

The Oroville females are darker than obviously faded and worn series of breeding females from the lower Colorado River region, but they are no darker than five females of the race *obscurus* taken in early May in Clark County, Nevada, opposite Fort Mohave. Also I fail to see any mass differences in streaking on the under parts of the Oroville females as compared with specimens from elsewhere in California. My conclusion is that the Sacramento Valley birds must be placed under the name *Molothrus ater obscurus*.

The facts that the Sacramento Valley cowbirds at hand fail to show the supposed characters of *californicus* but rather conform in their characters to those of *obscurus*, and that there is apparent lack of physical barriers in the Great Valley, serve as additional evidence that the race *californicus* is not "usefully recognizable." There is the remote possibility that the Buena Vista Lake sample of Dickey and van Rossem happened to be an aggregate of unusually large individuals. More likely the population is actually larger in certain measurable characters. Even if such is the case, it would not be an unusual practice to recognize the local situation but not designate so restricted and weakly differentiated a population by name.

Miller (Condor, vol. 37, 1935, pp. 217-218) made the point that if we do not recognize the race *californicus*, we should not allow this to obscure the fact as pointed out by Dickey and van Rossem that there is an increase in size northward in the state to the San Joaquin Valley. My findings with regard to the Oroville examples throw doubt upon the existence of such a trend; if such is present, certainly it continues no farther north than the San Joaquin Valley.

Willett (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933, pp. 156) expressed his feelings in regard to the validity of *californicus* in a statement which was later quoted by Grinnell (Condor, vol. 36, 1934, p. 214) to the effect that *californicus* is apparently an intergrade between *obscurus* and *artemisiae*, somewhere nearer the former. The Oroville series at hand proves with certainty that the cowbirds from the Sacramento Valley do not show even an approach to *artemisiae* which seems restricted in the breeding season to the east of the Sierra-Cascade chain of mountains. It seems likely, then, that the increase in size of the southern San Joaquin Valley population may be accounted for by a relatively late infusion of *artemisiae* stock coming, not by the way of the Sacramento Valley, but around the southern end of the Sierra Nevada through the Kern River gap. If this inference is tenable, another likelihood is that a further northward extension of this inpushing stock would account for the apparent arrival within recent years of large-sized cowbirds in the San Francisco Bay region, as Miller (*op. cit.*, p. 218) has suggested.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 30, 1937.*

Some Additional Records of Birds for Northeastern California.—Extensive travel is always productive of ornithological things of interest. The following notes are results of such, in addition to those recorded in the January, 1936, issue of the *Condor*.

On November 8, 1935, while driving from Grasshopper Valley to Termo in Lassen County, in company with Mr. A. L. Brown of the Division of Fish and Game, we saw a large white bird some distance ahead of the car. It was standing on the edge of a small pool of water on the edge of a little meadow formed by Bailey Creek. We drove the car up to within thirty feet of the bird as it stood on the opposite side of the fence from the road. It was an adult swan, extremely large, with no yellow spot on the bill in front of the eye. The bill and head were not shaped like those of a Whistling Swan.

I had seen Trumpeter Swans at close range in Yellowstone National Park, and Mr. Brown had seen them as a boy in Honey Lake Valley, Lassen County; so we both were convinced that the bird was one of this species (*Cygnus buccinator*). After several minutes the bird flew a short distance and gave a deep resonant call, not at all like that of the Whistling Swan. It stopped on the other side of the grassy field near another water hole. Much of our observation was made with an 8-power binocular which at close range brought out every marking distinctly.

On January 9, 1936, while driving up Chimney Canyon, back of Doyle, in southern Lassen County, I noted a large hawk flying along rather low in the cottonwoods. The bird kept about one hundred and fifty yards ahead of the car, flying from one tree to another. At first I thought it was just another red-tail, but on one occasion it turned around facing the car after perching on a limb overhanging the road. I then noticed the peculiarly marked breast and therefore collected it. It was a female Harlan Hawk (*Buteo borealis harlani*). On February 17, 1936, I collected another of these hawks, five miles southeast of Standish, in Honey Lake Valley, Lassen County. These specimens are quite differently marked from the ordinary melanistic Red-tailed Hawks which are quite common in the region. The first of these two specimens is in my own collection, and the other is in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley.

