Snowy Owls were obviously living largely on ducks and other sea birds on the New England coast during the winter of 1926-27, yet their pellets contained nothing but mouse fur. Even after killing seven live duck decoys no evidence of a duck diet could be found in the pellets picked up at the owl's roosting place.

Later a captive owl was fed a variety of foods. Murres were stripped of their breast skin and the flesh only eaten, with no resulting pellet. Chicken and turkey heads and wings were picked clean, no feathers being swallowed and no pellet ejected afterwards. When these were cut in pieces and force fed, feathers and all, a pellet would result. Killy-fish in large numbers were likewise fed by force but no pellets or bones were ejected later. The heads of large fish (haddock) were picked clean —no pellets. But a meal of one mouse or more always resulted in a pellet of skin, bones and skull.

In conclusion it should be emphasized that a thorough knowledge of a raptor in life is of infinitely more value than pages of the results of stomach analysis even when these have been made by the most competent authorities.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, June 9, 1929.*

The Texas Nighthawk in Santa Clara County, California.—The Texas Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis texensis*) does not appear in the "Directory to the Bird Life of the San Francisco Bay Region" by Grinnell and Wythe. Up to that time there were no published records of this bird for the Bay counties.

This bird was first noted by the writer in Santa Clara County in 1894, when the first set of eggs was taken near Gilroy. Some eight or ten pairs bred over a distance of about four miles along the Uvas Creek. Well back from the water were dry, rather loose beds of gravel covered with a sparse growth of weeds (*Mentzelia laevicaulis.*) Here the nighthawks bred, laying their eggs on the bare gravel, generally on the north side of one of these plants.

Since then many of these eggs have been observed by the writer *in situ* and a few sets taken. In 1922, D. B. Bull was taken into the field where he collected some sets. Later he discovered another breeding ground near Coyote on the Coyote Creek. Dr. Chas. Piper Smith also visited Coyote and personally took sets. Some nesting dates are: Taken by D. B. Bull, Gilroy, June 21, 1922, two fresh eggs; June 28, 1922, two fresh eggs; Coyote, June 4, 1925, two fresh eggs; taken by Chas. Piper Smith at Coyote, July 1, 1925, two fresh eggs and two partly incubated; taken by the writer at Gilroy, June 21, 1922, two fresh eggs, and on June 10, 1923, two eggs about one-half incubated. There are also sets of eggs taken by the writer in the collections of O. P. Silliman and D. S. DeGroot. H. W. Carriger accompanied by the writer took a set at Gilroy, June 20, 1929.

The Dusky Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii californicus*) sometimes breeds in this same association and the writer obtained one set of fresh eggs there April 14, 1926. This set is in the collection of D. B. Bull.—W. E. UNGLISH, *Gilroy, California, June 22, 1929.*

Additions to the Rancho La Brea Avifauna.—During the course of a recent examination of Pleistocene Passeriformes of Rancho La Brea, several skeletal elements pertaining to non-passerine groups of birds were prepared for study by the present writer. A study of these bones reveals the presence of three species of Recent birds hitherto unknown from the deposits. One additional Recent species is probably present but can not be identified with certainty because of incompleteness of the material. Also, a number of elements were found which belong to species poorly represented in the fossil collections from Rancha La Brea and which, for this reason, deserve mention. All fossils here noted were taken from locality no. 1059 (R. C. Stoner, Univ. Calif. Publ. Bull. Dept. Geol. Sci., 7, 1913, p. 389) and are now contained in the paleontological collections of the University of California.

Shore-birds' remains are present, though rare, in the Rancho La Brea deposits; thus far they have not been identified even to the genus. With the recognition of a few additional elements, and with a more complete assemblage of Recent skeletons than has been available for previous studies, the identification of two members of the suborder Limicolae now is possible. *Limnodromus griseus* is represented by a coracoid

(no. 29439, U. C. Mus. Pal.) and an incomplete humerus (no. 12176). A humerus and a perfectly preserved tarsometatarsus (no. 29438) denote the presence of *Oxyechus vociferus*. Both these genera being monotypic, the problem of identification is simplified. There appears to be little possibility of confusing the fossil remains of either genus with other North American genera of Scolopacidae or Charadriidae.

It is not surprising to find the Killdeer present, inasmuch as this bird today frequents inland sloughs and meadowlands. The Dowitcher is less to be expected, and yet shore birds of similar habit stop to feed or rest along the borders of small freshwater ponds and are known to have been caught in the asphalt outpourings at Rancho La Brea within historic times.

The Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) is fairly well represented (no. 29441), by an upper mandible, lower mandible, tarsometatarsus, tibiotarsus, and radius, the latter bone, however, exhibiting no distinctive generic character other than size. The metatarsus is distinguishable from that of the Red-shafted Flicker, which is common in the deposits, by reason of its shortness, relatively greater width at the distal end, and by the shorter, weaker trochleae for the articulations of the phalanges. The mandibles are distinguishable from *Balanosphyra* primarily by their comparative straightness and dorsoventral compression, and by the poorly developed ridge on the culmen. The Lewis Woodpecker adds another member to the association of birds, comprising *Aphelocoma*, *Pica nuttallii* (A. H. Miller, MS), and others, which inhabited the live oak trees known to have occurred at Rancho La Brea in Pleistocene time (F. H. Frost, Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot., 14, 1927, p. 81). One would expect to find *Balanosphyra* present, but as yet no bones belonging to this genus have been detected. *Colaptes* is the only other woodpecker known from the deposits.

The fused carpal phalanges and the distal end of a humerus of an anserine (no. 29440) prove to be indistinguishable from the corresponding bones of the Shoveller Duck (*Spatula clypeata*). Among the ducks, only the Mallard and the Green-winged Teal have been recorded as present in the Rancho La Brea (L. H. Miller, Carnegie Inst. Wash. Publ. 349, pt. v, 1925, p. 72). However, the bones here mentioned are not to be confused with either *Anas* or *Nettion*. Generic characters in the carpal digits and the distal end of the humerus are not always discernible with certainty, and, although *Spatula* apparently can be distinguished from related genera of similar size on the basis of the differences seen in these elements, nevertheless the identification of the Shoveller Duck must be regarded as tentative.

Additional material belonging to species already reported from the deposits is as follows: An incomplete sternum and an ulna of *Zenaidura macroura*; an incomplete tarsometatarsus and the articular region of a lower jaw of *Accipiter cooperii*; and a carpometacarpus, ulna, and incomplete humerus of *Otus asio*. The Morning Dove and Screech Owl were known previously from only one or two bones, while the remains of the Cooper Hawk were so incomplete as to make doubtful the identification of the species. The present identifications, particularly that of the lower jaw, therefore, seem to confirm the presence of *Accipiter cooperii*.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, June 13, 1929.*

Hooded Merganser at Baldwin Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, California.—Recently while looking over a small collection of mounted ducks at Big Bear Lake, I noted a beautiful full plumaged adult male Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). This bird was shot at Baldwin Lake some time during November, 1923, by Mr. Warren Smith. I was also informed by him that another, but a less highly marked bird, of this species was taken at the same place a few days later. This seems to be the first recorded occurrence for this bird in this locality. The bird is rare anywhere in southern California.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, May 29, 1929.*

Additional Notes from Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska.—I wish to record a few specimens collected by the Eskimo representative of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, at the western tip of Seward Peninsula, Alaska. A rather extensive collection of carefully prepared specimens was received, including a new bird for that station and two new breeding records. The latter were:

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), set of eight eggs with down, collected June 22, 1928, Nulook River, Seward Peninsula. (A set of Old-squaw, *Clangula*