Measurements.—(In millimeters): Males (9 specimens), wing, 61.0–66.2 (63.9); tail, 57.5–62.0 (60.1); culmen from base, 16.7–18.5 (17.8); tarsus, 22.8–25.6 (24.8).

Females (6 specimens), wing, 61.0–62.9 (61.3); tail, 52.1–60.6 (57.7); culmen from base, 15.8–17.5 (16.5); tarsus, 23.5–24.5 (24.0).

Type, wing, 64.2; tail, 57.5 (worn); culmen from base, 18.5 (approximate); tarsus, 25.6.

Range.—Confined to Nihoa Island, Hawaii.

Remarks.—Difference in length of bill and tarsus, when compared with *C. familiaris*, is slight, but *kingi* has these parts decidedly heavier. Measurements of a small series of *familiaris* are as follows:

Males (5 specimens), wing, 59.1–64.6 (62.4); tail, 58.2–60.8 (59.8); culmen from base, 16.0–17.2 (16.7); tarsus, 22.0–23.7 (23.2).

Females (3 specimens), wing, 58.0–59.0 (58.6); tail, 53.0–54.0 (53.5); culmen from base, 16.3–16.5 (16.4); tarsus, 21.8–23.2 (22.3).

Nihoa Miller-birds were encountered in heavy growth where they moved about in a leisurely manner, usually near the ground in dense cover, in action somewhat suggestive of vireos of the *Vireosylva* group. The breeding season had ended at the time of my visit, young were fully grown, and most of the adults had begun the post-breeding molt. I estimated the total number of individuals present as near 100. The bird is described from a series of sixteen skins. In conclusion it may be noted that Nihoa marks the northeastern limit for the genus *Conopoderas* in the Pacific.

The species is named in honor of Lieutenant-Commander Samuel Wilder King, to whose interest and seamanship is due much of the success attained by the U. S. S. *Tanager* expedition of 1923.

Washington, D. C., July 1, 1924.

BRANTA DICKEYI FROM THE McKITTRICK PLEISTOCENE

(WITH FOUR DRAWINGS)

By LOYE MILLER

IN THE CONDOR for July, 1922 (vol. XXIV, pp. 122-125), students of Recent birds were offered an account of the remarkable collection of bird remains taken from the Pleistocene asphalt of McKittrick, California. Excavation of these beds has been extended since that time through activities of the University of California and of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. One of the fruits of further study of the avifauna of the horizon is a gigantic goose of the genus *Branta* that is unlike any form heretofore made known.

Five species of this genus have previously been recorded from American horizons, as follows:

Branta hypsibata (Cope), an extinct species from the Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, Oregon, described by Cope in 1878 (Bull. U. S. Geol. and Geog. Surv. Terr., IV, no. 2, p. 387). The species is later discussed by Shufeldt in a study of the same collection and by him the bird is recorded as "about the size of *Branta canadensis;* but the bones were stouter and of different proportions."

Branta propinqua Shufeldt, an extinct species from the Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, Oregon, described by Shufeldt as of smaller size than *B. canadensis* (Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., ser. 2, IX, 1892, p. 389).

Branta meniscula Wetmore, an extinct species from Upper Pliocene beds near Benson, Arizona, described as smaller than *B. canadensis minima* (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 64, 1924, p. 6). This is really a pigmy goose.

Branta bernicla (Linn.), a surviving species reported as a fossil from the Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, Oregon, by Shufeldt (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXII, 1913, p. 147).

Branta canadensis (Linn.). While none of the above forms has been made known from more than one formation, this species has been recorded by Shufeldt and by Miller from five different horizons, as follows: Fossil Lake, Potter Creek Cave, Rancho La Brea, Upper San Pedro, and certain Pleistocene beds of Alameda County, California. These deposits are all Pleistocene in age and all except Fossil Lake are in California.

The genus *Branta* is thus seen to have a diversity of extinct forms and the surviving species *canadensis* to have an extended geological occurrence. In fact, *Aquila,* with its seven species known to paleontology, is the only genus of America's fossil birds which is known by the writer to exceed *Branta* in this respect. *Aquila* has but one species, a very stable one, surviving in America, while *Branta* has three species, and one of these runs quite a gamut of variations.

