

American Golden-eyes were present in fair numbers, thus affording striking contrasts and comparisons. The Barrow Golden-eye shows more black than white on the body and it sits lower in the water; and when resting, or swimming, its tail is held at an upward angle. Between dives the tail is held below the water and the bird rests still lower.

On December 13, I noticed that a female Golden-eye was following the male Barrow closely. Every time the lake has been visited since, the female has been found following the male. On December 16, I noticed that every time the duck came up from a dive he had something in his bill. He would stay half submerged and proceed to shake his bill and its contents violently until free from mud, before swallowing the contents.—LESLIE HAWKINS, *Oakland, California, December 19, 1930.*

The Least Tern in the Upper Missouri Valley.—The Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) is a regular summer resident and breeder in the region along the Missouri River where the states of Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota meet. North of this area the Least Tern does not seem to have been reported, except for the single record of a stray bird taken on the Yellowstone River, by Lieutenant Warren's Expedition in 1857.

On May 30, 1929, the writer saw five or six Least Terns at Lake Andes, South Dakota, about 150 miles northwest of Sioux City, Iowa. May 30, 1930, was also spent at Lake Andes, and the Least Tern was again listed. The birds probably nest on some sand-bar in the Missouri River and fly the five miles from the river to the lake to feed.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa, January 20, 1931.*

The California Condor in New Mexico.—Among fragmentary bird bones from New Mexico submitted for identification recently by Mr. Edgar B. Howard of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, there is found a broken humerus and part of the shaft of a femur of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*). These specimens were obtained during archeological investigations of a cave located, according to information supplied by Mr. Howard, on the south fork of the Three Forks in the upper part of Rocky Arroyo, about fifty miles by road west and somewhat north of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Mr. Howard states that the bird bones were scattered with bones of a horse, *Equus fraternus*, an antelope, *Tetrameryx shulleri*, and a bison, together with baskets, sandals and other material of human manufacture in the loose earth of the cave floor eighteen inches to nearly three feet below the surface. Many of the bones were obtained at levels above which baskets were found.

The humerus includes about half of the lower part of the shaft, with the greater portion of the distal end missing. Sufficient is present to indicate the identity of the specimen without question and to show that it is similar in its details to the modern bird. The femur includes only the middle portion of the shaft, a fragmentary bit that in size and form, and particularly in the conformation of its *linea aspera*, is identical with skeletons at hand for comparison.

The humerus is stained light brown, while the femur is paler, nearly white in color. Neither shows any indication of fossilization from infiltration of mineral matter; in fact in texture and color both specimens resemble modern bones with which they were compared during identification.

The age of these specimens from the data at hand is uncertain, but it may be remarked that in general appearance they are closely similar to bird bones that I have studied in recent years from cave deposits in Porto Rico and Haiti whose age has been placed tentatively at from five hundred to two thousand years. The condor bones from New Mexico coming from a more arid region possibly are older, but they can have no great antiquity. Their occurrence must be considered as natural in that it is believed that they come from a bird inhabitant of the region where they were found, since it can hardly be supposed that these bones would be transported by Indians for any reason from the present range of the California Condor. They represent a considerable extension of range for that species which, from this evidence, seems to have been distributed throughout the southwest since men came to America.

Because of the biological interest that attaches to these two bones the University Museum, through the Director, Mr. Horace H. F. Jayne, has deposited the specimens in the osteological collections of the Division of Birds in the United States National Museum.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.*, December 12, 1930.

An Early Name for the Allen Hummingbird.—René Primevère Lesson formally bestowed the name *Ornismya Sasin* upon a kind of hummingbird from "La Californie, la côte N. O. d'Amérique" (*Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux-Mouche*, "Mai 1829", p. xxx; *idem*, 1830, pp. 190-193, pls. 66, 67). It was evidently in Lesson's mind merely to give a more fitting name to the species even though already technically named *Trochilus rufus* by Gmelin. The name first given to the species was a vernacular, "sasine" or "sasin", used in the text of Captain Cook's third "Voyage", French edition, for the Rufous Hummingbird discovered at Nootka Sound. All this is shown in the synonymy (p. xxx) and discussion (pp. 190-191) given by Lesson; yet the only actual specimen he had in hand, and upon which his main description is based and which is clearly figured in the first plate (66), came from California and belonged to the species long years later named *Selasphorus allenii* by Henshaw. No matter if Lesson's general concept, through mistaken interpretation of the several previous authors he cites, was of a composite nature, embracing two or more species of hummingbirds, his first-given characterization, his detailed description, and his first plate all apply definitely to the one species—*allenii* of our recent American literature.

The critical phrases in the descriptive text having to do with the green back of the bird are: "teint de vert sur le dos" (p. xxx); "... se mêle du vert-doré sur ... le dos" (p. 191). The tail feathers are commented upon as slender, and there is no mention of notches on any of them: "la queue ... composée de rectrices faibles et terminées en pointe ..." (p. 191).

The first plate (66), "Le Sasin Mâle adulte", shows an adult male Allen Hummingbird—back shown as green; tail-feathers displayed from beneath, all narrow with no indication of the breadth and notching which pertains to *Selasphorus rufus*. One has only to put a specimen each of "*allenii*" and *rufus* alongside the figure on Lesson's plate 66, to see that what is figured, even though not altogether accurately, is the Allen Hummingbird.

The second plate (67), with legend "Le Sasin, Jeune âge", looks to be neither a Rufous nor an Allen. It is said (pp. 192-193) to have been reproduced from a figure from Vieillot drawn originally from a specimen in the Leverian museum in London. This subsidiary plate with accompanying remarks can properly be discarded in the present connection.

Lesson also includes, subsidiarily, descriptive remarks concerning the female, but these remarks are second-hand, after Latham. They, too, even though appertaining to another species than "*allenii*", have no special bearing here.

As to the type locality of his *Ornismya sasin*, Lesson makes a most significant statement, to the effect that the adult bird serving as the basis of his description was transmitted to him by the Duke of Rivoli: "L'individu adulte qui a servi à notre description nous a été communiqué par M. le duc de Rivoli" (p. 192). On a previous page Lesson remarks that everything known leads to the belief that this species is found continually in the "environs de Monterey et de San-Francisco" (p. 190).

In his Supplement, issued (most of its "parts" in 1831) in continuation of the work cited above, Lesson gives three additional plates (11, 12, 13) of "Le Sasin", with appertaining text (pp. 121-124). There is evidence here, again, that more than one species are dealt with under the one name, *Ornismya sasin* (plate 11 looks like a female Black-chinned Hummingbird). But the important thing now is that apparently all the specimens here additionally described were from California, and of one of them the following definite statement is made: "L'individu que nous avons fait figurer comme étant une jeune femelle du Sasin, avait été rapporté de la Californie par le docteur Botta, que l'avait étiqueté sur les lieux . . ." (p. 121).

It would thus appear exceedingly probable that all the California-taken hummingbirds reaching France about this time, including the adult male type of *sasin*, were collected by Paola Emilio Botta, and very likely at the same place and time