

examined specimens from the east coast of Greenland, a locality which from his own admission he considers to be inhabited by the same race as that occurring in Spitsbergen. The two east Greenland birds, both females, that I examined were taken on Shannon and Sabine islands, off the northeastern coast of Greenland, June 8 and 20, respectively. Both of these have the edges of the feathers of the dorsal surface colored exactly like breeding females from west Greenland, Southampton Island, northern Alaska and northeastern Siberia, taken near the same dates; that is, not as bright as fresh plumaged migrants nor as abraded and dulled as birds collected about the first of July. There is some variation in the depth of color and the amount of wear among birds taken at the same place and date, but in any long series it will be noted that there is also some variation in the dates on which the full nuptial plumage is attained.

I still maintain that the character on which the race *jourdaini* was based is entirely a matter of wear and abrasion of plumage.

Mr. Jourdain does not give the dates on which Schioler's series from west and east Greenland were taken, so it is not possible to judge how nearly seasonally comparable they are; nor does he say whether the ornithologists who maintain *jourdaini* as distinct do so on the original character on which it was based or on some other character not mentioned either in the original description or in Jourdain's article.

In closing, I would add that should any European ornithologist care to measure a long series of breeding birds from east Greenland, Iceland and Spitsbergen (measuring the chord of the wing with calipers to avoid the error of personal equation present if ruler is used) I shall be only too pleased to do the same with a North American series and forward my measurements for his use. If any constant and appreciable difference in size between the birds from the two sides of the Atlantic can be discovered, I shall certainly lend my support to a race based on this character.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 25, 1934.*

New Bird Records from the Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea.—While working with the bird remains in the Rancho La Brea collection at the University of California, three species hitherto unrecorded from this deposit have come to my attention. They are the Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*), the Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), and the Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*). The fossils upon which these records are based are from locality 1059.

Astur atricapillus. Right femur, Univ. Calif. Mus. Paleo. no. 30936. Length, 84.6 mm. The external condyle and the greater portion of the popliteal area are broken away. This fossil is identical with specimens of the modern Goshawk. The femurs of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) and the Goshawk are approximately the same size but that of the Goshawk is readily identified by the raised circular muscle scar above the popliteal area. In the Red-tail this scar is a thin transverse line above the external condyle. The fossil shows a moderate amount of wear on the margins of the external condyle and the trochanteric ridge.

Numenius americanus. Right tarsometatarsus, U. C. Mus. Paleo. no. 30938. Length, 86.2 mm.; transverse width proximal end, 10.9 mm.; transverse width distal end, 9.9 mm.; smallest transverse diameter of shaft, 3.7 mm. The specimen is in good condition, although the margins of the middle trochlea are worn and the shaft has a few rubbed and scratched areas. This bone cannot be distinguished from specimens of the present-day Long-billed Curlew and measures 1.7 mm. shorter than an adult of this species (Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 54886).

Left coracoid, U. C. Mus. Paleo. no. 30939. Length, 37.8 mm. This specimen is also identical with the Long-billed Curlew and agrees closely in size with the Recent specimen mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the coracoid of which measures 38.6 mm. in length. In the fossil specimen, the margin of the shank posterior to the scapular facet is flattened and enlarged into an area almost the size of the glenoid facet. I found this peculiar condition to exist also in both coracoids of a specimen of the Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*, Mus. Vert. Zool. no. 46033, ♀). In this individual the internal tuberosity of the bicipital crest of the humerus articulated with this pseudo-facet. An examination of the rest of the skeleton showed the bird to have recovered from wounds in the right tarsometatarsus and in the deltoid crest of the left humerus.

Phaeopus hudsonicus. Distal three-quarters of right humerus, U. C. Mus. Paleo. no. 30940. Complete except for head. Length from internal condyle to deltoid crest, 59.4 mm.; transverse width of distal end, 11.4 mm. This fossil is indistinguishable from the corresponding bone of the present-day Hudsonian Curlew. The single specimen examined of the Bristle-thighed Curlew (*P. tahitiensis*) presented a definitely heavier shaft than the fossil or any of a series of four Hudsonian Curlews. Except for the missing head the fossil is in almost perfect condition. The condyles and ridges of the anconal surface are slightly worn away.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, California, July 1, 1934.*

NOTES AND NEWS

With regard to articles, general or brief, accepted by the editors for publication in the *Condor*, we are not infrequently requested by an author to "change it in any way we see fit"; in other words, there is desire, apparently, to make the editors responsible for the worthiness in all respects of such articles. It is true that as a matter of practice the editors of the *Condor* do check up pretty closely on the composition of articles once accepted, emending them in various ways necessary to meet the literary standards of our magazine. Often also, to us seeming mistakes of fact or interpretation are pointed out to an author. But always these emendations and suggestions, either in manuscript or in galley proof, are sent back to the author for his review and final correction. It is the author who is responsible for the ultimate accuracy of his published contribution, not primarily the auspices under which it is printed. On this principle, the *Condor* does not print anything anonymously; reviews, editorials, and even news notes are signed, or at least initialed. Incidentally, we would call the attention of all contributors to the *Condor*, current and prospective, to the editorial statements concerning the "Preparation of Manuscript", on outside back cover of this issue.—J.G.

The Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society, with headquarters at Seattle, Washington, has started a new series of publications under the title "Northwest Fauna Series". Number 1, of 28 pages, a copy of which reached us on April 4, 1934, is a "Distributional Check-list of the Birds of the State of Washington"; author, E. A. Kitchin. A total of 389 species and subspecies are entered regularly, with 39 additional ones of "Hypothetical" status. This check-list will be helpful to bird students resident outside as well as within the state of which it treats.—J.G.

Not many Cooper Club members other than those chosen few who have dedicated their lives to vertebrate zoology have had the opportunity of knowing personally Charles Dean Bunker, presiding genius of the Museum of Birds and Mammals at the University of Kansas. This Museum, famous alike for its collections and for the sound and sturdy quality of



Fig. 39. Charles D. Bunker, Curator of Birds and Mammals, University of Kansas.