

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The White-cheeked Goose in Oregon.—For many years, I have made an effort to locate and examine specimens of *Branta canadensis* taken by hunters along the coastal strip of Oregon, but the majority of the geese of this group that I have personally taken or seen proved to be *hutchinsii* or *minima*. However, I had the opportunity recently for examining a fine pair of these birds taken on Chichagof Island, Alaska, which renewed my interest in the matter. On re-examining geese taken years ago, I located a fine old adult male *Branta canadensis occidentalis* taken by me at the north tip of the sandspit on the west side of Netarts Bay, Tillamook County, Oregon, on November 27, 1914 (original no. 2016, coll. S. G. J.). This bird was shot from a small flock coming in from the open ocean and headed for the placid waters of the bay.

Another specimen, a juvenile female taken by Elmer Griepentrog at Salem, Oregon, on November 28, 1927, now in the collection of Dr. Louis B. Bishop, proves to be a typical *occidentalis*, and the third examined was shot near Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, "during the fall of 1928" by Robert Park and was mounted by E. C. Eckert of Eugene in whose possession the specimen now is.

Further evidence of the occurrence of these geese along the coast was disclosed during a conversation with William Doughty of Gold Beach, Curry County, Oregon. On December 13, 1931, he told me that a few days previously he had shot "three of those big black honkers" just south of the mouth of the Rogue River. On further questioning Mr. Doughty, he said the geese were large and very dark colored, "not a bit like the honkers killed at Klamath, but much darker-plumaged all over."

The specimen taken by me at Netarts Bay and the Eckert specimen from Eugene are typical *occidentalis*, matching the Alaska specimens in every detail as to size and coloration. I have not seen the Griepentrog bird but it has been examined by Dr. Bishop and others who pronounce it *occidentalis*. With this evidence at hand, we now know that *Branta canadensis occidentalis* wanders south from Alaska during late fall at least to the coast of Oregon and into the Willamette Valley.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, January 16, 1932.*

Some Trapping Records of Birds that Eat Bait Used in Ground Squirrel Control.—In the campaign for the destruction of ground squirrels in California by the use of thallium-poisoned hulled barley, it has been claimed that passerine birds and game birds, particularly quail, will not eat the barley. In order to test the validity of this claim, I carried on the following experiment between September 28 and December 14, 1931.

Two government sparrow traps of identical size and design were placed side by side, touching each other, in an open space among trees and shrubs. These traps were so placed in relation to their surroundings that birds would have no preference between the two, aside from their choice of bait. During the first thirty-two days the traps were located about fifty feet north of Cañon Road, Strawberry Cañon, Berkeley. During the last twenty-eight days they were in the grounds of the University of California swimming pool, about 100 yards east of the first location. They were thus in operation a total of sixty days. All birds were banded as soon as first trapped.

Trap A was baited with baby-chick feed, canary seed, bread crumbs, etc. Trap B was baited solely with hulled whole barley.

TRAP A		TRAP B	
Song Sparrow.....	2	Song Sparrow.....	4
Fox Sparrow.....	27	Fox Sparrow.....	27
Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	21	Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	13
Nuttall Sparrow.....	1	San Francisco Towhee.....	15
San Francisco Towhee.....	10	San Francisco Brown Towhee.....	1
San Francisco Brown Towhee.....	1	Junco	1
Dwarf Hermit Thrush.....	2	Nicasio Jay.....	4
Nicasio Jay.....	4	California Quail.....	22
California Quail.....	26		—
	—	Total.....	87
Total.....	94		

The table above shows the number of individual birds trapped; the following table the number of captures, including repeats.

TRAP A		TRAP B	
Song Sparrow.....	2	Song Sparrow.....	7
Fox Sparrow.....	58	Fox Sparrow.....	36
Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	36	Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	20
Nuttall Sparrow.....	1	San Francisco Towhee.....	23
San Francisco Towhee.....	22	San Francisco Brown Towhee.....	1
San Francisco Brown Towhee.....	1	Junco.....	1
Dwarf Hermit Thrush.....	2	Nicasio Jay.....	8
Nicasio Jay.....	18	California Quail.....	30
California Quail.....	31		
	—	Total.....	126
Total.....	171		

It will be seen that of a total of 181 birds banded, 87, or 48%, entered the trap baited solely with hulled whole barley of the kind used, when treated with thallium, in the attempt to exterminate ground squirrels.

The total number of captures shows a slightly smaller percentage of birds entering trap B; even so, of the 297 captures, 126, or more than 42% apparently preferred barley to the various other kinds of feed scattered on the ground beside them. Many individual birds, especially Fox Sparrows, San Francisco Towhees and quail, were attracted by both kinds of bait, and apparently entered either trap indifferently.

If this grain had been treated with thallium and placed on the ground as is done by squirrel poisoners, probably most of these 181 birds would have been killed.—E. L. SUMNER, SR., *Berkeley, California, March 1, 1932.*

Clapper Rails Occur on Marshes of Salton Sea, California.—While engaged in making a survey of nesting waterfowl for the Division of Fish and Game in 1931, I visited the marshes about the southeast end of Salton Sea, June 10 and 11. I was observing the birds on a tule marsh near Mullet Island, at the edge of Salton Sea, six miles west of Niland, Imperial County, in the late afternoon, June 10, where, about sundown, the presence of a number of Clapper Rails was established. Three birds were definitely observed, one of which ran across the road only a few feet in front of my car. Many others of this species were heard calling and "cackling" in the nearby tule patches.

Unfortunately no attempt was made to secure a specimen for subspecific identification due to the absence of Captain Davis, proprietor of Mullet Island, from whom permission to do so should first have been obtained. However, judging from the close faunal relationship of this region with the adjacent Lower Colorado River Valley and the connection of the two localities by the New and Alamo rivers, it seems probable that the Imperial County rails are Yuma Clapper Rails (*Rallus obsoletus yumanensis*) (Dickey, Auk, XL, 1923, p. 90; van Rossem, Condor, XXXI, 1929, p. 215).

The following morning, June 11, I worked the edge of the marshes between New and Alamo rivers, where no rail was seen, but this locality was well adapted to the species, which could well have been present yet not observed during the bright, hot morning. Another locality, known as Raynor's Duck Club, four miles south of Calipatria, seemed an ideal spot for this species. Here heavy tule growth surrounded a large pond formed by a widening of the Alamo River. Again I was prevented from inspecting this region by the absence of the owner.

I did not consider these observations worthy of publication until I noted that the A. O. U. Check-list (4th ed., 1931, p. 96) states the known range of *yumanensis* to be the "Lower Colorado River Valley from Laguna Dam south at least to Yuma," and reference to available literature failed to provide any extension of this range. Therefore, it seems desirable to draw attention to the probable rather common occurrence of this species in the lower Salton Sea region, in the hope such action may spur future collectors in this vicinity definitely to establish its subspecific identity by collecting specimens.—JAMES MOFFITT, *Division of Fish and Game, 510 Russ Building, San Francisco, California, February 16, 1932.*

Mortality among Birds in Antelope Valley, California.—In Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County, California, we had a very heavy wet snow on February 15, 16 and 17, 1932. On the morning of the 16th, on our ranch, we began to see dead bluebirds