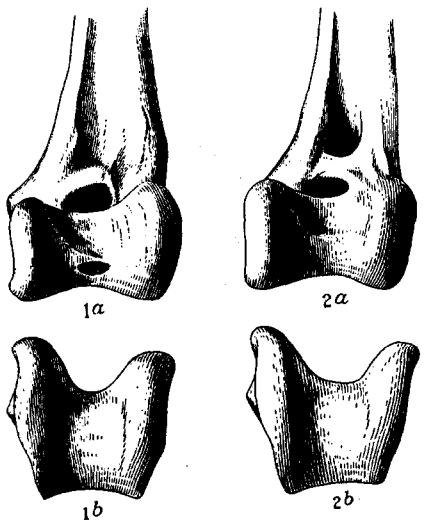

Fig. 46. 1*a*, 1*b*, *Branta dickeyi,* TIBIOTARSUS, APPROXIMATELY NATURAL SIZE; FROM PLEISTOCENE ASPHALT OF MCKITTRICK, CALIFORNIA. 2*a*, 2*b*, *Cygnus columbianus,* TIBIOTARSUS, APPROXIMATELY NATURAL SIZE; RECENT MALE. Drawings by J. R. Ridgway.

With this relatively complete history of *Branta* in mind, it is interesting to find a new and gigantic species of the genus in the McKittrick asphalt.

Branta dickeyi, new species[1]

Type specimen no. 26782, Museum of Paleontology, University of California, a right tibiotarsus complete. Osteological characters are those of *Branta* enlarged to the dimensions of *Cygnus columbianus.*

Comparison is here made with an adult male specimen of *Cygnus columbianus,* loaned by Donald R. Dickey; the comparison with *Branta canadensis* was made with a series of that species ranging from the smallest variety up to the maximum size. From these living geese and from Cope's Pleistocene *B. hypsibata,* the McKittrick

[1] The name here proposed dedicates this new form to Donald R. Dickey, ornithologist and mammalogist of Pasadena, California.

specimen is distinguishable only by its size. None of the other geese approach the swan in magnitude, while *B. dickeyi*, although one and a half millimeters shorter than the *Cygnus* specimen, is of appreciably heavier shaft. The close approximation in size makes easier a comparison of the two bones.

Viewed from the anterior face the swan's tibia is more slender and tapering in the shaft but with slightly greater diameter through the condyles. This difference might disappear if the goose were younger and the swan were older, although plumage indicates the maturity of the swan. The entire distal end of the bone is swung over farther toward the sagittal plane in the swan, while all the genus *Branta* as well as *Anser* show much less of this displacement. (See accompanying figures.)

When viewed from the distal end in a line of sight parallel with the shaft of the bone, a marked difference is seen between the two. In *Cygnus* the condyles are separated anteriorly by a more open arch; the inner condyle exceeds the outer by a larger quantity; the angle included between the inner and the outer profiles is greater; the distance between the bottom of the intercondylar notch on the anterior side and the corresponding point on the posterior side is less than in the fossil specimen. These differences hold good when comparing the Recent brants with the small *Cygnus coscoroba* from Patagonia.

MEASUREMENTS

	B. dickeyi	*C. columbianus*
Total length, excluding cnemial crest	177.0 mm.	178.5 mm.
Transverse diameter through condyles	22.4	22.9
Antero-posterior diameter through condyles	20.8	21.4
Least transverse diameter of shaft	10.0	9.5

University of California, Southern Branch, Los Angeles, June 9, 1924.

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS FROM TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON

By ALEX. WALKER

DURING several years' residence in Tillamook County, Oregon, the writer has collected or observed a number of species not recorded by Mr. Stanley G. Jewett in his three papers relating to the birds of this region. (See CONDOR, XVI, 1914, p. 107; XVIII, 1916, p. 74; XXIII, 1921, p. 91.) Following is a list of the species which, with one or two exceptions, have not hitherto been recorded from this county.

Brachyramphus marmoratus. Marbled Murrelet. One specimen was found dead on the ocean side of the Netarts sandspit, December 20, 1920.

Mergus americanus. American Merganser. A common resident along the mountain streams. On June 6, 1920, a Merganser was seen entering a cavity some thirty feet up in a large stump near the Nestucca River at Blaine, and I have often noted broods of young in June. A farmer at Blaine reports that a pair nested in a hollow tree far up on a hill and at a considerable distance from water. The stomach of a Merganser shot on the Tillamook River, December 1, 1914, contained forty salmon eggs.

Mareca penelope. European Widgeon. Netarts, November 27, 1922. (See CONDOR, XXV, 1923, p. 70.)

Marila marila. Greater Scaup Duck. One was taken on Netarts Bay, December 21, 1920.