

TABLE 1
COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS OF WHITE PELICANS

Specimens	Greatest breadth tarsometatarsus at distal end (across trochleae)	Vertical depth of internal condyle of tibiotarsus*
Fossil—U.M.M.P. No. 27551	26.1 mm.	17.2 mm.
Recent 3 ♂♂, 4 unsexed		
Mean, with standard error	23.63 ± 0.26	15.38 ± 0.23
Range	22.2 — 24.2	14.5 — 16.3
Standard deviation	0.70	0.60

*Taken just in front of internal ligamental prominence (between points a and b of Fig. 1, B.).

The elements agree well with the corresponding bones of seven specimens of the present-day White Pelican in every respect except size. They are generally larger and heavier throughout than the Recent material I have examined. The shafts, particularly that of the tibiotarsus, appear relatively heavier in the fossil. The distal foramen of the fossil tarsometatarsus is also relatively larger, but the Recent bones show considerable variability in this character. Table 1 suggests that this individual was as large, or perhaps slightly larger, than the largest examples of *erythrorhynchos* occurring today. Compton (Condor, 36: 167, 1934) has recorded a left femur of a White Pelican from the upper Pliocene or lower Pleistocene Manix beds of California. This bone was only 0.5 mm. longer than the average of four Recent specimens which he measured. However, the tendency for certain late Pliocene and Pleistocene forms to be larger than their living relatives, indicated recently for *Gymnogyps* by Fisher (Pacific Sci., 1: 227, 1947), and for *Colinus* by Tordoff (Condor, 53: 23-30, 1951), may prove true for the present form as well.

The total length of the fossil tarsometatarsus may be estimated, since, as already indicated, the specimen includes a recognizable point proximally, the distal end of the calcaneal ridge. While subject to a small error, this estimate gives a clearer idea of the large size of the bird. Assuming that the fossil and Recent pelicans have similar proportions, this bone must have been approximately 140 mm. in total length. The length of the tarsometatarsus in seven Recent individuals, by contrast, averages only 121 mm. (114-126), notwithstanding the fact that one of these was the largest of 18 specimens in the University of Kansas collection. Should further material become available, qualitative differences may be found indicating that this large Pleistocene pelican is specifically distinct from *P. erythrorhynchos*.

According to Wetmore (Smiths. Misc. Coll., 99: 10, 1940) the "recent form" has been recorded from the Pleistocene of Oregon and Nevada (the latter marked "?Pleistocene"), in addition to the California record mentioned above.

No other fossil birds from Oklahoma appear to have been recorded in the literature, save for a small duck reported by Hibbard (Univ. Kans. Sci. Bull., 26: 369, 1939). This specimen also came from Beaver County, near the Kansas line, though it was not specifically mentioned as an Oklahoma record.—ROBERT M. MENGEL, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

The Identity of *Anser nigricans* Lawrence 1846.—It had seemed strange to us that the type of *Anser nigricans* Lawrence, a name so far used for the Pacific Black Brant, should be a bird collected in January, 1846, at Egg Harbor, New Jersey, on the Atlantic coast.

We have carefully examined the type in the American Museum of Natural History and another specimen, also from Lawrence's collection, taken in the same locality in the following March and mentioned by the author in his original description (Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., 4: 171, pl. 12, 1846). Contrary to his assertion, both specimens are labelled as males and are adult. There is a third dark-bellied brant in the American Museum, collected at Cobb's Island, Virginia, in September, 1888, but it is in too poor a condition to be of much use for accurate identification. Inquiries have shown that no other dark-bellied brants from the Atlantic seaboard are in any museum in eastern United States.

We found that the type of *nigricans* and the second specimen differ from the Pacific Black Brants. They are generally browner; their underparts are medium gray, resembling closely in that feature the Eurasian *B. b. bernicla*, from which they are, however, distinguishable by having the white-spotted collar extending to the foreneck, and by the broader white borders of the feathers of the sides and flanks. They resemble in these two characteristics the Pacific Black Brants, but they differ from them in the decidedly lighter gray color of the lower breast and abdomen. This contrasts distinctly with the black upper part of the breast, while the two areas are almost concolorous, but yet different in shade, in the majority of adult Pacific birds, and completely so in a few adults, and in immatures.

The name *Branta bernicla nigricans* is, therefore, restricted to the Atlantic dark-bellied population, which leaves the Black Brants of northwestern America and eastern Siberia without a current name. The only one available is:

Branta bernicla orientalis

Tougarinov, A. J., Faune de l'URSS, Aves. (Acad. Sci. URSS, Moscou), 1 (4): 180, 1941: Polar Coast of Siberia from the Lena delta in the west, to Chukchi Peninsula in the east; New Siberian Islands, De Long Islands, and probably Wrangel Island.

