FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Identification of Feathers in a Tree Swallow's Nest.—A casual examination of an occupied nest of Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) at Springhouse, British Columbia, on June 20, 1941, revealed such a quantity of duck feathers in the nest cavity that I made a point of returning to collect it after the young had left. The nest occupied a large hole three feet from the ground in an aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), one of several at the edge of a bluff on a wide prairie much frequented by ducks. The nest was cushioned on a deep deposit of sawdust, the product of ants' activities. The feathers as identified consisted of the following items: Mallard, ♂ 45, ♀ 5; Pintail, ♂ 9, ♀ 7; Baldpate, ♂ 8; Shoveller, ♂ 3; Redhead, 11; unidentified duck feathers, 4; Sandhill Crane, 13; total, 105.

The majority (77) of the duck feathers were from the flanks; nine were lower tail-coverts, two were breast feathers and four were from the back. Those of the Sandhill Crane consisted of twelve contour feathers and one tail covert measuring six and three-quarter inches, the largest feather in the nest. Flank feathers have a natural curve which easily fits the rounded contour of a nest, and it would appear that a preference for this type of feather is indicated.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, October 27, 1942.*

Another Record of the Great Gray Owl in California.—In October, 1941, Mr. C. E. DeLong, then residing in San Diego, donated to the San Diego Society of Natural History a mounted specimen of a Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa*), for which he was able to provide accurate data. He stated that it was taken between Coarsegold and Finegold, Madera County, California, on Denver Church's Ranch, elevation about 3200 feet, in May or June of 1930. This locality is some twenty miles in an air line south of Yosemite National Park. The owl was shot by two boys because they thought it was after pigeons.

The mount had evidently been used as a mantel ornament and was darkened by smoke. However, it has been very satisfactorily cleaned and converted into a cabinet specimen which now bears the number 18526, S.D.S.N.H. In view of double handling and compression, the present over-all length is valueless, but other measurements are: wing, 440 mm.; tail, 250; tarsus, 68; middle toe, without claw, 31; culmen, 42.2. Sex, of course, is indeterminable; but there are no bare incubating patches.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, October 17, 1942.*

Black-and-White Warbler at Altadena, California.—Records of the Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) in the West are so few in number as to warrant the recording of another positive identification. At 8 a.m. on the morning of October 8, 1942, while at breakfast in our sun porch, an individual of this species which I judged to be a female of the year suddenly appeared on the trunk of a sycamore tree at a distance of less than ten feet. All of the identification marks were plainly noted together with the creeper-like habit, unique in this species of warbler, of scampering around and along the trunk of the tree. The bird was watched for nearly a minute as it gleaned the tree foi food and there can be no possibility of error in identification.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Altadena, California, October 24, 1942.*

Pneumaticity of the White Pelican.—Recently I have studied the respiratory and pneumatic systems of two fresh specimens of the White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). Certain comparisons with these systems in the Brown Pelican (*P. occidentalis*), based on my earlier work on this species (Condor, 41, 1939:13-17), are of interest especially in view of the different feeding habits of the two kinds.

The external nares of the White Pelican are small but are not partly or completely closed by horny skin as are those of the Brown Pelican. This might be predicted, in that White Pelicans rarely if ever plunge into the water (Hall, Condor, 27, 1925:155) as the Brown Pelicans habitually do, and water would not be strongly forced into their nostrils. The structure of the larynx, including the possession of two outward-opening, flap-like valves just within the glottis which prevent the ingress of any water, did not show any significant differences in the two species. Likewise the lungs, internal air-sacs, and superficial air mattress did not differ. Such basic structural similarity might be expected between two species of the same genus, but it was anticipated that the White Pelican, because it does not fish by plunging, would have a less highly developed cushioning air mattress. However, the mattress is even more highly developed in this species. The two White Pelicans, when inflated under water by human lung pressure, displaced 38 and 34.5 per cent of their total inflated volumes.

This amounted to increases of 61.5 and 52.8 per cent of the volumes of the uninflated specimens. A similar test, although possibly a slight underestimate, of a Brown Pelican, showed a displacement of 25.7 per cent of the total volume or 34.6 per cent of the uninflated volume.

