yellowish brown. Interscapular region streaked broadly with dark chestnut brownish. Edges of the tertiaries brownish chestnut. Two white bands on the wing.

"Female similar, but smaller; immature male with the black of the head replaced by dark chestnut brown, the white tinged with brownish yellow.

"Length, 7.10 inches; wing 3.25."

...

"List of specimens." Inter alia - "Catal. No. 5709.
Sex. Male. Locality. Republican river, Neb. When collec-

ted. Sept 20, 1856. Whence obtained. Lt. F. T. Bryan.
Orig. No. 359. Collected by - W. S. Wood." - Pacific
Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, pages 458 - 460.

This was an expedition under Lieutenant Francis T. Bryan, returning to Fort Riley from Fort Bridger through northern Colorado. On this day they followed down the North Fork of the Republican River, and camped very near the Colorado-Nebraska line.

Pipilo maculatus montanus (A.O.U. 588a.)

Spurred Towhee

July 15, 1820

Edwin James

"In the timber along the creek, the sparrow-hawk, mocking-bird, robin, red-headed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, dove, winter wren, towhe, bunting, yellow-breasted chat, and several other birds were seen." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, page 26.

Dr. James and two companions, on July 14, had been the first to reach the top of Pike's Peak, and they were returning down Fountain Creek to the camp at the mouth of Cheyenne Creek.

This is the only Colorado towhee which looks like the towhee of the east, that is to be found as far south as Colorado Springs in July.

I think it probable that there should be no comma between "towhe" and "bunting" because "bunting" is too general in meaning to be included in a list of otherwise specific names, and in Volume XV, at page 321, there is included in the list of birds seen along the Missouri River, "Fringilla (Ploceus, Cuv.) erythrocephala - Towhee bunting." James' spelling is so accurate that it is my belief that the comma was really intended to be the second "e" in "towhee".

Passerina amoena (A.O.U. 599.)

Lazuli Bunting

July 18, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"A very beautiful species of emberiza²² was caught; it is rather smaller than the indigo bunting, (*emberiza cyanea*) with a note entirely dissimilar. It was observed to be much in the grass, rarely alighting on bushes or trees.

²²*Emberiza amoena*, Say. - Head and neck bluish green; back brownish black more or less intermixed with blue and a little brown ferruginous; rump pure blue; smaller wing coverts with dull blue, brown at base, and tipped with white, forming a narrow band; wing and tail feathers blackish-brown with blue exterior margins; belly, inferior tail coverts and lower part of the breast pale ferruginous; neck bright green; bill and feet pale. - James" - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, pages 39 - 40.

For two days, this expedition which had entered Colorado by coming up the South Platte Valley, had camped on the Arkansas River near Turkey Creek, while a side trip was made by Captain Bell and Dr. James and two other men up the river as far as Canyon City.

Calamospiza melanocorys (A.O.U. 605.)

Lark Bunting

August 4, 1846

W. H. Emory

"We saw at times, during the day, a few antelopes, rabbits, wild horses, two jack dams, (magpie) meadow larks, king birds, and bob o' lincolns." - House Executive Document 41, 30th Congress, 1st Session, page 17.

This is at the head of Timpas Creek up which this military expedition, bound for California, had passed from the Arkansas River.

The Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) is so extremely rare in Colorado that it is to be assumed that the Lark Bunting is meant. This bird is very common in eastern Colorado and is superficially so similar to the Bobolink that it is best known by that familiar name.

Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons (A.O.U. 612.)

Cliff Swallow

July 5, 1820

Edwin James

"They also saw about the shelvings of the sandstone rocks, which formed for some distance the banks of the stream, innumerable nests of the cliff swallows similar to those seen on the Missouri." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XV, page 281.

This was about eight miles up Clear Creek from the Platte River. While the main party under Major Long was camped near Denver, Dr. James and a few others made an attempt to stroll over to the mountains and back. They went eight miles, became discouraged, and returned to camp.

