

This sternum consists of all of the right and half of the left coracoidal arches and a small section of the sternal plate on the right side. The flatness of the sternal plate, the general contours of the lips of the coracoidal sulci, and the nature of the manubrial spines determine the specimen as anserine, more specifically as related to members of the sub-family Anserinae, the geese. The upper surface of the dorsal lip of the coracoidal sulcus is flat, relatively light in structure, and is as long as in a skeleton of a Canada Goose (*Branta c. canadensis*, Mus. Vert. Zool., no. 22457, ♂). The anterolateral surface of this lip is flattened vertically and does not protrude to the extent that it does in modern genera. The sterno-coracoidal process and part of the ventral labial prominence are broken from the specimen. The surface posterior to the coracoidal sulcus is flat and meets the sternal plate at a sharp obtuse angle. The sternal plate is thin and flat. A pneumatic foramen is present. The dorsal manubrial spine is a slight, V-shaped prominence. The ventral lip of the coracoidal sulcus is wide, extends farther forward than it does in Recent genera, and curves upward instead of downward at its anterior margin.

Although the specimen is only a small portion of the sternum, it is well preserved and represents, possibly, the most diagnostic region of that skeletal element. The sterna of North American geese of the genera *Anser*, *Branta*, *Chen* and *Philacte*, and the South American *Chloephaga*, do not exhibit many characters sufficiently reliable to separate them one from another. However, the shape and proportions of the coracoidal lips are somewhat characteristic, and in this regard the fossil specimen resembles *Anser* and *Chen* more than the others. In present-day geese the dorsal manubrial spine exhibits wide variation in height and width, but I found none so poorly developed as in this fossil. The surface for articulation with the coracoid indicates that the sternal facet of this latter bone was considerably wider dorsoventrally than it is in *B. c. canadensis*.

Considering that the sternum is not an element that lends itself readily to specific identification, and that the specimen under consideration is fragmentary, no attempt is made here to assign it other than to the subfamily Anserinae. It is probable that it is a member of an unknown genus and is a new species. The record is of interest since it demonstrates the existence in the Pliocene of an anserine unlike any heretofore known from that epoch.

I am indebted to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for valuable suggestions relative to the treatment of this fossil.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, August 15, 1934.*

Winter Wren and Pileated Woodpecker on the Greenhorn Mountains, California.—The Greenhorn Mountains constitute a southern section or extension of the Great Western Divide, a north-south subdivision of the southern Sierra Nevada of California lying directly west of the main Kern River. They are crossed by a through road from Glennville to Kernville, in Kern County. At the "Summit" on this road, a branch road now "under improvement" extends north some miles along the ridge and, as the latter increases in altitude, gives access to Canadian-zone conditions of flora and fauna at their southernmost extensions along the Greenhorn Mountains.

On October 13 and 14, 1934, I was privileged, all too briefly, to visit this locality, until now not referred to, to my knowledge, in vertebrate faunal records. My companion, Dr. J. Eric Hill, and I camped over night where the ridge road referred to, reaches an altitude (by my aneroid) of 7000 feet, and right where a road-sign indicates that it crosses the east-west Kern-Tulare county line. This is about six miles north of the "Summit" above mentioned. The drainage is to the east steeply down Cow Creek, a tributary of Bull Run Creek, which leads into the canyon of the Kern River. A heavy forest chiefly of red fir covers the gentler slopes and benches at this level. Indications are that there is normally a deep snowfall, and potentially much moisture-loving vegetation; but heavy grazing in an extra dry season had produced conditions by autumn of this year, distressingly barren on and about the little "meadows."

Of the birds we noted, two are worthy of remark. In the late afternoon of October 13 we saw, and watched till its disappearance in the tangle, a Western Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pacificus*). It was bobbing about among the debris of a long-fallen red fir at the upper margin of the meadow, making its presence clearly apparent to us by voice and movements. Of course this bird might have been an autumn vagrant

or migrant, like the individuals of this species that reach southern California in certain years. On the other hand, it might mark a southern breeding station of the species which, however, at best is of sparse occurrence in the Sierra Nevada. The southernmost previous record, and one definitely of breeding, is at 5000 feet altitude near Doyle, toward the head of the Tule River, east-northeast of Porterville, in Tulare County (Rowley, *Condor*, 30, 1928, p. 160). The bird seen by Hill and me in the Greenhorns was also in Tulare County, but only a few rods up a "draw" from the Kern County line.

The other bird of special note was the Western Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus pileatus picinus*). In the afternoon of October 13 I kept hearing at intervals the characteristic flight-utterances of this species off through the woods. And toward evening, at 5:30, when the eastern slopes had been overtaken by deep shadow, as Hill and I were making camp, here came an individual winging its way up through the firs in plain sight of both of us—from Kern County into Tulare County. By following its flight course, I soon found a big dead fir, top gone, in the hole of which some 60 feet above the ground was the entrance to what I judged to be a one-time nesting cavity of this woodpecker. The thought that the bird seen might be using this cavity for night roosting was not corroborated by any result of our visit to the place very early the next morning.

Here, then, is a station for the Pileated Woodpecker, considerably the southernmost to date known in California. The previous southernmost record station is for Weishar Mill, East Fork of Kaweah River, Tulare County (Van Denburgh, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 1898, p. 210). This species in the Sierra Nevada seems peculiarly characteristic of that type of forest in which either the red fir or the white fir predominates.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, November 11, 1934.*

NOTES AND NEWS

A Naturalist is a man who accepts the universe as a reality—everything in it, and he accepts it gladly. He trusts in equal measure his powers of observation and his powers of thinking. The proper point of view of a true naturalist leads him not to take nature or any of its parts as an enemy to be fought, but to try to understand it and to accommodate himself to it, and it to him, as his best understanding and his best long-time interests indicate.
—WILLIAM E. RITTER.

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in the San Francisco Bay region in the early part of May, 1935. The sessions for the presentation of papers will be held under the immediate auspices of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, in the Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. President Loye Miller, of the Board of Governors of the Club, has appointed the following local committee to arrange for the meeting: General Chairman, Alden H. Miller; Hospitality, Amelia S. Allen; Affiliations, H. S. Swarth; Meeting Places, William B. Davis; Finance, J. Grinnell. Details of arrangements will be announced in the March issue of the *Condor*. The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in connection

with the Annual Meeting of the Club. It is expected that this meeting will be the first under the new articles of incorporation; these should go into effect early this year.—A. H. M.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

LIFE HISTORY OF THE GAMBEL QUAIL IN ARIZONA, by DAVID M. GORSUCH (University of Arizona Bull., vol. V, no. 4, Biological Science Bull., no. 2, May 15, 1934, pp. 1-89, illustrations).

In 1896 the writer of this review traveled behind a team of horses from Los Angeles across the Colorado Desert and across southern Arizona. His memory of the Arizona portion of the trip is that quail were rarely, if ever, out of sight or hearing. All day long and day after day they scurried across the road; the birds were there in such countless numbers and humanity was so nearly absent that any suggestion of a future scarcity of quail could hardly have been entertained. In 1930, on a trip by auto that covered practically the same route, perhaps twenty quail were seen! Making all allowances for different modes of transportation, the two sets of observations show plainly enough how rapidly the Gambel Quail is following the path taken by so many other American game birds.