

Whether this material is avian or reptilian it is not practicable to say. Dr. V. Van Straelen, who has devoted careful study to fossilized eggs, has indicated that without accompanying skeletons or other evidence it is not practicable to distinguish between eggs of the two groups under discussion when in a state of fossilization. (See Van Straelen, V., *Les oeufs de Reptiles fossiles*. *Palaeobiologica*, Bd. 1, 1928, pp. 295-305.) Brief notes on the material under examination may be of interest.

The first lot was collected by Dr. Jepsen on August 8, 1927, in the Lower Eocene of the Grey Bull formation between two and two and one-half miles southwest of Wardell's Ranch, on the south side of Dorsey Creek, Bighorn Basin, Wyoming. The material consists of a number of shell fragments, irregularly broken, dull grayish brown in color, and rather thin. The outer surface is smooth, with small irregularly placed pores. The shell averages .8 mm. in thickness. With this are two broken bits of bone, embedded in matrix, that are not identified.

Another lot was obtained in 1931 (field no. 178) in the Wind River Eocene of the red badlands west of Cottonwood Creek and north of Lost Cabin, Wyoming. The shell in these is much thicker, averaging 1.5 mm., and is light gray, more or less colored with reddish brown evidently from the matrix in which it was found. The shell is fine and somewhat rough without visible pores.

The third collection (field no. 197) comes from an area north of Wind River at the mouth of Dinwoodie Creek, and was taken in 1931. This also is from the Wind River Eocene. The shell is dull brown in color, somewhat roughened, with numerous depressed lines and evident pores, averaging 1.3 mm. in thickness.

A further set was obtained in 1931 (field no. 235) in the Wind River Eocene on Alkali Creek, five miles northwest of Arminto, Wyoming, in the *Lambdaotherium* zone. These are a lighter brown than the last, with the shell fairly smooth with evident scattered pores, and averaging 1.5 mm. in thickness.

The last lot obtained in the Grey Bull formation, Lower Eocene of Dry Creek, north of Emblem, Bighorn Basin, Wyoming (no date of collection given), is similar to the first listed in color and in smooth texture, but has few pits evident under a low magnification. The shell fragments average .7 to .9 mm. in thickness. With them are a few fragments of small bones that are not identified.

It would appear that the five lots represent as many species falling into at least two groups, the first and last being contained in one, and the other three in another.

U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., December 5, 1932.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Feeding Habits of the Lesser Scaup Duck.—About 3:30 in the afternoon of January 18, 1933, while riding up the Pungo River in a motor boat about a mile and a half from Belhaven, North Carolina, I noticed a flock of approximately 325 Lesser Scaups (*Nyroca affinis*). Inasmuch as I was searching for plant foods of waterfowl I started my boat in the direction of the birds with the view of collecting some of the aquatic vegetation on which I supposed they were feeding. Shortly I noticed that the flock, with the exception of three or four birds, had disappeared. Continued observation with the aid of field glasses revealed that the entire flock would dive almost in unison, except two to six birds that remained on the surface possibly to serve as sentinels. In diving they would usually leap forward, some of them almost out of the water, with wings closed and tail slightly spread out. The interval from the time the first individuals of the raft began to dive until they were all up again varied from one minute, fifteen seconds, to one minute, thirty-five seconds.

The majority of the flock were under the water approximately one minute, but the exact time the various individuals were submerged could not accurately be determined. The period spent above water between dives was just slightly longer than that under the water. This extremely long period of time spent under the water for the Lesser Scaup is undoubtedly unusual, as John C. Phillips in his "Natural History of the Ducks" (vol. 3, p. 279) writes: "I have no notes upon the maximum length of time under water, but doubt if it is much over 35 seconds." He reports that 50 to 60 seconds have been recorded for the Greater Scaup, but that from 15 to

30 seconds is the length of its ordinary dive (p. 259). In this connection he points out that the Lesser Scaup usually feeds in water from 3 to 8 feet deep and remains under from 20 to 25 seconds. When I approached too closely, I observed that the length of time spent in the water was slightly shortened while the time spent on the surface between dives was more than doubled.

When the birds flew, I went to the place where they had been feeding, but found no trace of plant material on the water, indicating that the birds were probably feeding on mollusks, which is a common practice. I was much surprised to find that I could not reach the bottom with a 15 foot pole, so I am certain that the birds were feeding in water more than 16 feet deep. This greater depth undoubtedly accounts for the unusually long period under the water and the long period on the surface between dives. When the birds were frightened, they flew some 300 yards up the river and again commenced feeding as before. The water here also was found to be more than 16 feet deep.

The united behavior of this flock showed up in marked contrast to that of a flock of 23 Horned Grebes (*Colymbus auritus*) that were observed near by. When the boat approached, the ducks gracefully flew off as a compact unit, while the grebes, which had been in an unusually compact formation, began diving, swimming and laboriously flapping off in different directions.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., February 9, 1933.*

New Bird Records for California.—*Arquatella ptilocnemis couesi*. Aleutian Sandpiper. A male was taken on December 13, 1925, near the entrance to Humboldt Bay. It was in a large flock of Black Turnstones. I saw Aleutian Sandpipers every weekend from that date until March 6, 1926. I am positive nine wintered on the Bay. December 19, 1926, until January 8, 1927, there were only five birds in the flock of turnstones.

Icterus spurius. Orchard Oriole. A female was found dead near a railroad track in town, on October 6, 1932. It had struck overhead wires, as a few feathers were missing from the forehead; also the tail was missing. The night before, Eureka was treated to a real thunder-storm.

Loxia curvirostra sitkensis; *Loxia curvirostra bendirei*. A large flock of Cross-bills was found in scrub pines about 1½ miles from Samoa Post Office, across Humboldt Bay from town. The flock was there January 21, February 4, and February 18, 1923. It seemed to be divided equally between the above two forms; a specimen of each race was collected on January 14.

Calcarius lapponicus alascensis. Alaska Longspur. A lone female was taken on October 23, 1925, on the ocean beach across the Bay from town.

Melospiza melodia caurina. Yakutat Song Sparrow. A male was taken on October 8, 1922, in town, a block from the water front. Another male, taken on October 11, 1931, was taken on the salt marsh at the lower end of town.

Geothlypis trichas sinuosa. Salt Marsh Yellow-throat. A male was taken on November 26, 1922. It was in a small willow patch nearly a mile from Samoa Post Office, across the Bay from town.

Penthestes gambeli abbreviatus. Short-tailed Mountain Chickadee. Two males were taken on December 6, 1924, in a small patch of mountain lilac within the town limits.

Specimens of the above birds were identified for me by Dr. J. Grinnell at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, Humboldt County, California, March 14, 1933.*

White-crowned Sparrows Banded in Coachella Valley, California.—The January issue of *The Condor* (p. 34) carried a list of *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys* banded at the Michener station in Pasadena. Believing a supplementary list of those banded in Coachella Valley might also be of interest we submit the following records of this race banded at Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella, California.

Band number	Date of capture	Band number	Date of capture
A131765	April 8, 1930	B142950	March 7, 1931
A131779	May 3, 1930	B161986	September 29, 1931
B104700	September 29, 1930	C101641	December 16, 1932
C67267	January 16, 1931	C101663	December 27, 1932
A175090	February 23, 1931	H74647	January 10, 1933
C67294	February 23, 1931	C161501	January 18, 1933