Icteria virens longicauda (A.O.U. 683a.)

Long-tailed Chat

July 15, 1820

Edwin James

"In the timber along the creek, the sparrow-hawk, mocking-bird, robin, red-headed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, dove, winter wren, towhe, bunting, yellow-breasted chat, and several other birds were seen." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, page 26.

Dr. James and the two unnamed with whom he had made the first ascent to the top of Pike's Peak, were returning down Fountain Creek to the camp at the mouth of Cheyenne Creek, near Colorado Springs.

This form of *Icteria virens* is the common one in Colorado. The eastern form is very rare as far west as Colorado Springs.

Cinclus mexicanus unicolor (A.O.U. 701.)

Dipper

March 27, 1856

D. W. C. Peters

"*Hydrobata mexicana*, Baird. American Dipper; Water Ouzel."

...

"Sp. Ch. - Above dark plumbeous, beneath paler; head and neck all round a shade of clove or perhaps a light sooty brown; less conspicuous beneath. A concealed spot of white above the anterior corner of the eye and indications of the same sometimes on the lower eyelid. Immature specimens usually with the feathers beneath edged with grayish white; the greater and middle wing coverts and lesser quills tipped with the same. The colors more uniform. Length, 7.50; wing 4.00; tail 2.55."

...

"Skins from Fort Massachusetts differ from the others in having the bill entirely black; the other characters are very similar; the colors generally are purer, the feathers being less edged with paler.

"List of specimens." Inter alia - "Catal. No. 8495 - Eyes light brown. Sex. Male. When collected. March 27, 1856. Whence obtained. Dr. Peters. Length. 8. Stretch of wings. 11.00." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX, pages 229 - 230.

Fort Massachusetts was built in 1852, north of Fort Garland in Costilla County. The collection which Dr. Peters made in that vicinity was received in 1857 by the Smithsonian Institution, and the report is made by Spencer F. Baird.

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus (A.O.U. 703a.)

Western Mockingbird

July 4, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"A number of young magpies were seen in the bushes about the river; also the nests and young of the mockingbird, (*turdus orpheus*, Vieil)." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XV, page 277.

On July 3 this expedition under the command of Major Long, had passed the mouth of St. Vrain's Creek and continued up the South Platte River, which had been followed for its entire length.

Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus (A.O.U. 715.)

Rock Wren

July 6, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"We observed here the obscure wren,¹⁴⁰ a bird more closely related to the great Carolina wren of Wilson than any other we have seen; but the characters drawn from the primaries, and from the marking of the tail, sufficiently distinguish it from that species. The bill is somewhat longer, and the general tint of the plumage is of a much more sombre hue. It frequents the arid country in this vicinity, and is often seen hopping about upon the branches, and singular compressed semi-procumbent trunks of the *Juniperus depressa*. The bill of this species approaches the form which characterizes the genus *Certhia*, in which Wilson has placed its kindred species, the Carolina wren.

¹⁴⁰ Genus *Troglodytes*. Cuv. - *T. obsoletus*, Say. - Above dusky brownish, slightly undulated with pale, tinted with dull ferruginous on the top of the head, and superior portion of the back; sides of the head dull whitish, with a broad brown line passing through the eye to the origin of the neck; primaries plain, being entirely destitute of undulations or spots; tail coverts pale, each with four or five fuscous bands; chin, neck beneath, and breast whitish, each feather marked by a longitudinal line of light brown;

belly white; flanks a little tinged with ferruginous; inferior tail coverts white, each feather bifasciate with black-brown; tail simple, broadly tipped with yellow, and with black before the tip, the remaining portion colour of wings, and obsolete banded; these bands are more distinct on the two middle feathers, which are destitute of the black and yellowish termination; exterior plume marked by four yellowish white spots on the exterior web, and by two larger ones on the inner web; the tip is dusky, length six inches; bill from the corner of the mouth, rather more than one inch. - James" - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XV, pages 289 - 290.

