

seen by W. O. Emerson, at Haywards, California, with a flock of Golden-crowned Sparrows on October 27, 1900, and was taken by him the next day (CONDOR, II, November, 1900, p. 145). This specimen is now in the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

The second specimen was taken by C. B. Linton at Smuggler's Cove on San Clemente Island, October 15, 1907 (CONDOR, x, March, 1908, p. 84). This specimen was no. 16656 in the Thayer Collection, but is now no. 21272 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley.

The third record is a sight record made near the home of Mrs. A. S. Allen in Berkeley (CONDOR, xvii, March, 1915, p. 80). This bird was seen repeatedly by a number of reliable observers between December 25, 1912, and February 11, 1913.—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, Berkeley, California, January 8, 1928.

Fifth Record of Harris Sparrow in California.—During December of each year I operate a bird banding station at Encinitas, San Diego County, California. My traps are located in a small dry canyon about a quarter of a mile from the ocean and thirty miles north of San Diego.

On December 21, 1927, about 2 p. m., I caught a bird which was unknown to me and could not be identified from the books then available. It was associated with the members of a large flock of Golden-crowned and Gambel sparrows. I kept it in a cage until my return to Berkeley, and on January 14, 1928, I took it to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where it was definitely identified by Dr. Joseph Grinnell as a first-year individual of a Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).

This is the fifth record of this species in California. Its band number is 569150, and it is at present a contented inmate of my aviary here in Berkeley.—HAROLD H. COZENS, 1631 Posen Avenue, Berkeley, California, January 18, 1928.

The Flammulated Screech Owl in Oregon.—On May 25, 1927, an adult female of this little owl, *Asio flammeolus*, was collected by the writer at an altitude of about 7,000 feet on Hart Mountain in eastern Lake County, Oregon. When first seen, in mid-day, it was perched on a lower limb of a small quaking aspen, not over five feet from the ground, in a thicket of these trees growing on a steep slope of the mountain.

On careful examination, the condition of the ovaries would indicate that this was not a breeding bird. The entire stomach and its contents were preserved and examined by Remington Kellogg, of the U. S. Biological Survey, who reports the food found in it as follows:

Ground beetles, 34 per cent, including *Carabus taeniatus oregonensis*, 2, *Harpalus* sp., 1, *Pterostichus vicinus*, 1, *Pterostichus* sp., 1, *Amara* sp., 1; darkling beetles (small undetermined Tenebrionidae, 1), a trace; carpenter ant, *Camponotus herculeanus whimperi*, 1, a trace; camel crickets, *Ceuthophilus* sp., 2, 2 per cent; caterpillars, 3, 2 per cent; jumping spiders, Attidae, 3, 2 per cent; remains of at least 26 moths, 60 per cent.

This is the first known occurrence of this owl in Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, Portland, Oregon, November 3, 1927.

Notes on Variations in the White-fronted Goose.—At the time Messrs. Swarth and Bryant wrote their article, "A Study of the Races of the White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) Occurring in California" (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 17, 1917, no. 11), there were no breeding birds available for comparison, and their article was based almost entirely upon specimens from California. Briefly, for those who do not have access to that paper, the authors have concluded that "two well-defined subspecies of *Anser albifrons* occur in California during the winter months, instead of the single race heretofore recognized." The large rare form, Tule Goose, is considered as *Anser albifrons gambeli*, while the small bird, common throughout the United States, is given as identical with the European form. In addition to size, the two races are supposed to differ in color of plumage, in color of eye-ring, and in the number of tail feathers. The naked skin of the eye-lid of *albifrons* is described as grayish brown, while that of *gambeli* is given as yellow or orange. Females of both races, and the male *albifrons*, are described as having sixteen rectrices, while the male of the larger form is supposed to have eighteen.

During the fall of 1921 and spring of 1922, when R. W. Hendee and I worked on the Arctic coast of northwestern Alaska for the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Hendee obtained a small series of White-fronted Geese at Wainwright. Subsequently, Charles Brower added to this collection, and there are now ten breeding specimens in the series at the Colorado Museum of Natural History, and five in the Milwaukee Public Museum. In my list of the birds of the northwest coast (CONDOR, XXVII, 1925, p. 202), I called our specimens *Anser albifrons gambeli*, but accepting Swarth and Bryant's decision all these breeding birds must be considered as the small form, *Anser albifrons albifrons*.

The specimens in the Colorado Museum of Natural History and in the Milwaukee Public Museum were taken near Wainwright and Barrow, Alaska, and three collected by Mr. H. B. Conover, now in the Field Museum, from the vicinity of Igiak Bay, near the mouth of the Yukon River. All of these birds fall within the general measurements of the smaller race. Two, however, have seventeen rectrices (C.M.N.H. no. 8658 and M.P.M. no. 13970), or normally eighteen, which is given as one of the characters of the male Tule Goose. One bird is a male and the other a female, so it would seem that the number of tail feathers can not be depended on as diagnostic of the larger bird. Mr. Conover has noted that one of his birds (no. 3572) had a yellow eye-ring, while the measurements show it to be of the small form.

Shortly after Messrs. Swarth and Bryant's paper was published, Mr. Stanley C. Arthur, of the Department of Conservation of Louisiana, and I had occasion to handle many specimens of White-fronted Geese. We visited several hunting camps, and measured the birds of the hunters, hoping that we might find some as large as the Tule Goose. Although we measured more than forty birds, none approached the large size of the California birds. But we did note that there was no uniformity in the color of the eye-ring. Some were yellow, as has been given as a character of *gambeli*, some were dark, and others were a rather light brown. There was no uniformity whatever; fairly large birds were apt to have the eye-ring brownish, while in smaller birds they were yellowish. Of twenty birds shot on Cameron Farm, Cameron Parish, Louisiana, in December, 1918, ten had yellowish eye-rings, several had a trace of yellow, and the others were brownish. All birds fell within the measurements given for *Anser albifrons albifrons*.

The breeding grounds of *albifrons* extend from the mouth of the Yukon River to Point Barrow, as is shown by our specimens. Swarth and Bryant suggest the possibility that the breeding ground of *gambeli* "is restricted to points farther eastward in Arctic America than the region inhabited by *Anser albifrons albifrons*." Mr. A. C. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 130, 1925, p. 198) gives the breeding range of the latter form as circumpolar, with the only gap in the district lying between the Mackenzie River and Greenland, and he suggests that this may prove to be the breeding range of *gambeli*. Mr. Bent has handled specimens from scattered localities from the Mississippi Valley to the Atlantic States "that measured up well within the measurements of the Tule Goose." Of seventeen specimens in the Museum of the University of Iowa, from Iowa and Nebraska, all are of the small form.

To sum up the above, the color of the eye-ring in the White-fronted Goose can not be considered in determining the subspecies to which a specimen belongs. While it is probable that the majority of the male geese have eighteen rectrices, this is not constant, for we find both a male and a female of the smaller form with seventeen (normally eighteen) rectrices. So it would seem that the differences between the two forms of *Anser albifrons* are of color and size.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, January 1, 1928.*