

Trumpeter Swan Records from the State of Washington.—In the "Wilson Bulletin" of September, 1923, Dr. Walter P. Taylor, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, gave a "Review of the Records of the Trumpeter Swan in the State of Washington." As the result of his research it appears that there were but four known specimens of the species extant that had been taken in this state. One was in the British Museum and was said to have been collected on the Snake River in September (1895?). One in the Chicago Academy of Sciences was shot on the Columbia River, April 8, 1881, three miles west of Portland, Oregon. A third was taken by a hunter in the winter of 1906 at Nisqually, at the south end of Puget Sound, and is now in the collection of Mr. D. E. Brown, of Seattle. The fourth was taken at Moses Lake, November 12, 1912, and was said to be in the collection of Mr. George Willett, now a resident of Ketchikan, Alaska. In concluding, Dr. Taylor remarked that there had been no recorded instance of its appearance in the state for more than ten years.

In case, as seems probable, *Olor buccinator* is to be counted with the extinct birds, it will be of interest to record one more, and the latest known, occurrence of that species in Washington. December 23, 1913, I secured from a hunter the skin of a swan which had just been taken in the marsh at the mouth of the Nooksack River, near the head of Bellingham Bay. I preserved the skin and packed it away, without giving it thorough study, although at the time I half-heartedly labeled it *Olor buccinator*. A few months ago I got out the specimen and examined it critically, comparing it with a specimen of *O. columbianus* which I have, with the result that it very obviously is to be called *buccinator*. Measurements of the fresh skin were as follows: Length approximately 60 inches; wing $23\frac{3}{4}$; tail 8; extent approximately 87; tarsus $4\frac{3}{4}$; middle toe 6 (with claw $6\frac{1}{2}$); bill $4\frac{1}{4}$. The iris was dull silvery; tail of 22 feathers. The head measurements, which are particularly diagnostic, were as follows: Eye to nostril, 64 mm.; latter point to tip of bill, 78 mm. The corresponding measurements of the *columbianus* are, 60 and 52 respectively. Bill and lores are black and unspotted; lores practically naked. The other specimen shows lores feathered, with a large light-colored saddle on the bill.—J. M. EDSON, *Bellingham, Washington, August 8, 1925.*

Notes on the Food of the California Screech Owl.—During the nesting season of 1924, I had several nests of the California Coast Screech Owl (*Otus asio bendirei*) under observation. My main purpose was to band the young; but after finding the bodies of a number of sparrows in the nest I took more careful note of the owls' food habits. These observations are in line with those of Dr. A. A. Allen (*Auk*, xli, January, 1924, pp. 1-16). The following are notes as made on my visits to a nest in a large oak on the University of California campus.

May 25, 5:30 A. M., 6 English Sparrows, 2 of them adult males, all headless.

May 27, 7:00 A. M., 1 pocket gopher, headless.

May 28, 5:30 A. M., no food.

May 29, 5:30 A. M., no food.

May 30, 6:30 A. M., 1 English Sparrow, headless.

May 31, 6 A. M., 1 English Sparrow, headless; banded the young on this date.

June 1, 6 A. M., 1 English Sparrow, entire.

June 3, 5:30 A. M., no food in nest, but I removed a large quantity of feathers that had accumulated in the bottom. Among this debris I counted about 250 feathers from the wings of birds, which appeared to be mostly sparrows of different species. On this day I dropped the young bird no. 223576, and apparently injured it, but returned it to the nest.

June 4, 5:30 A. M., the leg of no. 223576, which held the band, was all that was left of this bird. It was in the nest, the bird apparently having been eaten by the three remaining young owls. The wings of a large beetle were found also.

June 6, 6:00 A. M., 2 English Sparrows, headless; 1 large beetle.

June 8, 6:00 A. M., no food in nest; this was the last day I was able to visit the nest.

Another nest found in a hole in an old dead stump on the campus on May 8, contained three young, and as food there were two meadow mice and one salamander, all entire. On June 6, 1925, I had another nest under observation and there were present feathers from a California Jay.

