

a myadestes townsendi visited our home in Provo at 255 E. 1st So. This morning made a trip south of Provo City along the lower railway tracks toward Springville Utah. Near the Sullack Fur farm south of the round-house observed the actions of the Western Tree Sparrow. About 10 of these birds were feeding in some isolated weed patches. They were concerned with one isolated weed in an open situation bordering a fence line. Upon approach they left the weeds and flew into a small willow tree. Their call is characteristic and helps to identify the bird. A simple medium, high chirp is given having the tone of anger and protest. All the members of the flock have a part in offering this call. Their actions in general are not effected simultaneously but small groups of birds or singles or pairs leave the flock and fly to another point. Their flight is active and irregular. The dark chest spot is diagnostic. Their actions are considerably different from those of the Chipping Sparrow which they closely resemble. Could approach 30'. The birds would leave but merely fly to another part of the field. West of the pipe plant along the right of way of the railroad watched 30 anthuspenalitta rubescens. They were feeding and resting on the gravelly bank and around the puddles of water alongside the railroad track where good vegetation marked the course. Several good identification badges mark these birds. such as: Tilling of tail in an up and down movement; swinging from side to side as they feed; nervous movements; conspicuous outer white tail feathers, especially visible when flying; long spurred toes; song in both flight and normal; and group feeding. The wagging of the tail and nervousness is in proportion to their degree of activity. When resting or standing still there is no noticeable movement of the tail. They feed with a definite flock instinct and as the main group moves ahead the ones in the rear move on or catch up by flying ahead. The movement, while confused is directive and progressive as if by mutual reaction. They are most active when feeding. Sometimes they fly erratically about when their tail feathers show up plainly. The entire time is not spent in feeding but alternated with resting. whereupon the movement is stopped and head and neck drawn back against the shoulders. While feeding it made no difference whether they crossed a hard road, railway grade, shallow water etc, they showed adaptability. While feeding in shallow water one hopped upon a small mollusk. and with a few quick adjustments of the long delicate bill the snail was on its way down the river of no return. They fly with a erratic course & issue a sharp chirp. Had opportunity