

parently the feet only were used for swimming. Ascent to the surface was almost vertical and the grebe came above the water with a bounce like a cork.

The diving of these birds has interested me very much in the last few years, as a few of them are nearly always seen to be active fairly close to the pier through the winter months, but this was the first time that I had been able to observe complete operations in a series of dives.—W. E. ALLEN, *Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California, La Jolla, California, October 28, 1922.*

The White-throated Sparrow in Los Angeles.—On November 13, 1922, I saw a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. The bird was with Gambel Sparrows on a weedy hillside among tall dry mustard, and presented an exceptionally good opportunity for observation by appearing at two different times within twenty feet of me. With my field glass I saw very clearly the distinctive markings: The black and white striped head; the brilliant yellow of the front end of the superciliary; the sharp contrast between pure white of throat and gray of breast; the rich rusty brown and black streaky back; and the horn-colored bill. As I was familiar with this species in its New York State breeding grounds and know the Gambel here, I feel entirely satisfied with my identification. But as the specimen was not collected, I offer this record with all due modesty.—MARY MANN MILLER, *Los Angeles, California, November 15, 1922.*

An Early Account of the California Condor.—In the rare and little known work of Adolphe Boucard, trochilidist, collector, and merchant of hummingbirds, entitled "Travels of a Naturalist" (1894, p. 51), there is a passage which probably sums up the knowledge of this nearly extinct bird, which was current and obtainable about San Francisco in 1851-52, when he was a resident in that city. It reads as follows: . . . "But the rarest of all, the Californian Vulture, *Pseudogryphus californicus*, was seldom seen. It is a very rare bird, peculiar to California. It is the largest of the North American species, rivalling the Condor. It is dark brown, with the head and neck naked. It is very voracious, and when many are together the carcass of a horse or cow is devoured in a very short space of time. The smaller species, *Cathartes aura*, does not dare to approach them. It is not uncommon to see them assemble with the gulls, and greedily devour the carcass of a whale which has been cast ashore, and they will even pursue weak and wounded game".

Boucard had also learned something of the South American Condor, *Sarcoramphus gryphus*, during his visits ashore at Valparaiso on his outbound trip in 1851, for he writes (*loc. cit.*, pp. 21-22) of it as follows: "Among the Chilean birds, the most remarkable species is the Condor, *Sarcoramphus gryphus*, belonging to the family of *Vulturidae*. This giant bird is a native of the Andes, choosing its breeding place between an altitude from 10,000 to 16,000 feet; but they are also seen frequently on the coast, especially when in search of carrion. Flocks are never seen except around a large carcass. Otherwise they are met singly, soaring at great height in vast circles. Its flight is slow and majestic. Its head is constantly in motion as in search of food. To rise from the ground, it must needs run for some distance, then it flaps its wings three or four times, and ascends at a low angle, till it reaches a considerable elevation, when it seems to make a few leisurely strokes, as if to ease its wings, and moving in large curves it glides along without the least apparent vibratory motion. In walking the wings trail on the ground, and it has a very awkward gait. When well gorged with food, it is slow in its movements and stupid, and is easily captured. Although a carrion bird, it also feeds on calves, sheep, dogs, or the like, when it has the chance. It has been said and written that children have been carried away by this bird; but I doubt that any authenticated case has ever been proved.

"They are most commonly seen standing on rocks, around vertical cliffs, where their nests are. It lays two white eggs, three or four inches long, on an inaccessible ledge. It makes no nest proper, but places a few sticks around the eggs. It is very difficult to get at them, and they are still rare in the collections. Incubation occupies about seven weeks, and takes place in the months of April and May. The young at birth are scarcely covered with a dirty white down, and it takes a considerable time