It is interesting to note that practically all the birds found in the first nest had their heads eaten off when I found them. Another item of interest was the fact that all the birds or other animals found were of an injurious bearing from the economic standpoint, showing that the Screech Owl, in this locality, does its part in maintaining the balance of nature favorable to the interests of man.—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, *Berkeley, California, August 10, 1925.*

Two Species New to the Avifauna of California.—The writer owns a ranch two miles north of Bard, Imperial County, California, and considerable collections have from time to time been made in that neighborhood, either during vacations or on special trips in the interest of the Natural History Museum, San Diego. The two species listed below appear to be new to the recorded avifauna of California.

Junco mearnsi. Pink-sided Junco. On October 24, 1924, while collecting in the woods on the California side of the Colorado River, one mile north of Potholes, Mrs. May Canfield shot a male of this species from a flock of twenty or twenty-five juncos feeding among fallen willow leaves. The taking of a *Junco caniceps* and many *Junco oregonus shufeldti* in the past had prompted close scrutiny of all juncos in the region. The specimen is now no. 2858, collection of L. M. Huey. Another *Junco mearnsi* was taken by the writer at his ranch (within four miles air-line of Potholes) on January 15, 1925. This specimen was taken from a mixed flock of forty or more juncos that had been feeding at the doorstep since October, 1924. These individuals had been scrutinized many times and this peculiar, dark, pinkish bird noted; but not until the above date in January did an opportunity to collect it occur. It proved to be a female and is now no. 9708, collection of the Natural History Museum. Study of the summer and winter ranges of this species leaves little doubt but that this bird occurs often within the boundary of California, along the lower Colorado River. The astonishing fact is that it has not been taken before. Storms occurring along its migration routes in the mountains of Utah and eastern Arizona would have a tendency to drive this species, and perhaps many others, down the Colorado River—in spite of the fact that certain portions of the river are most inhospitable.

Dendroica tigrina. Cape May Warbler. It was with no little surprise that, when crossing the head gates of Laguna Dam at Potholes on September 23, 1924, I saw this strange warbler fly from a bunch of dates in a palm growing within thirty feet of the waters of the Colorado River. The bird was feeding with several Lutescent Warblers (*Vermivora celata lutescens*) on the luscious fruit and flushed with them at my approach. It returned after a short flight and was reluctant to leave, allowing me to get within a few feet and thus secure a very close view. In conversation later with other collectors who have had experience with this species, I was informed that this habit of gentleness is characteristic. The bird proved to be an immature male and is no. 2814, collection of L. M. Huey. The normal breeding and winter ranges of this species place it on the "accidental" list in California; for it was hundreds, if not a thousand, miles off of its regular migration course.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, September 16, 1925.*

The Franklin Gull in Colorado.—The Franklin Gull (*Larus franklinii*) has always been considered a rare bird in Colorado. The first record (by Cooke in the "Birds of Colorado", 1897, p. 51) states that W. G. Smith took one at Loveland. No trace of this specimen has been found, so far as the writers are aware. Mr. W. L. Sclater, in "A History of the Birds of Colorado", p. 19, states: "Though quite a common bird on migration, both in Kansas and Utah, Franklin's Gull is hardly known from Colorado. In fact the only record is that of W. G. Smith who took it at Loveland, on May 6th, while Anthony examined one in Denver, stated to have been killed near by. Felger reports that Miss Patten noticed this gull, May 8th, 1905, near Yuma, and Hersey (09) saw one at Barr, October 17th, 1907." The above data is all that we have been able to find on the occurrence of the Franklin Gull in Colorado.

On August 28, 1925, the present writers were collecting at Barr Lake, and in the middle of the afternoon we saw a few small gulls drifting in from the seepage ponds to the eastward. At least two hundred birds worked by from two to four o'clock. Two specimens collected proved to be adult Franklin Gulls in post breeding plumage.