On this day the expedition, under the command of Major Long, was at the mouth of the South Platte Canyon. They had come up the valley of the South Platte River and were to cross over to the Arkansas River.

Nannus troglodytes hyemalis (A.O.U. 722.)

Winter Wren

July 15, 1820

Edwin James

"In the timber along the creek, the sparrow-hawk, mocking-bird, robin, red-headed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, dove, winter wren, towhe, bunting, yellow-breasted chat, and several other birds were seen." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XVI, page 26.

Dr. James and the two men with whom he had made the first ascent to the summit of Pike's Peak were returning down Fountain Creek to the camp at the mouth of Cheyenne Creek, near Colorado Springs.

This is the eastern subspecies, with which these men were acquainted. The other Colorado form is rare and has a more northerly range in the summer.

Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis (A.O.U. 735a.)

Long-tailed Chickadee

From 1852 to 1857

D.W.C.Peters

"*Parus septentrionalis*, Harris. Long-tailed Chickadee

...

"Sp. Ch. - Length, about 5.50 inches; wing, 2.70; tail, about 3 inches. Head above and below black, separated by white on the sides of the head; back brownish ash. Beneath white, tinged with pale brownish white on the sides. Outer tail feathers, primaries, and secondaries broadly edged with white, involving nearly the whole outer web of the outer tail feather. Tail much graduated; the outer feather about .30 of an inch shorter than the middle. Second quill about as long as the secondaries."

...

"A specimen from Fort Massachusetts (8493) agrees in general characteristics of form, but differs in having a sooty tinge in all the white parts, above and below. This is analagous to conditions frequently seen in other species, and may be either an actual tendency to melanism, or the result of actual soiling of the feathers with the carbonaceous matter of burnt trees, or from other causes.

"List of specimens." Inter alia - "Catal. No. 8493. Sex. Female. Locality. Fort Massachusetts. Whence obtained. Dr. Peters." - Pacific Railroad Surveys, Volume IX,

pages 388 - 390.

Fort Massachusetts was built in 1852 on Ute Creek in Costilla County. In 1857 the collection made by Dr. Peters in that vicinity was received by the Smithsonian Institution, and the report on the specimens is by Spencer F. Baird.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus (A.O.U. 761a.)

Western Robin

July 5, 1820

Edwin James and Thomas Say

"Robins, which we had not seen since we left the Missouri, here occurred in considerable numbers." - Thwaites' Early Western Travels, Volume XV, page 281.

This was at the camp on the right bank of the South Platte River near the mouth of Clear Creek.

The western subspecies is the only one now seen "in considerable numbers", and it is indicated that the eastern form had not yet spread westward up the Platte Valley, for that was the route which this expedition, under the command of Major Long, had followed.

Sialia currucoides (A.O.U. 768.)

Mountain Bluebird

Between March 24 and March 31, 1847

George Frederick Ruxton

"...about the 24th the ice moved bodily away, and the river was clear from that date, the edges of the water only being frozen in the morning. Geese now made their appearance in considerable numbers, and afforded an agreeable variety to our perpetual venison and tough bull-meat, as well as good sport in shooting them with rifles. The 'blue bird' followed the goose; and when the first robin was seen, the hunters pronounced the winter at an end." - Ruxton's Wild Life In the Rocky Mountains, page 163.

Ruxton had come up from Mexico by way of Sangre de Cristo Pass, and after hunting in South Park, had spent the latter part of the winter at Fort Pueblo, on the Arkansas River at the mouth of Fountain Creek.

This is by far the most abundant of the Colorado blue-birds.

II. CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF FIRST RECORDS

OF

BIRDS SEEN IN COLORADO PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT

1. *Dendragapus obscurus obscurus* (A.O.U. 297.)
Dusky Grouse
August 26, 1776
Dominguez and Escalante

2. *Meleagris gallopavo merriami* (A.O.U. 310.)
Merriam Turkey
November 13, 1806
Zebulon Montgomery Pike

3. *Corvus corax sinuatus* (A.O.U. 486.)
American Raven
November 27, 1806
Zebulon Montgomery Pike

4. *Pica pica hudsonia* (A.O.U. 475.)
American Magpie
December 1, 1806
Zebulon Montgomery Pike

5. *Geococcyx californianus* (A.O.U. 385.)
Road-runner
December 25, 1806
Zebulon Montgomery Pike

6. *Branta canadensis canadensis* (A.O.U. 172.)
Canada Goose
February 26, 1807
Zebulon Montgomery Pike

7. *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus* (A.O.U. 703a.)
Western Mockingbird
July 4, 1820
Edwin James and Thomas Say

8. *Numenius americanus americanus* (A.O.U. 264.)
Long-billed Curlew
July 5, 1820
Edwin James

9. *Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons* (A.O.U. 612.)
Cliff Swallow
July 5, 1820
Edwin James

10. *Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus* (A.O.U. 715.)
Rock Wren
July 6, 1820
Edwin James and Thomas Say

11. *Chloroēnas fasciata fasciata* (A.O.U. 312.)
Band-tailed Pigeon
July 9, 1820
Edwin James and Thomas Say

12. *Astragalinus psaltria psaltria* (A.O.U. 530.)
Arkansas Goldfinch
July 12, 1820
Edwin James and Thomas Say

13. *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* (A.O.U. 530.)
House Finch
July 12, 1820
Edwin James and Thomas Say

14. *Cerchneis spaveria phalaēna* (A.O.U. 360a.)
Desert Sparrow Hawk
July 15, 1820
Edwin James

15. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus erythrocephalus* (A.O.U. 406.)
Red-headed Woodpecker
July 15, 1820
Edwin James
16. *Asyndesmus lewisi* (A.O.U. 408.)
Lewis Woodpecker
July 15, 1820
Edwin James
17. *Zenaidura macroura marginella* (A.O.U. 316a.)
Western Mourning Dove
July 15, 1820
Edwin James
18. *Nannus troglodytes hyemalis* (A.O.U. 722.)
Winter Wren
July 15, 1820
Edwin James
19. *Pipilo maculatus montanus* (A.O.U. 588a.)
Spurred Towhee
July 15, 1820
Edwin James

20. *Icteria virens longicauda* (A.O.U. 683a.)
Long-tailed Chat
July 15, 1820
Edwin James
21. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogaëa* (A.O.U. 378.)
Burrowing Owl
July 15, 1820
Edwin James and Thomas Say
22. *Passerina amoëna* (A.O.U. 599.)
Lazuli Bunting
July 18, 1820
Edwin James and Thomas Say
23. *Tyrannus verticalis* (A.O.U. 447.)
Arkansas Kingbird
July 20, 1820
Edwin James and Thomas Say
24. *Otocoris alpestris leucolæma* (A.O.U. 474c.)
Desert Horned Lark
July 28, 1820
Edwin James

25. *Molothrus ater ater* (A.O.U. 495.)
Cowbird
July 28, 1820
Edwin James
26. *Grus canadensis mexicana* (A.O.U. 206.)
Sandhill Crane
March 30, 1822
Jacob Fowler
27. *Sayornis sayus* (A.O.U. 457.)
Say Phoebe
Prior to 1826
C. L. Bonaparte
28. *Persioreus canadensis capitalis* (A.O.U. 484a.)
Rocky Mountain Jay
July 29, 1839
Thomas Jefferson Farnham
29. *Pedioecetes Phasianellus columbianus* (A.O.U. 308a.)
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse
July 29, 1839
Thomas Jefferson Farnham

30. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis* (A.O.U. 325.)
Turkey Vulture
July 29, 1839
Thomas Jefferson Farnham
31. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus* (A.O.U. 352.)
Bald Eagle
July 29, 1839
Thomas Jefferson Farnham
32. *Sturnella neglecta neglecta* (A.O.U. 501.1.)
Western Meadowlark
July 29, 1839
Thomas Jefferson Farnham
33. *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos* (A.O.U. 488.)
American Crow
"the middle of June", 1843
Rufus B. Sage
34. *Aquila chrysaetos* (A.O.U. 349.)
Golden Eagle
Between November 10, 1843 and January 1, 1844
Rufus B. Sage

35. *Centrocercus urophasianus* (A.O.U. 309.)
Sage Grouse
June 20, 1844
John Charles Fremont
36. *Colaptes auratus luteus* (A.O.U. 412a.)
Northern Flicker
August 22, 1845
J. W. Abert
37. *Cyanocitta stelleri diademata* (A.O.U. 478b.)
Long-crested Jay
August 22, 1845
J. W. Abert
38. *Tyrannus tyrannus* (A.O.U. 444.)
Kingbird
August 4, 1846
W. H. Emory
39. *Calamospiza melanocorys* (A.O.U. 605.)
Lark Bunting
August 4, 1846
W. H. Emory

40. *Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis* (A.O.U. 488b.)

Western Crow

August 12, 1846

Francis Parkman

41. *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus* (A.O.U. 273.)

Killdeer

August 26, 1846

J. W. Abert

42. *Colaptes cafer collaris* (A.O.U. 413.)

Red-shafted Flicker

September 13, 1846

J.W. Abert

43. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (A.O.U. 497.)

Yellow-headed Blackbird

September 13, 1846

J. W. Abert

44. *Sialia currucoides* (A.O.U. 768.)

Mountain Bluebird

Between March 24 and March 31, 1847

George Frederick Ruxton

45. *Tympanuchus americanus americanus* (A.O.U. 305.)
Prairie Chicken
"Towards the latter end of March", 1847
George Frederick Ruxton
46. *Buteo borealis calurus* (A.O.U. 337b.)
Western Red-tail
From about August 9 to August 13, 1853
F. Kreutzfeldt
47. *Buteo swainsoni* (A.O.U. 342.)
Swainson Hawk
Between August 13 and September 2, 1853
F. Kreutzfeldt
48. *Asio otus wilsonianus* (A.O.U. 366.)
American Long-eared Owl
Between August 13 and September 2, 1853
F. Kreutzfeldt
49. *Chordeiles minor henryi* (A.O.U. 420a.)
Western Nighthawk
Between August 13, and September 2, 1853
F. Kreutzfeldt

50. *Merula americana* (A. O.U. 146.)
Redhead
September 16, 1853
F. Kreutzfeldt
51. *Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (A.O.U. 331.)
Marsh Hawk
From about August 9 to about September 22, 1853
F. Kreutzfeldt
52. *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii* (A.O.U. 418.)
Poor-will
Prior to 1856
Max. Greene
53. *Cinclus mexicanus unicolor* (A.O.U. 701.)
Dipper
March 27, 1856
D. W. C. Peters
54. *Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus* (A.O.U. 492.)
Pinyon Jay
March 28, 1853
D. W. C. Peters