I was looking at a flock of Gambel Sparrows about three miles southeast of Standish, in Honey Lake Valley, on March 18, 1935, when an immature male Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

hopped up on a fence post a few feet from the car. This was collected and is now in my collection. On the same day, another was seen near Buntingville, about five miles west of where the first one was collected.

On February 20, 1936, on the J. J. Fleming Ranch, about three miles west of Wendel, Honey Lake Valley, I collected an adult male Harris Sparrow from another large flock of Gambel Sparrows. This bird was seen first on the 19th. In this flock were several Western Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea ochracea*).

On February 20, 1936, while passing the same brush patch where I secured the first Harris Sparrow, about three miles southeast of Standish, I collected a female White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

Near the Dill Ranch, six miles southeast of Standish, on January 8, 1936, I secured an adult female Western Tree Sparrow. This bird was alone in open sagebrush and grassland. On February 19, 1936, three miles west of Wendel, I was fortunate in collecting another Western Tree Sparrow, which was an adult male. This was in the same flock of Gambel Sparrows from which the adult male Harris Sparrow was taken the following day.

During some fairly cold weather on January 2, 1937, as I was looking at some horned larks on Mud Flat, eight miles east of Litchfield, Lassen County, I heard and later saw and collected an adult male Alaska Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus alascanis*). This bird was with a very large scattered flock of assorted horned larks. I was quite sure that after I collected the specimen I heard other longspurs chattering in the flock of several thousand horned larks as they milled about following the sound of the shot.—DONALD D. McLEAN, *Division of Fish and Game, San Francisco, California, June 14, 1937.*

A Pliocene Record of Parapavo from Texas.—A most interesting Upper Pliocene vertebrate fauna has lately been assembled from Cita Canyon, in Randall County, Texas, by a party from the West Texas State Teachers College.

Among the specimens thus far removed there appear two tarsometatarsi of the California Turkey, *Parapavo californicus* (L. Miller). Both bones are from the right side and one of them is almost without blemish except for the loss of the spur core. The second bone is fragmental but has the spur core almost complete. Comparison was made with typical specimens from the Rancho La Brea asphalt with the result that no hesitation is felt in specific assignment of the Texas specimens—size, proportions, elevation of the spur core, relative positions of the trochleae, the small intertrochlear foramen on the inner side, the shape of the proximal cotylae and hypotarsus, the incipient hypotarsal third ridge—all are characters that check perfectly with the specimens from the type locality.

The fairly abundant mammal fauna is being studied by the junior author, but the presence of certain carnivores (*Borophagus*) is considered by R. A. Stirton of the California Museum of Paleontology as definitely indicating its Upper Pliocene age. The specimens were beautifully preserved in fine river sand laid down in a practically continuous series reaching up possibly into true Pleistocene. The interest to ornithology lies in the extension of range of *Parapavo* both in space and in time. The species probably originated in Pliocene and increased to maximum numbers in Pleistocene before its extinction fairly late in the latter epoch.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the courtesy of Mr. Stirton for diagnosis of the age of the stratum.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles*, and C. STUART JOHNSTONE, *West Texas State Teachers College, Canyon, Texas.*

Additional Birds Observed at Point Lobos Reserve.—The following two records are offered as additions to the list of birds observed on Point Lobos Reserve, Monterey County, California, as included in the report by Grinnell and Linsdale (Carnegie Inst. Wash., Publ. No. 481, 1936).

Glaucidium gnoma. Pigmy Owl. On August 22, 1936, at 4:55 p.m., a bird of this species was seen perched on the extremity of a limb near the top of a large cypress east of Whalers Knoll. The bird was facing toward the west with the sun full on it, the pupils of its eyes much contracted. When a Red-tailed Hawk lit in a pine near-by it drew itself up in a stiff, elongated posture. The right wing was partly unfolded.

Ammodramus savannarum. Grasshopper Sparrow. From the road just west of the warden's house on June 30, 1937, at 12:30 p.m., the song of a grasshopper sparrow was heard coming from the vicinity of the garbage dump. Soon the bird was located on a baccharis bush between the garbage dump and the road leading to the wharf. After a while the bird was observed to have left the bush. Later the song was again heard coming from a weed-top close to the route of the now-abandoned Bassett Avenue. Presently it flew down into the grasses where it was flushed and then lost.—LADLAW O. WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California, August 5, 1937.*