

Aechmophorus occidentalis. Western Grebe. Numbers nested on Topaz Lake, Mono County, July 21, 1918, where sets of fresh eggs and an adult (no. 316) were collected July 6, 1923. Three seen on Sandborn Slough, near Butte Creek, 7 miles west of Pennington, Sutter County, June 13, 1925. Nests in numbers on Clear Lake, Lake County, where many were seen July 4, 1936, and July 16, 1928. Two to three hundred adults noted here on July 15, 1938, had only about twenty, one-third grown young with them. Several pairs nested on a deep pond 3 miles south of Los Baños, Merced County, June 10, 1926 (2 sets eggs). Occasional birds are to be seen on the open ocean in summer, as one off Bolinas, Marin County, June 20, 1920.

Podilymbus podiceps podiceps. Pied-billed Grebe. A completed nest and 2 birds were seen on a lake 2 miles south of Glen Ellen, Sonoma County, May 30, 1928. In 1925, a pair wintered on this lake, remaining until late April. They were then in summer plumage and were uttering courtship notes. A set of fresh eggs was taken 3 miles south of Los Baños, Merced County, June 10, 1928; found breeding commonly here in several years.—JAMES MORFITT, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, August 20, 1938.*

Some Notes from Negit Island, Mono Lake, California.—The writer, accompanied by H. S. Fuller, spent July 9 to 12, 1938, on Negit Island, Mono Lake, California. The island is about 400 acres in extent and is made up for the most part of very rough lava, but there are some areas composed of sandy soil covered with artemisia. No birds were taken, because of my belief that the island had been set aside as a bird preserve, but the following birds were seen repeatedly at close range.

Larus californicus. California Gull. The Mono Lake colony of gulls is now confined entirely to Negit Island, but formerly some birds nested on the adjoining Paoha Island (Dawson, *Birds of California*, vol. 3, 1923, p. 1406). We estimated that the gulls numbered approximately 3000 adults, and we succeeded in banding 510 of the then well-grown young. It might be interesting to add that on July 11 the writer was struck on the parietal region of the head by a gull swooping down from the rear; a deep scalp wound resulted. The gull was killed by the blow and an autopsy revealed a broken lower mandible, dislocated cervical vertebra, and extensive subcutaneous hemorrhage on neck, breast and belly. The skin is now in my collection (male no. 315). We were brushed several times by the gulls' wings when they dove on us, but this was the only accident. The young birds had been fed on insects and fly larvae, as well as some trout, which must have been obtained from quite a distance.

Colymbus nigricollis californicus. Eared Grebe. Both Dawson (*op. cit.*, p. 2052, and W. K. Fisher, *Condor*, vol. 4, 1902, p. 11) observed birds of this species in the region. We found them numerous around Paoha Island, but none was seen about Negit Island.

Phalacrocorax auritus. Cormorant. Six cormorants, which we took to be Farallon Cormorants (*P. a. albociliatus*), were seen flying over the lake on the evening of July 10.

Steganopus tricolor. Wilson Phalarope. One was seen near the western shore of the lake on July 9, and another at close range from Negit Island on July 11.

Tachycineta thalassina lepida. Violet-green Swallow. Great numbers of this swallow were nesting on the island in cracks between the loose rocks which make up the steep volcanic rubble heaps.

Say Phoebes (*Sayornis saya*), White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*), Sage Sparrows (*Amphispiza nevadensis nevadensis*), California Linnets (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*), and Rock Wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*) were seen on Negit Island. Both adults and young of these species were noted.—WALTER F. NICHOLS, *Pasadena, California, September 4, 1938.*

A New Race of Becard from Northeastern Mexico.—The series of becards of the species *Platyparis aglaiae* in the British Museum is probably unequalled in any institution in the world. While at the British Museum in the summer of 1938, the writer devoted some time to an attempt to work out the characters of the species in northeastern and eastern Mexico. At the time Ridgway wrote part 4 of the *Birds of North and Middle America*, certain material then in American museums either was not available to him or else was overlooked, for, subsequent to arriving at certain conclusions at the British Museum, I have found ample confirmatory material in America which had been collected prior to the publication of part 4 in 1907. The northeastern race, the largest of the species, is here named as

Platyparis aglaiae gravis, new subspecies

Type.—Adult male, no. 435419, United States National Museum; Alta Mira, Tamaulipas, Mexico; February 11, 1895; collected by F. B. Armstrong.

Subspecific characters.—Largest of the races of *Platyparis aglaiae*. Compared with *Platyparis aglaiae aglaiae* of the highlands of central Vera Cruz and northern Oaxaca, size decidedly larger throughout; males very similar in coloration, that is, with sharp demarcation between the black head and gray