

weeks. During these four days the ibises were never seen to leave the little pool, which hardly seemed capable of providing sustenance for so many large birds. Many persons drove to the pool to watch the "cranes," the latter showing no alarm at their presence on the roadway close by.

Upon my return to San Diego in the middle of August, the Wood Ibises in Mission Valley were still being reported. The latest record which I received was of three birds on September 13, from Mrs. Belle R. Benchley of the Zoological Society of San Diego. These were in the same pool where the first birds were seen in May. Incidentally, all the occurrences of this flock were well within the city limits of San Diego and near built-up residential districts.

Other San Diego County observations of Wood Ibises this summer to come to my notice have been: 3 birds in a small pond near Ramona on June 26, by L. M. Huey, of the San Diego Society of Natural History; 2 birds in Chollas Canyon (eastern outskirts of the city of San Diego) about the end of August, by Webb Toms, Deputy State Fish and Game Commissioner; and the following by E. H. Glidden, Deputy U. S. Game Warden and Deputy State Fish and Game Commissioner: about 10 birds in the San Bernardo River near San Pasqual battlefield on August 6; 6 or 7 birds at Lake Hodges on August 6; 11 birds in the San Luis Rey River near Monserate on August 19; 15 birds at Lower Otay Lake on August 23. Mr. Glidden also stated that on August 28 he saw between 200 and 225 Wood Ibises five miles north of Calexico, Imperial County, California. These birds were feeding in a damp field and circling in the air above.

There has been no previous visitation of Wood Ibises in San Diego County, of which I have knowledge, since 1925. In the summer of that year a flock of about 100 birds came to Lake Hodges, from which five specimens were collected on August 11 for the San Diego Society of Natural History. The birds at that time displayed the same disregard for human beings that was noted this year. Also a large proportion of the individuals, both years, were immature.

Prior to this, I have the record of Thomas Weddle, rancher-naturalist of the Sweetwater River valley near Dehesa, who on August 30, 1923, saw "hundreds" of Wood Ibises at his home. On the day previous only 7 or 8 had arrived. The sight of the many supremely graceful white birds soaring above the river, and outlined against the mountains beyond, left an indelible impression on his mind.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, October 11, 1930.*

The House Sparrow and the Motor Car.—The great increase in the number of motor vehicles and the consequent disappearance of the horse has resulted, we are told, in a considerable diminution of the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) population in our cities and towns. In view of this fact, while walking recently along the main street of Eastend I was interested to watch a hen sparrow procuring food for her young by picking grasshoppers off the radiator of one of the cars parked against the sidewalk.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Eastend, Saskatchewan, Canada, September 8, 1930.*

Pliocene Bird Remains from Santa Barbara, California.—Over one hundred species of birds have been found in fossil deposits in California. Of these, however, only two, each described from a single specimen, have been reported from the Pliocene: *Mancalla californiensis* Lucas, taken from a marine deposit at the site of the Third Street tunnel, Los Angeles, and *Branta howardae* Miller recently described from the Ricardo land laid beds in the Mohave Desert. Considering the scarcity of Pliocene bird remains, therefore, the discovery of additional specimens from this period is of particular interest and importance.

The first of the present specimens to come to the writer's attention, was collected in August, 1930, by Mr. A. M. Strong, a conchologist of Los Angeles, who donated this bone and two fragments of marine vertebrates, along with a number of marine mollusks, to the Los Angeles Museum. These specimens were all collected in an embankment at the foot of Victoria Street, Santa Barbara. According to Dr. U. S. Grant, Invertebrate Paleontologist at the Los Angeles Museum, this deposit is undoubtedly close to Arnold's Packard's Hill locality (Mem. Calif. Acad. Sci., 3, 1903, pp. 50-53) and may be definitely considered as uppermost Pliocene on the basis of its molluscan content.