Tougarinov writes (p. 368, translation): "The East Siberian Brant-Goose might be distinguished from birds of American origin by the following features, which prove to be very constant. The difference between the black crop and the blackish breast in the former is much better defined than in American birds, but less conspicuously than in *B. b. bernicla*. The dark color of breast and belly does not usually extend down to the vent, whereas in American Brant-Geese such is always the case. The Siberian Geese are moreover of a generally paler hue. There is no difference in size. *Branta bernicla nigricans* (Lawr.) occurs on the Anadyr, probably breeds on Chukchi Peninsula and possibly also on Wrangel Island." Examination of numerous specimens does not support Tougarinov's distinction between east Siberian and Anadyr-American Black Brants. It is incorrect to state that American birds have the dark color extending down to the vent, and the opposition between the black crop and the dusky breast is a question of either age or individual variation. It is possible, however, that lighter-bellied birds which are intergrades with *B. b. bernicla* occur in the Lena delta district. Therefore, the name *orientalis* is applicable to the Black Brants found on both sides of the Pacific. The confusion which has caused them to be called *nigricans* goes back to Cassin ('Illustr. Birds Calif., Texas, Oregon, British and Russian America,' pt. 2: 52-55, pl. 10, 1853). The plate represents accurately a Pacific Black Brant. No one since seems to have questioned the identity of the western birds with the Atlantic type.

This Atlantic *nigricans* was well-known by local wildfowlers in the last century, although it was already very scarce, as mentioned by several authors. It probably represents an almost extinct subspecies nesting farther south than the other and

therefore easily destroyed. In his excellent article "Migrations of the American Brant" (Auk, 54: 73-95, 1937), Harrison F. Lewis mentions early flights of dark birds locally called "les noirs" at the Bay of Seven Islands, Quebec. These dark birds have different flyways and probably nest in a particular region yet to be discovered, as breeding specimens collected by Sutton on Southampton Island are typical pale-bellied *hrota*.

We propose to recognize the following subspecies of *Branta bernicla*:

B. b. bernicla (Linné) Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1: 129, 1758, Sweden.

B. b. hrota (O. F. Müller) Zool. Dan. Prodr., 1776: 14, Iceland.

B. b. nigricans (Lawrence) Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., 4: 171, 1846, Egg Harbor, N. J.

B. b. orientalis Tougarinov, Faune de l'URSS, Aves, 1 (4): 180, 1941, Eastern Siberia.

The taxonomy of the brant geese has long been a subject of controversy. These circumpolar birds, breeding in the far north, remain completely uniform in size, proportions, and life habits throughout their entire range, but they vary in color. They vary principally in the color of the underparts below the black breast, in the width of the borders of the feathers on the sides and flanks, and in the extension of the white-spotted collar on the foreneck. The evidence is that of a continuous cline from pale to medium gray-bellied and dark-bellied ones from central arctic America, through Greenland, Iceland, arctic Europe, and Asia to eastern Siberia, with intergrading populations and intermediate individuals. But cases of mixing and blending between the dark-bellied populations of western arctic America and the pale-bellied ones to the east are few, when they meet, as reported by some observers, particularly in the Perry River area and on Prince Patrick Island (A. Gavin, Wilson Bull., 59: 195-203, 1947; H. C. Hanson, P. Scott, and P. Queneau, 'Waterfowl Populations and Breed. Cond., Summer 1949,' Spec. Sci. Rep. Wildlife, Wash., 2: 225-228, 1949; and C. O. Handley, Jr., Wilson Bull., 62: 128-132, 1950). It does not seem, however, that two distinct species are involved. We are rather facing here one of the several instances in which two subspecies of the same species, recently coming again into contact owing to changes in life conditions, are wont to mingle. Furthermore, the colonial habits and close family ties of the geese tend to insure inbreeding and to delay the mixing of populations. It is possible that the plumage differences in the present case are due to alterations in a single gene.

The nominal form, *B. b. bernicla*, with a medium gray belly, narrow white fringes to the flank feathers, and a spotted-white collar interrupted in front, breeds in arctic eastern Russia, western Siberia, and the islands to the north, from the south of Nova Zembla to the mouth of the Khatanga River. The pale-bellied form, *B. b. hrota*, breeds in the north of Nova Zembla, Franz Joseph Land, Spitzbergen, Greenland, and arctic Canada, west to the Perry River and St. Patrick Island, where it meets *orientalis*, the dark-bellied form of western North America and eastern Siberia.—JEAN DELACOUR AND JOHN T. ZIMMER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York*.

Records of the Black Pigeon Hawk, *Falco columbarius suckleyi*, in Utah.—The winter range of this race as given by Friedmann (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 50 (11): 713, 1950), includes the states of Washington, Oregon, California as far south as Los Angeles County, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wisconsin. To the present time this falcon has not been reported from the following western states: Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana.

Two records from Utah in the past two years suggest that, during the winter months, this falcon ranges more widely in the western states than heretofore thought. Further collecting may substantiate this supposition. One female with a broken