

very slight difference in the dimensions of the supposed subspecies. All this goes to prove how badly we need an up-to-date text book on North American birds, especially when we are trying to identify the larger species.

The measurements of the Morro Bay birds are as follows: ♂, wing 162 mm., culmen 61, tarsus 59, mid-toe and claw 64; ♀, wing 148, culmen 53, tarsus 52, mid-toe and claw 56.

During August and September, 1923, I collected at Morro Bay and neither saw nor heard Clapper Rails, although I worked the salicornia flats and islands carefully. From this and other evidence I think it must be recognized that the species is more of a wanderer than it is generally credited as being. The conclusions to be drawn are that the clapper rails of the Pacific coast are not isolated in three different areas but may be found at any point along the coast that affords suitable living conditions, from Tomales Bay (and probably farther north) to Cape San Lucas, and that *beldingi* is a slightly differentiated subspecies while *levipes* is an intergrade between *beldingi* and *obsoletus* and not worthy of recognition.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, October 26, 1939.*

**An Albino Eared Grebe.**—On July 29, 1939, water birds were quite numerous on the salt pools at Dumbarton Bridge. On the last pool to the north as one approaches the bridge from the east, I noticed on that date a group of three Eared Grebes (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*), one of which was almost pure white. On August 7 it was seen again in the same pool at closer range and on October 7 it was so close to the roadway that its rosy eye was easily seen. It was still with two normally plumaged birds somewhat separated from the large flocks that were feeding in the same pool.

Since October 7, I have seen the albino grebe each time I have crossed the bridge, October 14, 21, November 18, 28, December 5, January 3, 1940, and February 10. One time it was near the center of a closely packed raft of more than two hundred Eared Grebes. Its continued presence in this same pool suggests that the flocks seen there each winter are probably sedentary during the season.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Berkeley, California, February 10, 1940.*

**Wren-tit at High Elevation.**—On July 26, 1939, a Wren-tit (*Chamaea fasciata*) was heard by the members of the Yosemite School of Field Natural History at an elevation of 6600 feet on the Snow Creek Falls trail in Yosemite National Park. There appeared to be only one bird present in the growth of manzanita and huckleberry oak which covers the south facing wall of Tenaya Canyon in this section. In passing this spot on September 29 I heard two Wren-tits calling for a period of at least ten minutes. Dr. A. H. Miller has told me that he heard one of these birds in approximately the same location in the summer of 1920 and, in Dr. Joseph Grinnell's notes for 1915 I find that he heard "at least two Wren-tits" in the same general locality on September 29 of that year.

From these observations it seems that the Wren-tit is of regular occurrence in this particular section of Tenaya Canyon, and may even nest there.—VINCENT MOWBRAY, *Oakland, California, November 21, 1939.*

**Gas Flares and Birds.**—On May 13, 1939, a badly singed and "baked" specimen of the Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) was sent to me by Mr. Henry Gremmel of Bloomington, Texas, for identification. He informed me that hundreds of these birds fluttered like huge moths around the gas flares in that oil field on the night of May 12. None was observed the following night, but a few were noticed the third night, after which they were not seen again. Mr. Gremmel is of the opinion that not more than ten of the birds were killed by the flares at his station on those two nights. Evidently these birds were migrating, because they did not appear at the flares until after 9 p. m.; none was observed there during the day.

There are hundreds of these open gas flames in the oil fields of Texas, consequently the toll to birdlife resulting from contact with the flames must be tremendous in periods of migration.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Department of Fish and Game, College Station, Texas, November 6, 1939.*

**Solitaire Distress Calls.**—While birding about the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County, Utah, January 28, 1939, I heard a call which I could not place. It sounded more like a gnatcatcher than anything that came to mind and seemed to come from a thicket thirty to forty feet distant. I walked cautiously to and through the thicket without nearing the call, then glancing into the lower branches of some cottonwoods bordering the stream, I saw a Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) giving distress calls.

Supposing he had discovered a roosting owl, I approached closely for observation yet found no owl, but the solitaire was looking at some object across the stream. There, in a rose bush was a