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Birds Observed in Pahrump Valley, Nevada
from February 12th to 28th 1891.
E. W. Nelson—

Mr. J. S. Palmer's notes upon this valley will give its characteristics more in detail than the following brief statement. The birds in this list include only those observed in the bottom of the valley. The latter is a plain nearly level and ten to twelve miles broad on the bottom with a long slope leading up from the borders of the bottom to the ~~use~~ Charleston mountains on the east and to the west to another low range; which, like the Charleston range extends north and south. The greater part of the bottom of the valley is covered with several species of Artriplex ~~bushes~~ and other desert bushes. Scattered groups of mesquites are also numerous, particularly along the sides of the valley. On the eastern side of the valley at the foot of the slope extending down from the Charleston

Mountains ^{are} a couple of large springs
giving water enough to irrigate
several hundred acres of land.

This flows out upon the valley and
a fertile ranch known as Pahump-
or Winter's, ranch is located there.

An abundance of willows and
many introduced cottonwoods grow
along the ditches there and various
aquatic and other plants grow abundantly
offering to the eye a perfect example
of an oasis in the desert.

The locality is a favorite resort for
birds as the following notes indicate,
and there most of the time was passed.

Anas carolinensis.

A flock of these ducks kept about
the main spring and the marshy, or low
wet ground at Pahump Ranch.

Anas americana. A single bird seen and

(3.)
obtained.

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Argiolepis vociferus. A few solitary individuals seen about the ranch.

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Callipepla gambeli. Excessively numerous about the ranch.

Hundreds of these birds live about the Pahump ranch and are considered a nuisance by the proprietor of the place owing the damage they do to his crops. None of the males had begun to utter their spring call note and the flocks were unbroken.

In the vicinity of our camp quite a number were shot during the first few days and during the remainder of my stay I noticed that when a flock of quail came out to pick up grain left by the horses about camp an old male usually mounted to the top of

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a tall bush close by and remained on guard for ten or fifteen minutes and if everything was quiet he would then drop down among his companions. At the first alarm the flock would take to the bushes running swiftly and flying when hard pressed.

They roosted in the dense bushes of willows and cottonwoods growing along the ditches. As a rule the flock would walk under their roosting place and fly up one by one into the tree or bush six to ten feet from the ground. Sometimes they flew into the tree from a distance.

When feeding they have a series of low clucking and cooing notes which are kept up almost continually. For several days while I was alone in camp they came close about my tent while I was working inside and I had an excellent opportunity to note their ways.

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Archibuteo - sp?

Mr Palmer saw a large hawk pass
our camp one day which, from his
description must belong to this genus.

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Buteo borealis calurus.

Three of these birds seen in the valley
at various points.

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Accipiter velox.

✓ Several seen and one shot at the ranch.

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Circus hudsonius. Common over the
wet fields and willow patches and
about the ranch and observed scattering
elsewhere in the valley.

✓
Falco mexicanus.

Several seen about the ranch and also
seen at other points in the valley.

6.
Actio americanus,

a flock of eight of these birds were found living in a willow patch.

All were flushed in a area of less than fifty yards across and each bird ^{had} evidently occupied the same place on the ground for some time as a little group of several dozen pellets marked each place.

Colaptes cafer. A few were seen about the ranch. One had made four holes through the boards in the gable end of a house, used as a granary then and each time a piece of tin had been placed over the hole. When we were there the bird had just completed a fifth hole close beside the others.

Sayornis sayi. Seen sparingly at various points in the valley.

Otocoris - sp.? (See specimens section) Small

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parties of these birds were seen at various points in the valley.

Corvus americanus. A flock of about one hundred of these birds was seen at the ranch.

Corvus corax sinuatus. Common about the ranch and seen sparingly at other points in the valley.

~~Thryomanes~~

Colaptes cyanocephalus. Common about the ranch, keeping about the yard and outbuildings.

Sturgesia neglecta. Common about the ranch.

Agelaius phoeniceus. Several hundred of these birds came to roost each night in the reeds growing just below the main spring at the ranch.

Melospiza fasciata montana. Common along

the willow grown banks of the ditches
at the ranch.

Amphispiza billi nevadensis. Found
everywhere in the valley except on
wet ground at the ranch.

Junco hyemalis shufeldti. Common about
the orchard and hay corral at the
ranch.

Spizella monticola ochracea. The day we
left the ranch was cloudy and a cold
wind blew up the valley bringing what
proved to be a severe storm of wind and
rain in the valley and snow in the
adjacent mountains.

On this morning quite a number of these
birds suddenly appeared along the
borders of the willow thickets and were
noted for the first time at this place.

Zonotrichia leucophrys, eximius, leucophrys.
about the ranch.

Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus.

(See specimen obtained.) A few seen in wet fields and along the ditches at the ranch.

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis. Several small parties seen about the ranch.

Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides.

Seen sporadically over the valley.

Dendroica auduboni. Two seen at the ranch.

Helminthophila - sp? A bird of this genus was seen in the trees at the ranch but escaped me.

Amphispiza bilineata. Not uncommon about the ranch.

Ardea herodias herodias paleoherodias. Rather common among the rushes and reeds at the ranch.

Thryomanes bewickii ^{howii} spilargus. A few seen at the ranch.

Salpinctes obsoletus. Seen sparingly at various places in the valley.

Regulus calendula. Common among the willows at the ranch.

A male was seen paying court to a female by exposing his scarlet crest like a fiery crown and flitting ^{from twig to twig} about the object of his attentions.

Geothlypis trichas. Found among the mesquite patches whenever we went in the valley. Several seen mounted on the tops of mesquite bushes singing a very musical song. Here as elsewhere they

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were shy and difficult to obtain.

✓ Oroscoptes montanus.

A few seen near the ranch.

✓ Merula migratoria propinqua.

A few seen about the ranch.

✓ Sialia arctica. A single small party
seen ~~near~~ at the ranch.

✓ Sialia mexicana. A few seen at
the ranch.

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