

Red Phalarope on the Berkeley Campus, Alameda County, California.—On the stormy afternoon of October 30, 1937, a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) was noted at the southeast corner of the Botanical Gardens in Strawberry Canyon, on the upper campus, University of California, Berkeley. The bird circled above me on stiffly outstretched wings and alighted in a grassy field fifty yards distant. Bush-tits and White-crowned Sparrows near-by had voiced alarm, thinking it a hawk. The phalarope hobbled about at my feet, continually fluffing its feathers and occasionally squatting on its belly in the wet grass. Its weak and emaciated condition permitted an easy capture and it is now a skin (male, number 189) in my collection. This is the first record for the Berkeley campus.—JOE T. MARSHALL, JR., *Berkeley, California, December 7, 1937.*

The Groove-billed Ani of Lower California and Northwestern Mexico.—In the course of a recent collecting trip to southern Sonora, Robert Hannum and the writer took six Groove-billed Anis which, added to the two previously known specimens from the region, provide sufficient material for determination of systematic status. Previously I had stated (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 6, 1931, pp. 249-250) that a single specimen from Sonora was not distinguishable from a series from Central America and also that there was a possibility that the Lower California race, *Crotophaga sulcirostris pallidula*, might be based on characters due, in part at least, to post-mortem color changes.

The new Sonora material has been compared carefully with a series of eight *pallidula*, borrowed from the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy which were collected by Frazar fifty years ago and also with a series of twenty-seven specimens from localities ranging from Costa Rica to southeastern Texas. These last I take to represent typical *sulcirostris*.

At first glance it is obvious that as a series the eight Lower California birds are browner than the eight from Sonora, but on the other hand three of the eight Lower California individuals are not distinguishable from seven from Sonora. Significantly enough, the five brownest Lower California specimens show a strong brownish tinge on the labels, whereas on the three blackest the labels retain their original whiteness. Thus it seems safe to suspect that a post-mortem brown tinge has been acquired in the half century since they were collected. Incidentally, I have several times in the past called attention to the fact that Frazar skins are not to be relied upon for true color values unless checked by other material. Whether this is due simply to age or to the preservative used by him I do not know but I suspect borax is the guilty agent.

On comparison of the combined series of sixteen northwestern skins with the twenty-seven which presumably represent *sulcirostris*, it is immediately apparent that the former are more slaty below and tend to have wider and more brassy edgings to the contour feathers. But here again there are difficulties with individual specimens. Seven of the twenty-seven *sulcirostris* fit in perfectly with the northwestern series and one of the Sonora specimens is indistinguishable from *sulcirostris*.

To summarize the systematics, it would seem that *pallidula* is a rather weakly characterized race which averages slightly more slaty ventrally and also, on an average, has more brassy (less bluish) and wider feather margins. It is almost certainly not a Cape differentiate, that is to say, it probably did not develop its decidedly tenuous characters as a result of isolation in the Cape San Lucas region.

As a sidelight on the probable manner of occurrence in Lower California, it may be permissible to quote a resident with whom I talked at Cape San Lucas several years ago: "They come with the rains [that is, about July 1] and sometimes a few stay through the year but in most years none come at all." This accords with our own limited experience in Sonora. In 1937, not one ani was seen until June 16, but immediately thereafter they became common. They were in pairs and preparing to breed when we left the country in the latter part of the month.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, December 1, 1937.*

Some Notes on Waterfowl in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California.—The following notes were taken in the fall, winter, and spring months, from 1934 through 1937, at various ponds in the San Bernardino Valley, and at Elsinore and San Jacinto lakes. The majority of the observations were made at Lake El Casco and Fisherman's Retreat, which are situated in San Timoteo Canyon southeast of Redlands. In 1936 and 1937 trips were made to these ponds quite frequently, but not with regularity. Only those species thought to be of particular interest are included in these notes.

Gavia immer elasson. Lesser Loon. An immature with the tips of the primaries quite worn was found shot May 31, 1935, in San Timoteo Canyon; the skin was preserved. In Pratt's Sporting Goods Store in Redlands there is a fine mounted skin of an adult loon of this species. I was told that it was picked up in the spring of 1935 in a field between Beaumont and Banning in a very weak condition and died shortly afterwards.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. The following notes seem to indicate that this species is a migrant and perhaps winter visitant. One was seen in February, 1936, in San Timoteo Canyon, and one

September 12, 1936, at Redlands City Reservoir. Shovellers were not seen in San Timoteo Canyon when trips were made in October and December, 1936, but in January, 1937, approximately twenty-five were seen, and about this same number was noted in February and the first half of March. Shovellers were almost always seen in numbers when trips were made to Elsinore. They were noted in April, October, and November, 1935; February and March, 1936; and March, 1937, in Railroad Canyon near Elsinore, and in April at Elsinore and San Jacinto lakes. In April in 1935 and 1937, in spring migration, Shovellers were very numerous at Elsinore, probably numbering into the thousands.

