

feather was discovered too late to make histological preparations. It would be interesting to know whether this is a condition of the one year only or whether an extra feather had been present in the same position since the acquisition of juvenal plumage by the bird.

To summarize, there occurs in this female flicker a supernumerary feather lying between the seventh and eighth secondaries of one wing. It is smaller than either of the adjacent ones and slightly different in shape. The lipochrome pigmentation is normal, but the melanized areas are much restricted and somewhat unusual in pattern.—FREDERICK H. TEST, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, October 7, 1938.*

**A Prehistoric Record of Holboell Grebe in Nevada.**—A small collection of bones from Lovelock Cave, in west-central Nevada, was recently sent to me for identification by Mr. Robert F. Heizer of the University of California. The cave is located in a limestone outcrop on a high cliff in the Humboldt Mountains, overlooking the now dry Lake Humboldt. The presence of old beach lines along the mountains, and the occurrence of lake gravels on the floor of Lovelock Cave itself, indicate that this cave was originally formed by the wave action of the now extinct Lake Lahontan. The deposits, containing bones and many Indian objects, apparently represent an accumulation since the recession of that ancient lake. According to Loud and Harrington (Univ. Calif. Publ. Amer. Arch. and Ethn., vol. 25, 1929, pp. 120-122) in their description of the excavations of 1912 and 1924, the age of the earliest deposits is tentatively estimated at around four thousand years. At all events there is nothing to indicate geologic antiquity of the bones.

Among the 150 identifiable bird bones from Mr. Heizer's 1938 excavations are two which unmistakably are those of the Holboell Grebe (*Colymbus grisegena holboellii*), a species for which I find no previous record in Nevada.

The characters which distinguish these specimens from *Aechmophorus occidentalis*, the large grebe at present recorded from Nevada, are as follows:

Tarsometatarsus.—(1) Shorter and stouter than *A. occidentalis* (length, *C. grisegena* 61-64 mm., *A. occidentalis* 72-77.5 mm.; breadth of shaft, 3.3-3.7 mm. and 3.2-3.5 mm., respectively. (2) Height of facet for metatarsal 1 greater than in *Aechmophorus* (distance from top of facet to tip of median trochlea, *C. grisegena* 21-22.5 mm., *A. occidentalis* 20.1-22.2 mm.; ratio of this distance to length of bone, 35 per cent in *C. grisegena* and 28 per cent in *A. occidentalis*).

Femur.—(1) Distal end: well-marked ridge connecting tubercle above popliteal area with external condyle; ridge absent in *Aechmophorus*. (2) Proximal end: external contour of trochanter recedes slightly inward proximally in *C. grisegena*; more outwardly flared in *Aechmophorus*.

*Aechmophorus*, *Podilymbus* and one species of small *Colymbus* are also represented in the cave specimens. The remainder of the birds include loon, cormorant, night heron, goose, ducks, coot, shore-birds, grouse, pigeon, owl and corvids. With the exception of two gulls, all are of species recorded by Linsdale in his "Birds of Nevada." Linsdale lists only two species of gulls, *L. californicus* and *L. delawarensis*. In addition to several specimens of *L. californicus*, the cave material includes two bones whose size precludes the possibility of assignment to either of these species. One agrees in size with *L. occidentalis*, the other with *L. pipixcan*.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, August 22, 1938.*

**Notes on the Distribution of Sooty Shearwater, White Pelican, and Cormorants in California.**—*Puffinus griseus*. Sooty Shearwater. In summer of 1925, first observed on San Francisco Bay off Alcatraz Island, July 18, a hundred or more birds. Noted frequently in same vicinity and numbers during ensuing month and at the same season in other years.

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. White Pelican. Several seen June 13, 1925, on ponds bordering Butte Creek, west of Marysville Buttes, Sutter County. A local resident stated that they nested on a sandbar at the edge of a lake to the westward. Visitors in appropriate season should investigate actual breeding, no report of which is known to me for the Sacramento Valley since Heermann's (Pac. R. R. Rept., vol. 10, 1859, p. 72).

None seen in vicinity of Los Baños, May 20-22, 1925, but recorded as abundant there June 21. The observation suggests breeding in the San Joaquin Valley, not recorded for many years (Goldman, Condor, vol. 10, 1908, p. 201).

This stately bird unfortunately is unprotected by California State or Federal law and many are shot by fishermen. Such persecution was noted in Honey Lake Valley, June 21, 1931, when three of five birds were killed. They were thought to be foraging visitors from the Pyramid Lake, Nevada, breeding colony and were shot on a slough inhabited by black bass, catfish and roughfish. Report of similar pelican depredations near Loyalton in Sierra Valley was communicated to the Division of Fish and Game in the same month. The birds were said to come from the direction of Pyramid Lake.

