from Black Hawk Ranch Quarry, locality no. V-3310, Lower Pliocene, Contra Costa County, California (for further details of locality, see Stirton, *op. cit.*, fig. 94).

Measurements in millimeters.—Width of middle trochlea, 10.1; transverse diameter of inner trochlea, 8.0.

Remarks.—The shape of the articular surface of the inner trochlea in the fossil species would cause the inner toe to lie closer and more nearly parallel to the middle toe than in modern *Grus*. This would result in a less widespread tripod of toes and probably in less secure footing. No members of the Gruidae have been reported from North America between the Eocene and the Pliocene. The fossil cranes of the Pliocene and Pleistocene have all been placed in *Grus*, and indeed much of the material has been allocated to the living species, *Grus canadensis* and *Grus americana*. *Grus minor* L. H. Miller and *Grus haydeni* Marsh have been relegated to the synonymy of *Grus canadensis* (Wetmore, Smithsonian Misc. Coll,. 99, 1940:50). The extinct species from the later geologic record that are recognizably different are *Grus proavus* (Marsh, Amer. Jour. Sci., ser. 3, 4, 1872:261) from the Pleistocene of New Jersey, and *Grus nannodes* (Wetmore and Martin, Condor, 32, 1930:62) from the middle Pliocene of Kansas. The tarsometatarsi of these species are not known, but both these cranes were smaller than *Grus canadensis* and hence much smaller than *conferta*.

The arrangement of the articular surface of the inner trochlea in *conferta* might seem to be more generalized and primitive than in other members of the genus *Grus*. For this reason special search for evidence of this condition among fossil gruids has been made. Unfortunately in few of these is this part of the metatarsus preserved and figured. *Aletornis nobilis*, although from the Eocene, apparently was like *G. canadensis* and not like *conferta* in this respect (see Shufeldt, Trans. Conn. Acad. Arts Sci., 19, 1915: pl. 2, fig. 15, pl. 6, fig. 43). The drawing of *Pliogrus pentelici* (Gaudry, Bull. Soc. Geol. France, ser. 2, 191, 1862:633, figs. 8-11) shows a less rounded articular contour than in *Grus*, but the description points out especially that this trochlea permits considerable medial separation of the second toe from the others. Whatever the exact condition, the trochlea in this species from the Pliocene of Greece must have been more like *Grus canadensis* than like *G. conferta*. *Grus melitensis* (Lydekker, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1890:408-409, pl. 36, figs. 2, 2a) from the Pleistocene of Malta shows a flatter articular surface than in the modern *Grus antigone*, which is also figured, but not nearly so flat as in *conferta*. In other respects, *melitensis* appears rather aberrant and it may not be properly placed in *Grus*. Thus the principal distinguishing feature of *conferta* can not through comparison with other fossils be proved primitive nor does it indicate close connection with other forms. Probably *conferta* was as distinct from typical *Grus* as was *Pliogrus*, which has been separated by Lambrecht (Handbuch Palaeorn., 1933:522) on the basis of characters of the distal end of the tibiotarsus. However, *conferta* is so remarkably like typical *Grus* in most respects that its fundamental similarity should not be obscured by separating it generically. —ALDEN H. MILLER and CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 15, 1942.*

Records from Extreme Northeastern Nevada.—A brief collecting trip with Mr. Cecil S. Williams through the Raft River and Grouse Creek Mountains of extreme northwestern Utah terminated at the McCuistion ranch on the west base of Pilot Peak on September 20, 1941. The Pilot Range, including Pilot Peak, is almost entirely within Utah, although the Utah-Nevada boundary runs close to the base of the peak and the McCuistion ranch, about 2 miles west of this boundary, is in Elko County, Nevada, south and east of Montello.

Pilot Peak, famous as a landmark for early emigrants traveling westward over the Great Salt Lake Desert, stands like a giant pinnacle or torch in the heart of the great western desert. This well-timbered, 10700-foot mountain is undoubtedly a concentration point for migrant birds, and the few watered areas and ranches at the base of the mountain are teeming with birds during the period of migration.

On September 19 the weather had been stormy and cold, the mountain being covered with a blanket of snow above the 5000-foot contour. This forced the late migrants off the mountain, so that on September 20 the McCuistion ranch abounded with birds.