The correlation of the possession of a pneumatic mattress with the habit of plunging for food would seem to be invalidated by the condition in the White Pelican. However, some other explanation is demanded because the correlation can be shown clearly in other birds, such as gannets, as well as in the Brown Pelicans. Possibly the condition in the White Pelican is inherited from plunging ancestors and is retained or even amplified because such pneumaticity is functional, as a pre-adaptation, in other ways. Buoyancy may be the most important of these especially in view of the great quantity of water which the pouch may at times hold. This amount was measured to be 11.5 quarts in one adult specimen. Streamlining, especially of the bent neck region in flight, and cushioning necessarily heavy landing on water may be added factors of importance.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, July 10, 1942.*

Observation on the Speed of the Mourning Dove.—On September 2, 1942, I had the opportunity of noting the speed of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) while motoring from Merced to Yosemite Valley, California, on the all-year highway. About 10 miles east of Mariposa a Mourning Dove flew in front of the bus. It kept approximately 50 feet ahead of the vehicle and flew in front for a distance of about 100 yards, when it turned to the right and perched on the topmost wire of a barbed wire fence where two other doves were already perched. The bus was traveling 40 miles an hour at this time and did not seem to gain upon the dove while it was flying in front of the vehicle. The wing beat appeared to be slow for the speed the bird was making and the dove did not seem to be in any way fatigued. It appears that the speed of 40 miles an hour is not difficult for the dove to attain and that a faster wing beat would probably make even higher speeds possible.—WILLIAM V. MAYER, *Del Paso Heights, California, October 6, 1942.*

Albino Red-wing from Colorado.—An albino Thick-billed Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*) was brought to the University of Colorado Museum by Mr. Dudley A. Degge. The specimen, a male, was taken two miles north of Boulder, Colorado, on October 17, 1942 (U.C.M. cat. no. 4208).

The bird is largely white, against which the brilliant shoulder marks, corresponding closely to Ridgway's "flame scarlet," stand out in lively contrast. There is a faint wash of "light salmon-orange" on the cheeks, front and sides of the throat, breast, belly, flanks, a small area on the rump, and the middle areas of the primaries and secondaries. The upper mandible is blackish, the lower mandible and legs are a dark horn color. The eyes, by examination of the dead bird, appear to have been pink. —HUGO G. RODECK, *University of Colorado Museum, Boulder, Colorado, October 29, 1942.*

Further Notes on the Franklin Gull in the Pacific Northwest.—New records of the Franklin Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) near Steilacoom, Pierce County, Washington, in the fall of 1942 closely parallel those of the previous year, when the species was first found to occur in this state. In 1941 a single bird of the year in progressive stages of the postjuvenal molt was seen at Waughop Lake on September 14, October 12, and October 25; it was collected (1009 JWS) on the latter date (Slipp, Murrelet, 23, 1942:18). Records for 1942 are: September 17, a single bird in juvenal plumage feeding with Bonaparte Gulls on Waughop Lake; September 20, a single juvenal-plumaged bird resting with California Gulls on a sand spit projecting into Puget Sound at the mouth of Chambers Creek (a large flock of Bonapartes near by on the same spit); October 29, two males completing the postjuvenal molt collected at Waughop Lake, one (1143 JWS) from a mixed flock of gulls resting on a mud-flat, the other (1144 JWS) from a dense flock of Bonapartes surface-feeding on a species of *Corixa* near the opposite shore. Other trips to these localities in the same period failed to reveal the presence of the species.

The plumage of all three specimens is similar and might be considered to represent the first winter plumage but for varying amounts of brown still remaining in the gray of the cervical and dorsal regions; the two 1942 skins retain less of this mottling than does the one collected in 1941, and they exhibit a further difference in the pronounced salmon-pink suffusion of the white ventral plumage from bill to vent. The latter condition is evanescent but is still apparent, after suds and gasoline washings, at the time of writing.

All three specimens were males of the year, fat and in good condition; they had been feeding almost exclusively on insect fare when taken. Authoritative determinations of the stomach contents of no. 1009, in per cent, have been published (*loc. cit.*) as follows: Coreidae 10, Pentatomidae 63, Corixidae 5, Araneida, trace, Ichneumonidae 20, and Chrysomelidae 2, with gravel representing an added 15. Cursory examinations of the stomach contents of the 1942 specimens have yielded the fol-