

ing birds of this region are pure *memorabilis* and a smaller percentage are intergrades between *memorabilis* and *nigrifrons*, nearer to the former.

It is obvious that the reason *nigrifrons* has been credited as occurring in Arizona and New Mexico is the inadequate character of the type series from Pinos Altos, Chihuahua, on which Brewster based his description. He had only five specimens, from which he chose three to be cotypes—an adult male, female and juvenal. Of the other two, one is a "young bird in first plumage." My series proves that Brewster did not sufficiently emphasize either the extensiveness of the black on the under parts or the larger size. In addition, he failed to realize that the white patch on the wings, when not worn, usually is larger and less restricted than that of the more northern birds. My series indicates that male *nigrifrons* from southwestern Chihuahua, as compared either with true *auduboni* or *memorabilis*, has the following five distinct characters:

- (1) Auriculars and forehead solid black;
- (2) Back in most of my breeding males, almost solid black, interrupted with a few narrow streaks of gray;
- (3) Under parts in most breeding males black all the way to the under tail-coverts;
- (4) White patch on wings averaging larger and more conspicuous;
- (5) Size larger, averaging for the wing of adult males 83.2 mm. (79.2–86.4), as compared with an average of 80.0 mm. (75.6–85.6) for forty-one adult males of *memorabilis*, and an average of 74.9 (71.5–77) mm. as given by Oberholser (Ohio Journ. Sci., 21: 240, 1921) for *auduboni*. Oberholser's average of 81.8 for *nigrifrons* apparently includes the intergrades from Arizona, which I believe to be *memorabilis*.

The females are also well marked in the breeding plumage, but the characters of the males are sufficient indicators for our purpose.

Of the forty-one breeding male intergrades from this region of Arizona and New Mexico, the majority are unquestionably *memorabilis* in all their characters and only thirteen have any of the five characters of *nigrifrons* well developed. All except one of these are nearer to *memorabilis* than to *nigrifrons*. In the entire lot there is just a single male, a specimen belonging to the California Academy of Sciences, which is nearer to *nigrifrons* than to *memorabilis*, but even this individual is not pure *nigrifrons*.

For the courtesy of loans I am deeply indebted to Robert T. Orr of the California Academy of Sciences and to John T. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History.—ROBERT T. MOORE, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California*.

**The type locality of Franklin's Grouse.**—In part 1, number 1, of the Catalogue of Birds of the Americas, I stated in a footnote on page 213 that Major Allan Brooks had informed me that Franklin's Grouse, *Canachites franklinii*, was not found at Okanagan. What he actually had written me was that it was not found at *Okanagan Landing*, the restricted type locality as given in the 4th edition of the A. O. U. Checklist. On publication of the volume, Major Brooks called my attention to the mistake. He also wrote that while the Landing did not afford its zonal habitat, this grouse was common in many parts of the Okanagan fifteen miles away. In justice to Major Brooks this correction should have been published long ago.—BOARDMAN CONOVER, *Chicago, Illinois*.

**A long-standing error.**—In the standard works of Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall, and also in 'Birds of the Northwest' (Coues, *t. c.*: 543, 1874), the name "flusterer" is credited to the Coot (*Fulica americana*), an attribution seemingly trace-

able to Pennant (Arctic Zoology, 2: 496, 1785). As the last author cites the term from Carolina, it is apparent that he derived it from Lawson's 'History of Carolina.' There were various editions of this work, the first of which, in 1709, was entitled "A New Voyage to Carolina." Gurdon Trumbull (Names and Portraits of Birds: 119, 1888) states that "Lawson nowhere mentions the term 'flusterers' alone" and quotes Lawson's account as follows: "Black Flusterers; some call these Old Wives; they are as black as ink, the cocks have white faces, they always remain in the midst of rivers, and feed upon drift grass, carnels or sea-nettles; they are the fattest fowl I ever saw, and sometimes so heavy with flesh that they cannot rise out of the water; they make an odd sort of noise when they fly. What meat they are, I could never learn. Some call these the great bald Coot."

Making only slight allowance, it is obvious that these birds were Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), and it is probable that of the three vernacular names given, "old wives" involves confusion of the Old-squaw, well known under that term. It may be added that the names "ball coot" (Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia: 118, 1782) and "bald coot" (Morse, American Geography: 59, 1789) probably were merely abbreviated from Lawson's work. Not all of Lawson's birds are recognizable, but the accounts of all that are identifiable should be properly incorporated in modern works.—W. L. McAREE, *Chicago, Illinois.*

**Dates for Volume 1 of Bonaparte's 'Conspectus Generum Avium.'**—In the lists of "Donations to Library" given in Volume 5 (1850-1851) of the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, I find that certain parts of Volume 1 of the 'Conspectus Generum Avium' are acknowledged as received from the author on dates somewhat in advance of those currently accepted. Dates which are tentatively accepted by Zimmer (Catalogue of the Ayer Library, 1926) for Volume 1 are as follows:

"Part 1," pp. 1-272, before June 24, 1850

"Part 2," pp. 273-543, before February 3, 1851

The Proceedings dates are:

pp. 1-160, June 18, 1850

pp. 161-"234" [232], July 16, 1850

pp. 233-344, October 15, 1850

pp. 353-400 October 15, 1850

Concordance of the earliest "noticed" dates as cited by the Proceedings and Zimmer result as follows:

"Part 1," pp. 1-160, before June 18, 1850; pp. 161-272, before June 24, 1850

"Part 2," pp. 273-400, before October 15, 1850; pp. 401-543, before February 3, 1851

Considering the slowness of transportation in 1850, the actual dates of issue must have been some weeks earlier, although possibly somewhat later than those which appear on the various signatures. At any rate, Zimmer's supposition that "Part 2" actually was published before the end of 1850 is thus verified in part. This is certainly true for pages 273 to 400, inclusive.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Los Angeles, California.*

**Corrections and additions to the published records of Siamese Birds.**—Riley (U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 172: 73, 1938) lists a specimen of *Polyplectron germaini* Elliot from "Huey Yang, Kao Luang, Nakon Sritamarat." Despite the assertions of Beebe (Monograph of the Pheasants, 4: 74, 1922) and Delacour and Jabouille (Oiseaux de l'Indochine Française, 1: 242, 1931) that the species inhabits southern