Nyroca americana. Redhead. This species seems to be a regular winter visitant in San Timoteo Canyon. A few usually were seen among the wintering ducks, but flocks of thirty or forty were sometimes seen after a storm or during spring migration. Birds were noted in October, 1935; February, March, September, October, and December, 1936; and February and March, 1937.

Nyroca collaris. Ring-necked Duck. Apparently a common winter visitant in San Timoteo Canyon. Observed many times at close range with 8-power binoculars. Scaups and other species were present for comparison. Eight or more were noted on March 15, approximately thirty March 29 and three April 23, 1936. Four were seen at Redlands City Reservoir November 7, 1936. A flock varying from about fifteen to thirty-five was seen in San Timoteo Canyon December 26, 1936, January 30, February 20, and March 1, and a few March 11, 1937.

Lophodytes cucullatus. Hooded Merganser. A female was observed December 23, 24, and 25, 1934, in company with a few American Mergansers at Redlands City Reservoir. I was able to get within twenty or thirty feet of her and observed her closely for some time.

Mergus merganser americanus. American Merganser. It is possible that some of the following records may pertain to the Red-breasted Merganser, but no male Red-breasted Mergansers were seen in the periods when the mergansers were in this vicinity, and male American Mergansers were sometimes present in the flocks, although most all of the birds had female plumage. When close observation of females was possible, they proved to be American Mergansers. Also, I have skins of two American Mergansers which were found shot in San Timoteo Canyon. A female was found January 30 and a male March 12, 1937. On December 13, 1934, eleven birds arrived at Redlands City Reservoir. From this date until December 25 from three to fifteen birds were present nearly every day, and one was present December 31. Two were seen near Loma Linda on December 16. In 1937 American Mergansers were again noted in this vicinity. From one to about five were seen in San Timoteo Canyon January 30, March 1, 4, 11, and 21.

Mergus serrator. Red-breasted Merganser. A male in full plumage appeared on Redlands City Reservoir April 28, 1937, and is still present. Perhaps he is wounded. I have never seen him fly any distance. On September 17 I looked at the bird with binoculars and noticed that his plumage was greatly changed; he was in the eclipse plumage and looked quite like a female. On September 24 I was able to get very close to the bird. His head was the color of a female's and had a small crest, the brown band did not cross the breast, and the primaries and secondaries were entirely molted.—
HAROLD M. HILL, Redlands, California, September 24, 1937.

Hybridization of Juncos in Captivity.—In order to verify certain conclusions drawn from a study of naturally occurring hybrid juncos, an attempt has been made to breed two distantly related types in an aviary. Since January, 1935, I have had a male Red-backed Junco (*Junco caniceps dorsalis*) in captivity in my cages in Berkeley. Mr. Lyndon L. Hargrave very kindly sent me this bird from Flagstaff, Arizona, where he trapped it. Because *dorsalis* is essentially non-migratory, a cross was attempted with the permanently resident Point Pinos Junco (*Junco oreganus pinosus*) which has a breeding season similar to that of *dorsalis*. These two races, although they never meet in nature, represent species which do.

The pair of birds was kept in an 8'x8' aviary with an average height of about 7 feet. The birds were supplied with a variety of seeds and they could obtain a small number of insects from the natural vegetation in the cage. Some insects were blown into the cage from the oak trees and grass that surrounded them. It was necessary to keep other juncos, both captive and wild, out of sight in order that the nesting pair be undisturbed. The sound of other juncos singing, although definitely noticed, did not cause trouble.

The female of the pair was a local bird that was taken early in the spring of 1935, at which time she had a brood patch. On June 13 she was placed with the male *dorsalis*, but they did not breed. The female undoubtedly was too much disturbed by her unaccustomed confinement to resume nesting at this late date.

In late May of 1936, the female laid two eggs. These she incubated, but about three days before the time for hatching, the birds removed them from the nest. The embryos were nearly fully developed, but were dead, at least when found. Immediately another nest was started on the same site, a beam