

These bones, and those from the Little Kiska Island midden, are the only specimens from the outer Aleutian Islands identified and recorded as *columbianus*. No Whistling Swan in the flesh has yet been positively identified west of Unimak Island, near the tip of the Alaska Peninsula.

Observations and specimens now available indicate that reports of swans from outer Aleutian areas which were presumed to represent Whistling Swans undoubtedly involved many Whooper Swans.

The observations of 1962, along with mine from past years, include a total of 168 birds (3 specimens, 2 from St. Paul Island and 1 from Amchitka Island, are in the U. S. National Museum). Available data indicate that the Whooper Swan may occur regularly in fall, late winter, and early spring in the outer Aleutian Islands. Some of the birds, however, may visit the Aleutians when forced by severe weather from their more usual Asian range, since we saw more Whooper Swans in the unusually stormy season of 1962 than in two previous observation periods on Amchitka. Mild weather dominated the period 16 March to 1 April 1963. During this time biologist Jerry E. Burdick (field notes) observed a total of 32 swans on Silver Salmon and nearby lakes.

The occurrence of the Whooper Swan in the outer Aleutians may have gone unrecorded for many years because few trained observers have visited the Aleutians in the seasons when swans occur there, and, since the Whooper Swan was not expected, even trained ornithologists may have assumed that swans reported by natives or seen at a distance were Whistling Swans. Finally, few specimens of Whooper Swans are available for identification of skeletal remains.—KARL W. KENYON, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Sand Point Naval Air Station, Bldg. 192, Seattle 15, Washington.*

The name of a fossil rail and its date of publication.—Alphonse Milne-Edwards (*Oiseaux fossiles de la France*, 2, 1869, p. 144, pl. 103, fig. 17) figured and described a fossil rail from the Montmartre in Paris, under the name *Rallus intermedius*. Kalmán Lambrecht (*Handbuch der Palaeornithologie*, 1933, p. 461) provisionally referred this species to his new genus *Quercyrallus*. The holotype in the Paris Museum is a fairly complete skeleton from the gypse de Montmartre, a formation that represents the Ludian stage of the Upper Eocene.

Milne-Edward's classic work was distributed by groups of "livraisons" at intervals between 1867 and 1871, and Lambrecht accepted 1871 as the date of publication of *R. intermedius*. Plate 103, where the species is first named and figured, however, was published possibly in 1868, and certainly by April, 1869, as shown by contemporary reviews of Alfred Newton (*Ibis*, n.s., 5: 220, 1869; *Zoological Record* for 1868, *Aves*, p. 104). At times the letterpress did not keep pace with the plates, and quarto sheet 18 of volume 2, with the description of this species on page 144, was not published until later in 1869 (*Zoological Record* for 1869, *Aves*, p. 94).

During preparation of the second installment of the *Catalogue of fossil birds*, I find that the name proposed for this species by Milne-Edwards is preoccupied by *Rallus intermedius* Johann Hermann (*Observationes zoologicae*, 1804, p. 198), for a bird that is now known as *Porzana pusilla intermedia* (Hermann). Therefore I propose the new name ***Quercyrallus ludianus*** as a substitute for the preoccupied *Rallus intermedius* of Milne-Edwards.

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