



12-31-1972

# A record of an Indigo Bunting and a wintering Say's Phoebe for northern Utah

Gary L. Worthen

*Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn>

## Recommended Citation

Worthen, Gary L. (1972) "A record of an Indigo Bunting and a wintering Say's Phoebe for northern Utah," *Great Basin Naturalist*: Vol. 32 : No. 4 , Article 6.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn/vol32/iss4/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Western North American Naturalist Publications at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Basin Naturalist by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

# A RECORD OF AN INDIGO BUNTING AND A WINTERING SAY'S PHOEBE FOR NORTHERN UTAH

Gary L. Worthen<sup>1</sup>

ABSTRACT.— A male indigo bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and a female Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) were taken at Salt Lake City, Utah on 20 May 1966 and 2 February 1966, respectively. Both birds are the northernmost records for Utah in the season in which they were taken.

On 20 May 1966 a freshly killed male Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) was found dead near the Union Building on the University of Utah campus (4720 feet elevation), Salt Lake County, Utah. The bird was found beneath some large windows, into one of which it had apparently flown. The bunting seemed otherwise in good physical condition, weighed 17.6 grams, had no fat, and had testes that measured 8x6 mm.

Indigo Buntings are considered to be rare but regular summer residents in extreme southwestern Utah (Woodbury, et al., 1949; Wauer, et al., 1965), but this account furnishes the first specimen record of this species for northern Utah.

On 2 February 1966 a female adult Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) was taken from a night roost in a small shack at the abandoned Salt-air Resort on the shore of the Great Salt Lake, 17 miles west of Salt Lake City (4211 feet elevation), Salt Lake County, Utah (lat. 40° 47'N, long. 112°10'W). The bird was heavy in fat, weighed 19.55 grams, and was in apparently good condition except for the total absence of the flight feathers of the tail. The loss of the tail was apparently recent, as there was no indication of new feather growth in the area. The bird was measured and compared to measurements given by Bishop (1900), and would on that basis be assignable to *Sayornis saya yukonensis*.

The bird's crop was empty, but the gizzard had a small amount of unidentifiable food in it (.69 grams including the grit). Judging by the bird's apparent good health, heavy fat layer, and gizzard contents, it might be assumed that the bird was finding adequate food despite the rigorous Utah winter.

Woodbury, et al. (1949) list the Say's phoebe as a casual winter resident, with records from only central and southern Utah, and it is believed that this account constitutes the first wintering record for this species for northern Utah. Both of the above specimens are located in the University of Utah Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

## REFERENCES

- BISHOP, 1900. Descriptions of three birds from Alaska. *Auk* 17:113-120.  
WAUER, R. H., AND D. L. CARTER. 1965. Birds of Zion National Park and vicinity. *Zion Natur. Hist. Assn.*, 92 p.  
WOODBURY, A. M., C. COTTAM AND J. W. SUGDEN. 1949. Annotated check-list of the birds of Utah. *Univ. Utah Biol. Ser.* 11 (2):1-40.

<sup>1</sup>Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044