In about two hours on the morning of September 20 the writer and Mr. Williams collected one bird that appears to be new to Nevada's avifaunal list, as well as other specimens sufficiently uncommon in the state to merit reporting. Northern Pileolated Warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*) were abundant, and three specimens were collected; with them, however, was collected one specimen that was later determined to be *Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*, a bird apparently new to the avifaunal list for this state. Dr. H. C. Oberholser confirmed this identification.

Of the water birds, two Eared Grebes, one Coot, and a Killdeer were noted on or near a small artificial pond.

Obviously, a "vermin" campaign had recently been conducted in this area. Dead Sharp-

shinned, Cooper, Marsh, and Sparrow hawks were found on the ranch. The collectors also found a Golden Eagle, a Horned Owl (later identified as *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*), and a Long-eared Owl.

Two species of game birds—a flock of Sage Hens and the Western Mourning Dove—had found sanctuary at the McCuistion ranch.

Fifteen Lewis Woodpeckers (*Asyndesmus lewis*) (one of which was collected) and several Red-shafted Flickers were noted. It was interesting to find that, because of their effectiveness in controlling grasshoppers and crickets, a flock of about 200 American Ravens was encouraged around the farm.

In a small currant patch a single late migrant Sage Thrasher, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and an Orange-crowned, an Audubon, two Townsend, and several Tolmie warblers were noted. Unfortunately, neither the Orange-crowned nor the Audubon warbler was collected: specimens taken in near-by Utah proved to be *Vermivora c. celata, V. c. orestera, Dendroica a. auduboni,* and *D. a. memorabilis.*

It was surprising to find a Bobolink in this desert area. Western Meadowlarks, English Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings, House Finches, Pine Siskins, and Song and White-crowned sparrows were common.

In addition, one atypical Nevada Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis*) and one Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii lincolnii*) were collected.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., January 31, 1942.*

Black Pigeon Hawk Taken in Eastern Washington.—In a group of interesting predators recently sent to me in the flesh by Mr. Harold Witham, Superintendent of the State Game Farm at Kennewick, was a female Black Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*). The bird was taken on or about December 23, 1941, at Finley, about 5 miles southeast of Kennewick in Benton County, Washington, and is now preserved as a study skin (no. 1000) in my collection. Data obtained during preparation are as follows: wt. 218 gm., but little fat; length, 12.6 inches; extent, 25.5 inches; wing, 215 mm.; ovary evenly fine-granular. So far as the information in my files goes there are no previous definite records of *suckleyi* in eastern Washington, although there are several for eastern Oregon (Gabrielson and Jewett, Birds of Oregon, 1940:204) and the Okanagan region of south-central British Columbia (Brooks and Swarth, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 17, 1925:58). Mr. Stanley G. Jewett (letter of January 3, 1942) indicates that this is also his impression and advises placing the Finley specimen on record.—JOHN W. SLIPP, *Department of Botany, University of Washington, Seattle, February 9, 1942.*

An Additional Note on English Sparrows Feeding on Ants.—In the Condor for November, 1935 (pp. 284, 285) Uhl R. Kuhn reports English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) feeding on ants, and considers this an unusual food habit of this species. Mr. Kuhn was fortunate in his opportunity of observing them feeding on ants that had just been uncovered. I would not venture to say to what extent this feeding habit may be unusual, for it would be easy to overlook birds picking up an ant here and there among grass and other vegetation.

Through an observation in the summer of 1940 at my home near McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, I can add another case of the English Sparrow feeding on ants. A female was coming often about the well, and I noticed her taking ants that were on the boards at that place. As the ants became scarce, the bird's trips to the spot decreased; the locality was soon deserted by the bird after a few trips had met in failure in finding ants.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, *McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, December 20, 1941.*

Food of the Barn Owl at Soda Lake, Nevada.—On February 22, 1941, the writer and Miss Laura E. Mills visited the north end of Soda Lake, Churchill County, Nevada. Here, in a south-facing vertical bank, Miss Mills had seen Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) on several previous occasions. In the bank, less than thirty feet from the water's edge, we found an opening, about fifteen inches in diameter. Seven feet from the base, the hole went straight into the bank for about two feet, then made a ninety degree turn to the left and extended for about three feet farther. With the aid of a mirror placed at the turn, so as to reflect light into the hole, we could see an adult Barn Owl standing near the end of the burrow. Miss Mills had earlier in the day seen two Barn Owls fly from this location. Examination of the ground at the base of the bank below the opening revealed numerous pellets judged by us to have been ejected by the Barn Owls. A total of 89 that were reasonably fresh were picked up for study. Each of the 73 food items listed in the table was represented by the major part of a cranium.