

**The Blue Goose as a Bird of California.**—The first ascription of *Chen caerulescens* to California was made by Belding (Zoe, III, 1892, p. 97). The evidence given by Belding was as follows.

"Two of these geese were shot, one day, about February 1, of this year [1892], by two hunters who were hunting together near Stockton. Mr. M. J. Shaw of the game market kept one of them on exhibition as long as he could, and then saved the head and neck, wings and legs. These fragments were all that I saw of the bird, and these I sent to Mr. Ridgway for identification. He said it was a true *Chen caerulescens*—a juvenile."

Belding then goes on to say that it had been his belief "for nearly ten years" that he had "occasionally seen the plumage which is attributed to the adult, a few of which" he "shot, besides some" "seen in market . . .".

Belding is quoted (Fisher, Condor, xx, 1918, p. 56) as having stated many years later, probably subsequent to 1910, that he had "often hunted geese on Butte Creek and many times tried to get the Blue Goose (*caerulescens*) but never succeeded so far as to be satisfied with the result. Of two that" he "found in the Stockton market", he "sent wings and feet to Mr. Ridgway, who identified the fragments as of *caerulescens*." This statement, it will be seen, corroborates in the main the earlier one.

Cooke (U. S. Biol. Survey bull. 26, 1906, p. 68) gave Belding's Stockton record full recognition, and considered it "apparently the only record west of the Rocky Mountains." Several other authorities at about the same time likewise took this record at face value.

But Swarth (Condor, xv, 1913, p. 43) was inclined to consider the evidence of the occurrence of the Blue Goose in California "rather weak" and goes on to point out, on the basis of a recent case in point, how the young of the Lesser Snow Goose might be misidentified as of the Blue Goose. Grinnell (Pac. Coast Avif. no. 11, 1915, p. 177) follows Swarth, and he places the Blue Goose as a bird of California in his "hypothetical list" on the ground that Belding's "record seems open to question, more particularly because of absence of confirmation". And Grinnell, Bryant and Storer (Game Birds Calif., 1918, p. 211) dispose of the case rather summarily under "Lesser Snow Goose".

Now comes fresh evidence, which seems to provide the needed "confirmation": On December 15, 1910, a hunter by the name of Bud Watson killed a "pinto" goose on the King Ranch, eight miles west of Gridley, Butte County. The bird passed into the possession of Dr. Lemuel P. Adams, of Oakland, and was mounted for him by W. H. Hall, a taxidermist of that city. It remained in the possession of Dr. Adams until December, 1919, when it was presented by him to the Oakland Public Museum. The Director of that Museum, Mr. John Rowley, notified an officer of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of this important acquisition, suggesting that his identification of the bird as a Blue Goose might need verification. Accordingly, on January 13, 1920, J. Eugene Law and J. Grinnell, carrying with them an Eastern-taken specimen of *Chen caerulescens*, visited the Oakland Public Museum, and satisfied themselves of the correctness of the determination as originally made by Mr. Rowley. The two specimens proved identical in all essential points. Through the courtesy of Mr. Rowley, first published record is now made of this bird, which is number 10/1446 in the collection of the Oakland Public Museum, where it is open to examination at any time. The present writer has further communicated with Dr. Adams, who verifies the details of capture as just given.

The upshot of the matter is, then, that the Blue Goose *has* occurred in California. The probabilities now are strong that Ridgway's identification of Belding's "fragments" was correct, and further, that the latter's impressions of having observed the species in California on more than one occasion are worthy of being taken into account.

The status of the Blue Goose in California seems, therefore, to be as follows: Rare winter visitant to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. Recorded definitely twice, by Belding (loc. cit.) from the vicinity of Stockton, about February 1, 1892; and by Grinnell (present instance) from vicinity of Gridley, Butte County, December 15, 1910.—J. GRINNELL, *California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, January 15, 1920.*

**Black and White Warbler at Carpinteria, California.**—I wish to report the occurrence at Carpinteria, on January 9, 1920, of the Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta*

*varia*). The bird was observed continuously from 8:45 to 9:30 A. M., at a distance of from six to thirty feet. The entire time was spent hunting over the bark of the larger limbs and trunk of a live oak. At the end of the forty-five minutes it flew to another oak about one hundred feet away. Mr. Ralph Hoffman also saw the bird and can vouch for my identification.—H. C. HENDERSON, *Carpinteria, California, January 27, 1920.*

**A Swan Hunt.**—Hunters reported that Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were coming in on the Sweetwater Reservoir again. A few were there last winter. Mr. Toms arranged with the caretaker to take us out to try to get a specimen to mount for the Natural History Museum, and we drove out to the reservoir December 10, 1919. The reservoir at its present stage is about a quarter of a mile wide and a mile and a half long. We first saw three swans standing on the shore. The field glasses showed that they were all young of the year so we passed on. Half a mile farther on were two bunches, five and six respectively, some of each bunch being adult. The five were on shore at the head of a bay and appeared to offer the best chance for a shot. They flushed before we got into the bay and passed by at such long range that we failed to reach them. All the swans in the reservoir promptly left for San Diego Bay and we turned back for the landing at the dam. On the way we looked over the ducks in sight to see if there were any not represented in the Museum's collection, but saw nothing I wanted except two Canvasbacks, which we collected.

On arrival at the landing the caretaker's helper asked if we had seen the flock of twenty-three swans that had just passed over, going up the reservoir. We had been so busy looking at the ducks that we had not seen the swans pass high overhead, so we ate our lunch and started after them. We found them swimming about on the upper part of the reservoir. The caretaker landed Mr. Toms and me on a rocky point where a few square yards of tules grew at the edge of the water, and then rowed across the reservoir and up the far side in an attempt to get around the swans and drive them to us. They flushed and flew past out of range, and lit again a quarter of a mile down the lake. The caretaker succeeded in getting past them this time and turned the flock toward us. He worked very slowly and at one time the whole bunch stopped swimming and went to sleep, heads down, but a slight advance of the boat awoke them and started them swimming toward us. Occasionally we could hear a low goose-like honk. I have never heard of this talking habit. The actions in general were very like those of geese. The swans were too suspicious to come close to the tules but swam past in line at long range. We fired with buckshot and got one. It was not fully mature but was a very nice bird. Weight fourteen and a half pounds, in rather thin flesh. The stomach was full of large seeds or small bulbs with sprouts half an inch to an inch long. Mr. Toms suggested that they might be grains of rice eaten in the Sacramento Valley and not yet digested, but the grains looked too large for rice. Later, these "grains" were identified at the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, as tubers of sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), an abundant freshwater plant in most marshes of California.

A female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) came to decoys on the Lower Otay Reservoir. San Diego County, December 7, 1919. The hunter did not know what it was and brought it to us.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, December 20, 1919.*

**A Large Flock of Swans Wintering at Santa Barbara.**—In the middle of November, about a dozen Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were observed on a small pond on the Hope Ranch in Santa Barbara. On December 24 their number had increased to forty-four. The pond is protected and is the resort for hundreds of water-fowl.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Santa Barbara, California, December 29, 1919.*

**Is the Swan Increasing in Numbers?**—Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) may be seen during the winter in flocks of considerable size at suitable spots in the central part of the state, but there are few places in the more southern sections where they are now considered at all common. Small flocks are sometimes encountered where the surroundings are congenial, and slightly larger ones linger for short periods at such places as Warner's Ranch, in the mountains of San Diego County. Swans occur off the coast, as well, coming inland at night to feed, but, on the whole, a southern hunter considers