

in size with that of the Louisiana Heron (measurements made on skins) as well as with the Little Blue Heron, and it is possible that structurally, also, the species are similar.

Measurements of fossil specimen:

Greatest length.....	92.2 mm.
Breadth of proximal end.....	8.3
Breadth of distal end.....	8.5

Nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus). A complete left tarsometatarsus from Pit 67; Los Angeles Museum specimen no. E1839.

Measurements of fossil specimen:

Greatest length.....	91.0 mm.
Breadth of proximal end.....	12.3
Breadth of distal end.....	11.7

—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Los Angeles Museum, August 29, 1929.*

Woodpecker Perching on a Wire.—The Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) has the reputation of possessing a number of characteristics not usually associated with its family. In sustained flight it has the appearance of a small crow, reminding me strongly of the European jackdaw. Its aerial sallies after insects, with return to the starting point, are performed in true flycatcher fashion. But most un-woodpecker-like of all, it seemed to me, was an act observed this summer, when I saw a Lewis Woodpecker standing on an electric wire, as comfortably balanced as any perching bird. Behind a cottage which I was occupying at the time, near Colorado Springs, Colorado, ran a service line of poles and wires, which was used as a sort of highway by a pair of Lewis Woodpeckers. They commonly progressed by passing from one pole to the next, describing a downward arc between poles and alighting on or near the top of each pole. But on July 4, I saw one of the birds standing on a wire some distance from a pole. Observers to whom I mentioned the incident stated that they could not recall ever having seen a woodpecker of any kind perched on a wire.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, July 29, 1929.*

California Black Rail in Marin County, California, in August.—On Sunday, August 11, 1929, while on an Audubon Association of the Pacific field trip, one of the members, Mr. Albert B. Stephens, picked up from the salicornia, about 25 feet east of the railroad track at Manzanita, a dead female (young of the year) California Black Rail, *Crecisus jamaicensis coturniculus* (Ridgway), which through the interest of Mr. C. Lockerbie, leader, was brought to the writer for identification. The date of this rare find in this locality seemed to be an early one and prompted the query in the minds of some: has this tiny mite been nesting right under our noses after all? Who knows? Through the courtesy of Dr. Grinnell, the specimen was identified and placed on file (no. 53990) in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley.—BESSIE W. KIBBE, *Berkeley, California, August 15, 1929.*

The Elf Owl in Western Arizona.—An attempt last year to find out where one might expect to meet the Elf Owl (*Micropallas whitneyi*) in Arizona showed me that there was much uncertainty on the part of various authorities regarding its seasonal and its geographic distribution. The field notes which I was able to assemble add some evidence to the small total. The species seems to be rare west of and south of the middle of the state. Four camps were made in the saguaros between Mohawk and Yuma—two in February, one in May, and one in the first week of June. During February a ladder was used to search nearly a hundred woodpecker holes in the cactus, but no evidence of elf owls was found at any of these camps.

Beginning May 29, a survey was extended eastward. The first camp was made on the Papago Indian Reservation near Covered Wells, in typical saguaro association, and observation was carried on during several hours of the night and the