

newly caught insectivorous birds from their natural diet to artificial food, this initial difficulty was successfully overcome. It was noted from the outset, however, that the bird had trouble in picking up its food; the abnormal mandible apparently interfered. Only after making several abortive attempts would the bird succeed in picking up particles of "soft food" supplied it. Maimed insects, such as moths, flies, and small green caterpillars, would also present a problem and while snapped at repeatedly were, for the most part, "nosed" around. Some that were successfully picked up would be rolled around in the mandibles, with the bird apparently making every effort to swallow in the normal way. Some would finally be gulped down, while others would be dropped only to be picked at again and again in what might turn out to be a futile effort to retrieve them.

To minimize this feeding difficulty we finally placed all insects on top of the artificial food. This seemed to help and all during the third day and prior to its death the bird ate freely of not only the maimed insects but also the substitute food. Notwithstanding, we were unable to keep it alive, and it is now specimen no. 58014 in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

Undoubtedly the deformed bill militated against the free feeding of the bird and produced the emaciation noted at the time of its capture. It might also have been the causative factor which prompted the bird to stray so far from its normal migration route. In captivity it proved comparatively tame for a newly caught bird, another obvious indication of its handicap.—ERIC CAMPBELL KINSEY, *Manor, Marin County, California, February 15, 1943.*

Remains of a Swan from the Miocene of Arizona.—In 1938 L. L. Hargrave forwarded as a gift to the United States National Museum some fragments of fossil bone (cat. no. 15,772) secured one-fourth mile from the Gray Ranch below Wickiup Post Office, Mohave County, Arizona. They came from a Miocene deposit. The largest is nearly one-half of the proximal end of a coracoid that is somewhat crushed and distorted but that can be recognized as belonging to the family Anatidae and to be similar to *Cygnus*. It has the size of the Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) and possibly it may represent an allied species in the genus *Cygnus*. Due to deformation of the head of the bone, however, it does not seem practicable to make a certain generic diagnosis. A smaller fragment comes from lower down on the shaft of the coracoid. Apparently this fragment formed part of the same bone mentioned above.

While it does not seem desirable to give these specimens a name at the present time, they serve to indicate the earliest record for a swan in the fossil beds of our country.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., March 8, 1943.*

Food-washing Habit of the Dipper.—On April 12, 1941, I had the opportunity to watch a pair of Dippers (*Cinclus mexicanus*) feeding young at a nest on the North Fork of the Molalla River, Clackamas County, Oregon. The insects and grubs which the parents brought were washed in the water before being taken to the nest. While food was held crosswise in the bill, the head was twisted rapidly from side to side in the water. After washing the food, the bird flew directly to a ledge below the nest.

The nest was 7½ feet above the water's edge and well hidden in the moss that covered the upper reaches of the bank. It was buried deep in the soil and moss. The opening was low on the side. About 16 inches below this opening was a small ledge on which the parent birds alighted. This ledge and the nest opening were both under an overhanging projection of the bank.—FRED G. EVENDEN, JR., *Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, February 15, 1943.*

White-fronted Goose in Idaho.—On December 6, 1942, one of my students brought me a White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) collected about ten miles north of Pocatello, in Bingham County, Idaho. It was an immature male. Dr. J. W. Aldrich assures me that there is no record of this species for Idaho. It should, therefore, be regarded as a new species for the state.—VICTOR E. JONES, *Southern Branch, University of Idaho, Pocatello, Idaho, March 11, 1943.*

Notes on Three Birds from Lower California.—In the summer of 1928, the late Donald Dickey spent several weeks cruising in the Gulf of California. Many mainland and insular points were touched, although usually not for more than a day or two at a time and often for only a few hours. The primary object of this trip was pleasure; and although Mr. Dickey made voluminous notes, these deal for the most part with fish and fishing, with correspondingly scant attention to birds and mammals. Little collecting was done although a number of specimens were brought home in frozen storage. The following items pertaining to Lower California are of interest.

Coragyps atratus. Black Vulture. This species is listed as present at Cerralvo Island on May 22, although in what manner or numbers is not stated. This appears to be the first record for Lower California. The recent intrusion of this species into southern Arizona and its change in status there from casual to common has been documented by several observers; hence, the present record is of historical interest should Lower California become part of the regular range. It may be mentioned in passing that the absence of Black Vultures in Lower California never fails to create speculation by observers familiar with its abundance on the Sonora side of the narrow Gulf. There is food in equal abundance, particularly about towns, ranches and fishing camps, climatic conditions are essentially identical, and the opposite shores are visible, even to human eyes, in clear weather.

Parabuteo unicinctus superior. Northwestern Harris Hawk. A nesting pair, found on San José Island on May 23, seems to be the first record for any of the Gulf islands at any season. The male was collected and prepared as a skeleton. There would seem to be no reason why this hawk should not occur generally on the larger islands, particularly on those on which iguanas are numerous. However, I have never so observed it.

Haematopus palliatus frazari. Frazar Oyster-catcher. In his "Life Histories" (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 146, 1929:322), Bent, quoting Carl Lien, says of the Black Oyster-catcher: "If occasion requires these birds are good swimmers and, if pursued when crippled, will dive deep and long." Perhaps this ability has been noted elsewhere, although a cursory survey of available literature fails to disclose further mention of it. Under-water swimming by a wounded Frazar Oyster-catcher was observed by Mr. Dickey under such favorable circumstances (Cerralvo Island, May 22) that his notes are worthy of record: "Wounded a Frazar's Oyster-catcher among the cobbles along shore and as I went to pick her up, . . . she flew out a hundred yards over the water. [The bird was pursued in a skiff.] The water was perhaps 3 fathoms deep over sand so you could see every move under the surface, and I was astonished as we approached within 6 feet of our bird and I was getting ready to lean out and grab it, to see it dive as neatly as a true water bird rather than shore bird. Time after time it would let a hand get within 3 feet of it, then give its shrill whistle and shoot down like a plummet 6 to 10 feet under the surface and swim about there for some time by use of feet and wings. The latter were of course its main dependence and gave it considerable ability in this element. It tired after a dozen consecutive dives. . . ."—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, March 5, 1943.*

Large Set of Eggs of the Anna Hummingbird.—On April 15, 1943, I was shown a nest of the Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) by a friend who had found it on the afternoon of April 14 while he was cultivating his orange orchard. The nest was saddled on a drooping limb about three feet from the ground on the north side of the tree. My friend told me that the young were just hatched, and he wished me to take a look into the nest. Imagine my surprise when I found two newly hatched young and an infertile egg. There had been a hard thundershower the night before, but the nest was well protected by leaves, and the female was sitting closely when I examined the nest.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, April 15, 1943.*