weeks. During these four days the ibises were never seen to leave the little pool, which hardly seemed capable of providing sustenance for so many large birds. Many persons drove to the pool to watch the "cranes," the latter showing no alarm at their presence on the roadway close by.

Upon my return to San Diego in the middle of August, the Wood Ibises in Mission Valley were still being reported. The latest record which I received was of three birds on September 13, from Mrs. Belle R. Benchley of the Zoological Society of San Diego. These were in the same pool where the first birds were seen in May. Incidentally, all the occurrences of this flock were well within the city limits of San Diego and near built-up residential districts.

Other San Diego County observations of Wood Ibises this summer to come to my notice have been: 3 birds in a small pond near Ramona on June 26, by L. M. Huey, of the San Diego Society of Natural History; 2 birds in Chollas Canyon (eastern outskirts of the city of San Diego) about the end of August, by Webb Toms, Deputy State Fish and Game Commissioner; and the following by E. H. Glidden, Deputy U. S. Game Warden and Deputy State Fish and Game Commissioner: about 10 birds in the San Bernardo River near San Pasqual battlefield on August 6; 6 or 7 birds at Lake Hodges on August 6; 11 birds in the San Luis Rey River near Monserate on August 19; 15 birds at Lower Otay Lake on August 23. Mr. Glidden also stated that on August 28 he saw between 200 and 225 Wood Ibises five miles north of Calexico, Imperial County, California. These birds were feeding in a damp field and circling in the air above.

There has been no previous visitation of Wood Ibises in San Diego County, of which I have knowledge, since 1925. In the summer of that year a flock of about 100 birds came to Lake Hodges, from which five specimens were collected on August 11 for the San Diego Society of Natural History. The birds at that time displayed the same disregard for human beings that was noted this year. Also a large proportion of the individuals, both years, were immature.

Prior to this, I have the record of Thomas Weddle, rancher-naturalist of the Sweetwater River valley near Dehesa, who on August 30, 1923, saw "hundreds" of Wood Ibises at his home. On the day previous only 7 or 8 had arrived. The sight of the many supremely graceful white birds soaring above the river, and outlined against the mountains beyond, left an indelible impression on his mind.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, October 11, 1930.*

The House Sparrow and the Motor Car.—The great increase in the number of motor vehicles and the consequent disappearance of the horse has resulted, we are told, in a considerable diminution of the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) population in our cities and towns. In view of this fact, while walking recently along the main street of Eastend I was interested to watch a hen sparrow procuring food for her young by picking grasshoppers off the radiator of one of the cars parked against the sidewalk.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Eastend, Saskatchewan, Canada, September 8, 1930.*

Pliocene Bird Remains from Santa Barbara, California.—Over one hundred species of birds have been found in fossil deposits in California. Of these, however, only two, each described from a single specimen, have been reported from the Pliocene: *Mancalla californiensis* Lucas, taken from a marine deposit at the site of the Third Street tunnel, Los Angeles, and *Branta howardae* Miller recently described from the Ricardo land laid beds in the Mohave Desert. Considering the scarcity of Pliocene bird remains, therefore, the discovery of additional specimens from this period is of particular interest and importance.

The first of the present specimens to come to the writer's attention, was collected in August, 1930, by Mr. A. M. Strong, a conchologist of Los Angeles, who donated this bone and two fragments of marine vertebrates, along with a number of marine mollusks, to the Los Angeles Museum. These specimens were all collected in an embankment at the foot of Victoria Street, Santa Barbara. According to Dr. U. S. Grant, Invertebrate Paleontologist at the Los Angeles Museum, this deposit is undoubtedly close to Arnold's Packard's Hill locality (Mem. Calif. Acad. Sci., 3, 1903, pp. 50-53) and may be definitely considered as uppermost Pliocene on the basis of its molluscan content.

The bird specimen is a small portion of the shaft of an ulna, the greatest diameter of which is 6 mm. There are four distinct papillae for the secondaries slightly to one side (probably external) of the ridge-like center of the anconal side, paralleled by another row of four, less distinct papillae on the opposite (internal) side of the anconal "ridge". Each papilla in this second (or internal) row appears to be slightly distal to the corresponding papilla in the more distinct (external) row. In the position of these papillae, as well as in the general contour of the bone, the specimen resembles the ulna of *Phalacrocorax auritus* or *Phalacrocorax penicillatus* in the region of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth papillae from the distal end. Comparisons were made, also, with the closely related genus *Sula*, as well as with various other groups. These comparisons only served to emphasize the similarity of the fossil with *Phalacrocorax*. Specific identification is, of course, impossible.

In September of this year, the author was privileged to examine two additional specimens of birds from the same deposit, belonging to the collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. These specimens were loaned to the writer through the courtesy of the Director of the Museum, Mr. Ralph Hoffmann, and the Curator, Mr. David Banks Rogers. One of these bones is a fragment of the shaft of a humerus, the other a tarsometatarsus, badly worn and lacking the proximal articular surface as well as the internal distal trochlea. Both are unmistakably cormorant, though there was apparently no direct association of the bones in the matrix.

In general contour of the shaft, the humerus appears closer to *P. auritus* than to *P. penicillatus* as represented in the specimens at hand. However, it is unwise to attempt a specific identification of so small a fragment.

The tarsometatarsus appears to be that of a young individual, though it is difficult to be certain of the original texture of the bone, in view of its petrifaction and closely adhering, sandy matrix. However, this specimen does not have the firm texture of the humerus, or of the ulna collected by Mr. Strong, but appears roughened as in the incompletely ossified bones of young individuals.

In the character of the trochlea for digit 3, the tarsometatarsus resembles *P. penicillatus*; in this species, as well as in the fossil specimen, the trochlea has an abrupt proximal termination on the anterior side, with a small depression proximal to it. In *P. auritus* this depression either forms a continuation of the trochlea (in completely ossified bones) or is at least laterally bounded by its extended edges (in young, incompletely ossified bones) so that the trochlea does not appear to end abruptly. The prominence of the trochlea for digit 4 (another diagnostic character for separation of *P. penicillatus* and *P. auritus*) cannot be ascertained since this trochlea is well worn. As it stands, it is no more prominent than in *auritus*, but it is not unlikely that it may originally have been as prominent as in *penicillatus*.

The upper portion of the shaft is smoothly rounded and lacks the marked intermuscular lines found in adults of both *penicillatus* and *auritus*. In the young of these species, however, the lines are fainter. If the fossil specimen were of a young individual, as it seems reasonable to believe, the wear which the bone has evidently undergone since its deposition could have produced the rounded contour which the specimen now exhibits.

In anterior aspect the internal border of the shaft appears to project forward more prominently than in the modern species. Since the bone is broken at this critical point, it is impossible to be sure of the accuracy of this observation. Considering this fact, as well as the worn condition of the bone and its Pliocene occurrence, the specimen of tarsometatarsus, though seemingly similar to *P. penicillatus*, is only tentatively assigned to that species.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, October 15, 1930.*

The Condor in San Benito County, California.—There is in the possession of Mr. B. F. Bacon, Pinnacles P. O., San Benito County, an egg of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) taken by him from a cavity among the Pinnacles April 6, 1898. Mr. Bacon, who has lived in the region for many years, informs me that the Condor was common there in the early eighties, but that it gradually decreased in numbers, finally disappearing altogether. The last bird noted by him in the locality was seen about the year 1900.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, September 30, 1930.*