

**Notes from San Diego County, California.**—*Phaëthon aethereus*. Red-billed Tropic-bird. Dr. Loye Miller's observation of numbers of Red-billed Tropic-birds off the coast of southern California during the summers of 1936-1939 (Condor, 42, 1940:234), establishes this bird as more than an occasional straggler to California waters, in spite of the fact that there are only four previously published records for the State (Condor, 40, 1938:40). However, it may be worth noting that on September 22, 1940, an individual that was unquestionably of this species was observed about five miles west of Point Loma by two persons separately, who reported it to the writer. One was W. H. Miller of the Star and Crescent Boat Company, San Diego, and the other was George Smith of the San Diego County Agricultural Department. Mr. Smith said that the bird seemed "tired," as it made only short flights—apparently a characteristic habit. On the following Sunday, September 29, what was probably the same bird was seen at approximately the same position by Mr. Miller; but a week later he was unable to find it.

*Fregata magnificens*. Man-o'-war-bird. E. R. Simmermacher, of the State Board of Equalization, a reliable student of birds, reported to the writer that on July 26, 1940, while he was fishing about a mile south of the Scripps Pier at La Jolla, he saw two Man-o'-war-birds on the wing some 400 feet in the air. "They were slender bodied, sharp shouldered, and there appeared to be some white or light coloration visible on the neck from beneath," he wrote. George Smith, who reported the tropic-bird, also observed what he is sure was a Man-o'-war-bird while in his boat about 25 miles off Oceanside on September 9, 1940. W. H. Miller, who takes out fishing parties from San Diego, says that he has seen this species, "off and on, for the past twenty years," usually about August.

Mr. Smith also provided the information that he understood that a Man-o'-war-bird had roosted this summer on the grounds of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Trask's home, close to Hedionda Slough, Carlsbad, San Diego County. As the result of a letter on the subject, Mrs. Trask called at the office of the writer and gave full details of the incident. She said that the bird first came in at about 5:30 on the evening of July 9, and settled on the tip of a very tall bamboo on her terrace, where it spent the night. It was still there at 4 the next morning, but left at 5, returning, however, at 7:30 and remaining until 8:35, when it was frightened away by the whistle of a passing train. On the following three days the bird returned to its perch each evening between 5:30 and 6:30. On each occasion it was first seen toward the east, sailing very high, then circling lower and lower. It thus always arrived from inland rather than from the ocean, doubtless for the purpose of heading up into the prevailing northwest wind. Mrs. Trask noted that the tail was lowered sharply to arrest the forward movement as the bird was alighting. It seemed to show no fear, and when the bamboo was shaken would take wing, circle for a short distance and return to its perch. On July 13 the visitor was seen about 3 p.m., but it did not come to roost that night and was not seen again.

*Mycteria americana*. Wood Ibis. Frank F. Gander, of the San Diego Natural History Museum staff, found a flock of 20 to 30 Wood Ibises at Buena Vista Lagoon, Carlsbad, on September 25, 1940. This is a late date for this bird in San Diego County. On October 12, when he next visited the lagoon, they were gone.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, October 17, 1940.*

**Summer Records of the Great Gray Owl in Yellowstone National Park.**—On July 3, 1940, while driving from West Thumb to Old Faithful, in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, I saw a Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex nebulosa*) in a small open meadow about seven miles from West Thumb. When first seen, the bird was perched in the top of a small dead lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) but almost immediately flew down into the tall meadow grass where it seized some small prey, apparently a mouse or a shrew. The owl held the prey in its feet and repeatedly bit it with its beak before swallowing it whole. The bird then flew across the meadow to another dead lodgepole pine, and when I followed, flew into the dense forest. The day was dark and cloudy, with intermittent showers, which may account for the fact that the owl was actively hunting at about 10 o'clock in the morning.

Neither Skinner (Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, 3, 1925:170-176) nor Bent (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 170, pt. 2, 1938:219) definitely mention this bird as occurring in Yellowstone National Park in summer. However, there are two summer-taken specimens in the museums of the Park. In a letter dated July 16, 1940, Mr. Edmund B. Rogers, Park Superintendent, writes as follows:

"We have three specimens of this bird in the collection of the Yellowstone museums. Two are in the museum at Mammoth and one is at Fishing Bridge. The first one was collected on August 27, 1931, the second on the following day, and the third one on December 2, 1931.

"The first two specimens were obtained at Grebe Lake by C. H. Taylor and McCafferty. The third specimen was collected by George Mack."

I am indebted to Mr. Rogers for permission to record these specimens.—W. S. LONG, *Biology Division, Soil Conservation Service, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 7, 1940.*

**Late Nesting of the Band-tailed Pigeon.**—George Morrison of McMinnville, Oregon, a predatory animal hunter of the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, and a keen observer of wildlife, has found several nests of the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata fasciata*) in the coastal counties of northwestern Oregon during the months of May and June, but recently he made an observation worthy of record. During the last days of September, 1940, he flushed an adult Band-tailed Pigeon from its nest 7 feet up in a fir tree beside Agency Creek, 5 miles northwest of Spirit Mountain, in western Yamhill County, Oregon. On September 30, he again flushed the parent bird, and upon examining the nest he found it to contain two eggs. Not only is this the latest nesting date, but it is the only record available of two eggs being laid by the Band-tailed Pigeon in Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 1, 1940.*

**An Additional Pleistocene Occurrence of the Murre, *Uria aalge*.**—Among some vertebrate fossils recently found in a Pleistocene horizon at Mussel Rock, northwestern San Mateo County, California, is the distal end of a humerus of a murre (U. C. Mus. Paleo. No. 36056). The highly distinctive shape of this part of the alcid skeleton leaves no question concerning the family affinities of the fossil. Except for parts of the surfaces of the condyles, the fossil is well preserved, showing tendinous and ligamentous scars clearly. In every detail it corresponds with the modern *Uria aalge*. The breadth across the shaft just proximal to the ectepicondylar crest is greater than in any of the other larger living alcids such as *Lunda* and *Cerorhinca*, and the crest is less divergent from the shaft at its proximal end. Although we are not able to find differences in configuration of the distal part of the humerus which would separate *U. aalge* and *U. lomvia*, the latter averages larger, at least in the Pacific Basin. The fossil is nearly as small as the smallest humerus in a series of forty skeletons of the modern *Uria aalge californica*. Furthermore, on geographic grounds, it is most unlikely that the northern *U. lomvia* would occur on the coast of California even in the Pleistocene. We may conclude then that the fossil belongs to the species *aalge*.

*Uria aalge* has been known previously as a fossil only from the Upper San Pedro Pleistocene, near Playa del Rey, Los Angeles County (Howard, Condor, 38, 1936:212).

The fossil was found by the junior author on the east side of a road cut on State Highway No. 1 where the latter skirts the ocean shore at the 200-foot contour due east of Mussel Rock (U. S. G. S. map, San Mateo Quadrangle; U. C. Mus. Paleo. loc. V-4018). The Pleistocene exposed here is of fresh water origin and lies unconformably between the marine Merced Pliocene and late Quaternary red sands, also marine. The Pleistocene beds dip to the northeast, away from the present shore line. Probably they represent an area which was part of a small stream drainage system close to the shore and which subsequently through diastrophism has been elevated and tilted inland. The associated mammalian fossils include bison, horse, sloth and mammoth. Somewhat puzzling is the presence of such a strictly maritime species as the murre in anything but a salt water deposit. It would have been possible, however, for a dead or incapacitated murre on a beach to have been taken a short distance inland along a stream course by some carnivore or scavenger.—ALDEN H. MILLER and FRANK E. PEABODY, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 3, 1940.*