*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*. Farallon Cormorant. More than 20 pairs bred for many years prior to about 1930 in willows bordering Sandborn Slough, near Butte Creek, 7 miles west of Pennington, Sutter County; last found nesting there June 13, 1925. Visits in 1931 (February 26 and May 4) revealed the colony to be deserted, and the keeper of the gun club on whose grounds it was located advised he had for years been systematically shooting the birds, as he liked fishing and considered them competitors.

Another nesting colony, of about 40 pairs on April 11, 1920, located in eucalyptus trees bordering Cut-off Slough, 4 miles south of Suisun, Solano County, has in the past six years been destroyed by fishermen. The great increase in numbers of bass anglers in this locality since 1930 bodes ill for preservation of the fish-eating birds of the marsh.

*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*. Brandt Cormorant. A rookery estimated to be composed of 300 pairs on March 14, 1937, is situated on Bird Rock, about 1000 feet offshore, a half mile south of Tomales Point, Marin County. The birds were commencing to lay on May 24, 1936, when my wife accompanied me to the rock which she had not visited for 18 years. She immediately remarked upon the great reduction in number of nests present. My own visits date from 1923, since when a steady dwindling in the numbers of nesting birds has been observed. Unfortunately, no exact nest counts were made until July 21, 1938, when 86 occupied nests were found on the main rock, 60 near its top on the ocean side and 26 on a slope to the leeward.

On all visits two colonies have been found similarly located, the smaller one always being on the mainland side. This year, for the first time, 15 nests were noted on a rock immediately south of the main one. The date is seemingly late for eggs, nearly two months after they were found in 1936, and it was clear that only a fraction of the adults present were attending nests in July, 1938. Probably continued depredations had forced the cormorants to abandon attempts at reproduction for the season. Persons frequently landing on the rock during the breeding season to gather abalones are the prime disturbers, men sometimes playfully indulging in egg fights, using cormorant eggs for missiles; but the Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis occidentalis*), which also breed on the islet, are the more usual, though secondary, offenders. When undisturbed, by sheer force of numbers covering closely placed nests, cormorants are able to protect their eggs and young from the ever vigilant gulls. When humans land on the rock, the shyer cormorants leave their nests while the fearless gulls pillage them. Dr. Clarence Cottam accompanied me on the recent visit when we watched gulls swallowing young cormorants and breaking their eggs while we stood 30 feet distant.

*Phalacrocorax pelagicus resplendens*. Baird Cormorant. On June 1, 1917, Dr. B. W. Evermann took a number of sets of eggs of this species from nests on the steep sides of the Bird Rock mentioned above (specimens in California Academy of Sciences). In nearly annual visits since 1923, I have failed to find the birds nesting on the rock. In June, 1925, about 25 pairs bred on precipitous cliffs of the adjacent mainland, but they were not nesting there June 12, 1927, nor have they since been observed breeding locally, although adults have been in evidence on all trips in summer.—JAMES MOFFITT, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, August 20, 1938.*

**Anthony Green Heron in the State of Washington.**—During the past twenty years there has been a gradual northward movement of the Anthony Green Heron (*Butorides virescens anthonyi*) west of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon. At present it can be regarded as a fairly common summer resident throughout the Willamette Valley, north to the Columbia River. So far as I know, this heron never has been recorded north of the Columbia River.

On May 31, 1938, while a passenger on the Northern Pacific Railway between Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, I saw and identified beyond reasonable doubt one of these birds as it flew low over the willows along the banks of the Columbia River, a few miles south of Kelso, Cowlitz County, Washington. *Butorides virescens anthonyi* now may be added to the birds known to occur in the State of Washington.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, September 27, 1938.*

**Another Specimen of Sooty Fox Sparrow from Southern California.**—In my list of the birds of southwestern California (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933), the Sooty Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca fuliginosa*, was placed in the hypothetical list, although Swarth (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 21, 1920, pp. 151-152) had reported a "non-typical" specimen taken at Bear Flat, San Gabriel Mountains, November 30, 1916. My reason for thus disposing of this form was a disinclination to include it on the strength of a single example, admittedly not typical.

On November 7, 1938, Miss Gloria Widmann brought me a fox sparrow that had been found dead in her garden in Los Angeles two days previously by her father, Berthold Widmann. The specimen, a female, was preserved as a skin and is now number 19373, Los Angeles Museum. A study of this bird convinces me that it must be referred to *P. i. fuliginosa*, although, like specimens