

examined by Dr. Hildegard Howard for comparison with her lately described species from Conkling Cavern, *Geococcyx conklingi* Howard. The McKittrick bird is, however, quite noticeably slender in comparison with the sub-fossil from New Mexico.

STRIGIFORMES

Seven specimens about equally divided between *Bubo* and *Speotyto* constitute the entire strigiform representation in Fauna No. 1. There are fifty-nine in Fauna No. 2, and a third species is added.

Bubo virginianus (Gmelin). Twelve bones of this most versatile bird add little in the way of interpretative evidence.

Speotyto cunicularia (Molina) (twenty-six bones) is just such a bird as the picture demands. It lives in terrestrial burrows in a terrain entirely devoid of perennial growth. The birds seem to be independent of a free, natural water supply, but those represented in the fossil record were doubtless attracted to the locality by their insect prey.

Asio wilsonianus (Lesson) (twenty-one bones) is a species which, when not nesting, ranges from woodland to desert; but some sort of scrub not too far distant is needed as a refuge by day.

PICIFORMES

Colaptes cafer (Gmelin), with eight bones, is the only woodpecker in the collection. It feeds very commonly on the ground in mountain, hill, or desert country, from timber line to sea shore. I am surprised to find so few of its bones in the collection.

PASSERIFORMES

Two hundred and thirty bones are assigned to this order, and one hundred and ten of them are of the genus *Corvus*. The entire collection of passerine material is being studied by Dr. Alden H. Miller, and will be the subject of a separate report.

University of California at Los Angeles, November 16, 1934.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Ring-billed Gull Killed by a Canada Goose.—At about two o'clock on the afternoon of December 2 we sat on the stone coping above the narrow beach at Lake Merritt, Oakland, near the feeding enclosure, watching a little group of Canada Geese, Pintail, Baldpate, and Ring-billed Gulls at the water's edge, fifteen feet away. Three of the gulls were squabbling over some floating morsel, and one repeatedly raised its long wings so as to brush the head of the largest "honker," which flinched and backed awkwardly a step or two away. The squabble soon ended, and most of the birds moved off, but the gull rested quietly in the shallows, facing the lake. Then the big goose, too, began to waddle heavily into the water. When still a surprising distance away, its long neck shot down and out and the bill seized the gull by the back, near the base of the right wing. The smaller bird, quite helpless in the grip, was drawn in and the goose began deliberately to beat it to death with blows of the heavy bends of the wings. It was no case of wild flapping and striking, but of controlled blows, for the most part alternate, downward and forward, with the hard wing-bends directed as a man's fists might be. In perhaps thirty seconds the gull was a broken and unconscious mass. One wing was certainly, and one leg almost certainly, broken. After perhaps five minutes it showed some signs of life, raised its head to utter a scream, and turned weakly on the water with feeble movements of one foot, but floated off and could hardly have survived.

The goose, whose movements even during the fight had been lethargic and relatively slow, now gave itself up to transports of excitement. Out on the beach again, it stood with body and neck vertical and wings nearly full-spread, and honked loud and long at the sky. The first call blew out a small cloud of gull feathers. As long as we could make out its progress down the shore it repeated this, at intervals of a minute or two.

It is a puzzle what "set off" the offensive behavior of the goose toward a bird which for a long time previous had been within its reach, both fearless and unmolested.

Given equal power and control, the spurs of a spur-winged goose must be as efficient weapons as any possessed by a bird of equal size.—THOMAS T. MCCABE and ELINOR B. MCCABE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 15, 1934.*

The Snowy Egret in Oregon.—A Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) was collected at Nestucca Bay near Pacific City post office, Tillamook County, Oregon, on November 3, 1934. This specimen, a male, was preserved as a study skin, and is number 9510 in my collection. I can find no definite published record of the occurrence of this species in Oregon.—ALEX. WALKER, *Tillamook, Oregon, January 14, 1935.*

American Golden-eye and American Merganser on Salton Sea.—On December 8, 1933, Mr. George Willett found a dead immature male American Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*) on the west shore of Salton Sea in Imperial County. On November 11, 1934, Mr. Tom Smith, owner of the Pintail Duck Club, shot an immature female American Golden-eye on his ponds near Mecca, Riverside County. This bird is now a specimen in our study skin collection. Since then we have identified six others in the strings of hunters at this club, and Mr. Smith reports a number of others shot prior to our visits.

On December 2, 1934, an immature male American Merganser (*Mergus merganser americanus*) was shot by Mr. Harry Rau of the Pintail Duck Club, identification being made by Mr. George Willett, who now has the skeleton in the Los Angeles Museum collection. On December 16, 1934, we identified an adult male American Merganser which was shot at the same duck club.—MR. and MRS. BEN L. CLARY, *Coachella, California, December 21, 1934.*

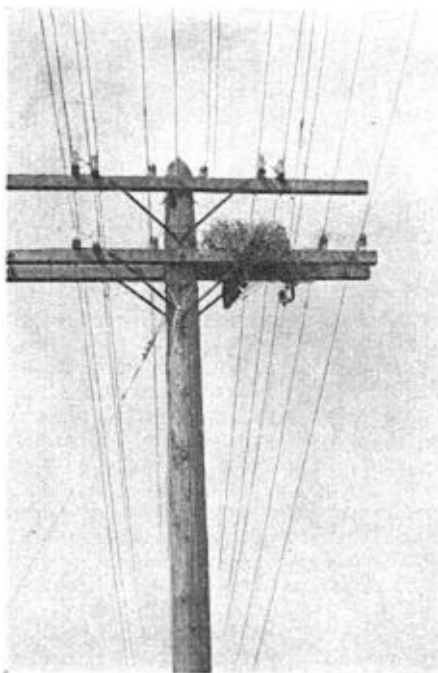


Fig. 20. Nest of Swainson Hawk on telephone pole showing wing of dead male in nest foundation.

A Swainson Hawk Disaster.—In 1933 a pair of Swainson Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) built a nest on the crossbars of a telephone pole beside the Interprovincial Highway not far from Piapot, Saskatchewan, a not unusual occurrence on the treeless prairie. When I drove past the site on June 10, 1933, and parked on the side of the road a short distance away, the female flew off the nest. She alighted on the ground, picked up a stick in her claws and flew with it to a nearby post. Soon afterward her mate appeared and soared, quite low down, over the nest.

During this time I had examined the nest and discovered that the body of a male Swainson Hawk, dead perhaps a week, formed part of its foundation. The wing of the bird can be seen in the accompanying photograph (fig. 20). The explanation seemed to be that the dead bird, the first of two males, had been shot on the nest, probably with a .22 calibre rifle, following a local custom. Afterwards the female found another mate and proceeded to raise the height of the nest so that the carcass of the first male was built into its foundation.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., Canada, August 20, 1934.*