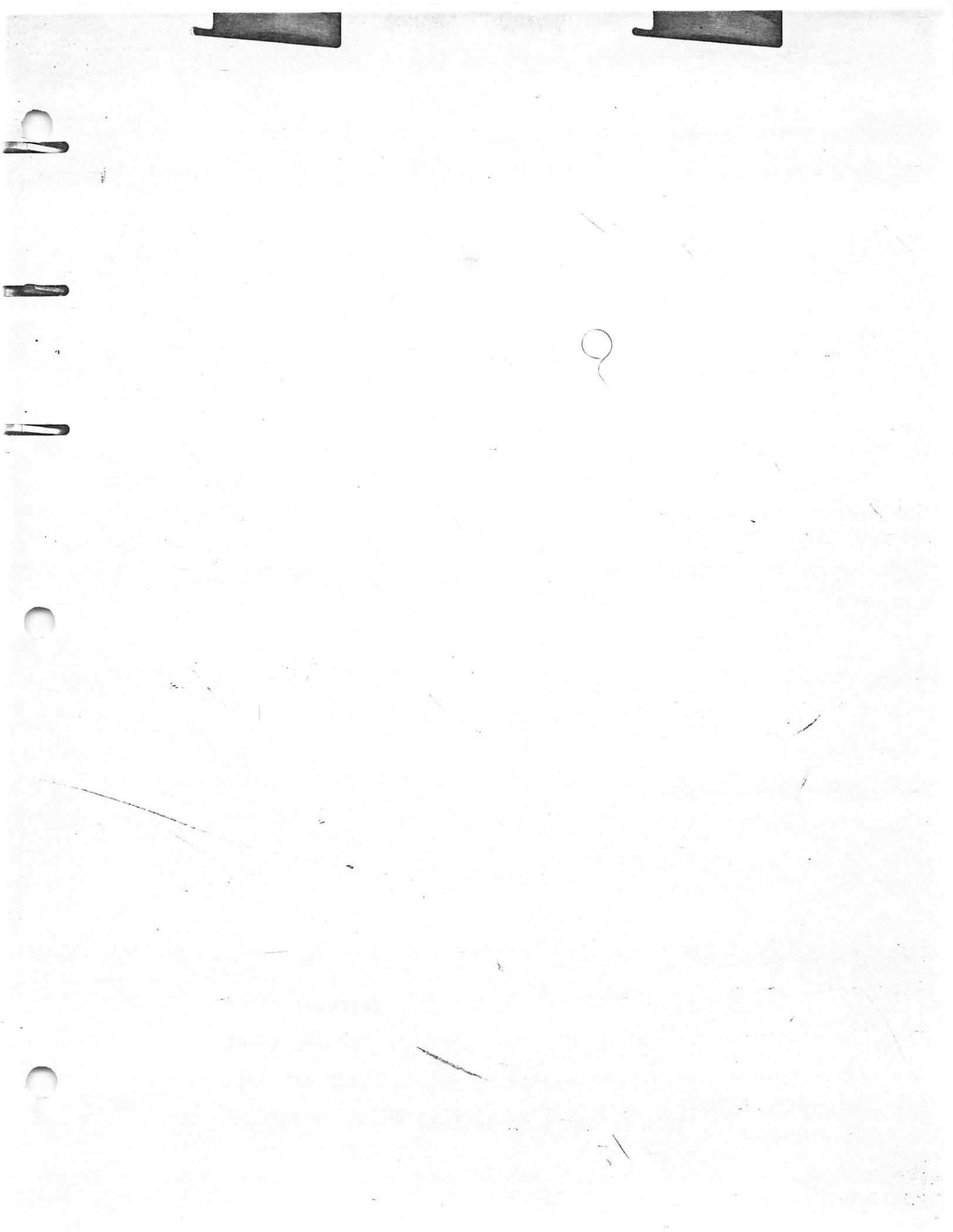
55. *Buteo ferrugineus* (A.O.U. 348.)
Ferruginous Rough-leg
September 16, 1856
D. W. C. Peters
56. *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys* (A.O.U. 554.)
White-crowned Sparrow
September 20, 1856
W. S. Wood
57. *Buteo lagopus sancti-johannis* (A.O.U. 347.)
American Rough-legged Hawk
From 1852 to 1857
D. W. C. Peters
58. *Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis* (A.O.U. 735a.)
Long-tailed Chickadee
From 1852 to 1857
D. W. C. Peters
59. *Dryobates villosus monticola* (A.O.U. 393e.)
Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker
From 1852 to 1857
D. W. C. Peters

60. *Lepus leucurus altipetens* (A.O.U. 304.)

Southern White-tailed Ptarmigan

About January 2, 1858

W. W. Anderson



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