

A Record of the Sabine Gull at Berkeley, California.—The Sabine Gull (*Xema sabini*) is a common late summer migrant in northern Puget Sound and off the coast of Washington, Oregon, and California. It has rarely been recorded from shore or inland waters of California. Grinnell and Wythe (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 18, 1927:43) list four records for San Francisco Bay; one in late April, one in May and two in October.

On August 21, 1943, I watched an immature bird of this species as it patrolled the water near the Berkeley Pier, Alameda County, California. When first seen, it was about a quarter of a mile from shore, although most of its activities were carried on farther out. Twice it was seen to pick small pieces of sardine bait from the water and once it attempted to seize the bait from my fishline. On August 22, Dr. Alden H. Miller saw what was presumably the same bird at the same locality. It was not seen on August 25 or on visits on subsequent dates.—WALTER W. DALQUEST, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 25, 1943.*

A Creeper Foraging on Palm Trees.—This morning, as I was walking from my home to the street car, in a built-up residential section of San Diego, California, I was surprised to see a Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) characteristically hitching itself up the gray trunk of one of the feather palms (*Cocos plumosa*) with which the street is bordered. I watched it for several minutes, sometimes at a 12-foot range, as it industriously explored one tree after another, traveling with equal ease up either the trunk or the even smoother stems of the leaves. On two occasions it took "in its stride" telephone poles which were set in line with the trees. It seemed to find food to its liking in the fibrous mass from which the palm leaves grow and also beneath the cross-arm of one pole.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, November 16, 1943.*

White-throated Swift Breeding with Cliff Swallows at Berkeley, California.—On April 1, 1943, a pair of White-throated Swifts (*Aëronautes saxatilis*) appeared on the University of California campus, Berkeley, California. With a group of Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon albifrons*), only 15 in number on that date, they milled about the nesting site of a swallow colony established now for eight years on the Life Sciences Building (see Grinnell, Condor, 39, 1937:206).

On April 2, the swifts were observed to fly repeatedly into crevices or niches in a molding approximately 45 feet above the ground on the south side of the building, where most of the swallow nest-urns were placed. Once a swift entered one of the swallow nests, remained there a few seconds, then left. For the following month, the swifts were usually in evidence at least during the sunnier, warmer portions of clear days. On certain days they appeared only for brief periods in mid-afternoon; on a few scattered, single days, they apparently were absent.

On May 2, three swifts were seen flying about the top of the Campanile situated about 400 yards east of Life Sciences Building. Wythe (Bird-Lore, 26, 1924:198) reported an observation of two swifts flying about this tower on April 9, 1924.

After May 2, a pair of swifts was present regularly in the colony of Cliff Swallows on Life Sciences Building. One observer on May 4 and another on May 13 reported hearing the notes of White-throated Swifts near the swallow colony after dark, between 8:30 and 9 p.m.

The nesting site of the swifts was finally found on May 17. It was situated in one of a series of niches between blocks spaced about four inches apart under a ledge, the whole forming the ornamental molding mentioned above. The niche, nine inches in depth, was open outwardly and downwardly. At the inner end, a mud-shelf remnant of a Cliff Swallow's nest, resting on a narrow, rounded molding under the blocks, formed the ledge on which the swifts' nest was placed. Both swifts were seen flying to and from the nest site. Remnants of other Cliff Swallow nests as well as empty, whole nests were present in neighboring niches. There were several occupied swallow nests within two or three feet of the swifts' nest.

On the days that followed, usually but one swift was seen flying among the swallows. There were long periods each day when the swifts were not in evidence, and judging by their flight routes, they spent time foraging somewhere eastwardly in the near-by hills. On May 31, between 5:00 and 5:15 p.m., one swift was observed several times flying to the nest, possibly bringing food to the other bird on the nest. Each time the swift approached the nest, the characteristic shrill chatter was given. When both birds were present at the nest, a different note was produced—a resonant *kwee-urr, kwee-urr*, occasionally modulated.

For a period of a week or so preceding May 31, with the onset of the summer fog season, the sunny portion of each succeeding day was reduced gradually. The swifts became less and less in evidence. After May 31, the nest was deserted. Examination of the nest-site was not attempted.

Two White-throated Swifts were reported flying about the south side of Life Sciences Building

on July 23. It is possible that this was the pair nesting there earlier. That this was only an incidental occurrence of the species seems clearly attested by the fact that several observers were present on the campus throughout the summer; any swifts present over an extended period would have been detected.

In the vicinity of the coast, the northern breeding limits of the White-throated Swift are reached in the San Francisco Bay region. This swift probably breeds regularly in the Mount Diablo region, Contra Costa County (Grinnell and Wythe, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 18, 1927:93). It may also breed on Rocky Ridge, east of Moraga, Contra Costa County (Bryant, *Gull*, 15, June, 1933:3, and 17, June, 1935:3) and in the Livermore Valley, eastern Alameda County (Crum, *Gull*, 11, June, 1929:3). Nests have been located in Santa Clara County (Linsdale, *Aud. Mag.*, 43, 1941:400). From areas closer to the outer coast, there are two recent reports of nesting localities: Devil's Slide (Linsdale, *Bird-Lore*, 41, 1939:262) and Rockaway Beach (Andresen, *Condor*, 45, 1943:201), both in San Mateo County. In the East Bay municipalities, Alameda County, other than the above record from Berkeley, there was a breeding colony of swifts in Leona Canyon, Oakland, from at least 1927 (Kelly, *Gull*, 9, December, 1927:2) to 1937 or 1938 (letter, M. Vincent Mowbray). The White-throated Swift is known to nest with Cliff Swallows at Capistrano Mission in southern California (F. M. Bailey, *Condor*, 9, 1907:169, and Skinner, *ibid.*, 35, 1933:241). In areas where swifts are numerous, their nests are frequently grouped in colonies (Hanna, *Condor*, 11, 1909:77, and Little, *ibid.*, 21, 1919:235).—FRANK A. PITELKA, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 3, 1943.*

Grus canadensis from the Pleistocene of Illinois.—While visiting some commercial gravel pits near Ashmore, Coles County, Illinois, the writer was fortunate in finding the distal end of a radius of the Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*), the second known occurrence of this species in the Pleistocene deposits of the central states. This fragment was lying near the top of a stratum of alluvial gravel and was overlaid by black earth. These two members, representing a more or less continuous deposit of post-Shelbyville age, are the last of a series of gravels and clays deposited in a valley floor by a shallow meandering stream in its later stages.

Recent faunal forms have been recovered from the black earth, and both Recent and extinct forms, including the only avian representative, the Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), have been obtained from the alluvial deposits (Galbreath, *Geol. Ser., Field Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 6, 1938:303-313). The presence of the Little Brown Crane in this faunal group is in no way contradictory to the environmental picture indicated by the associated flora, invertebrates, and vertebrates.

I am indebted to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for verification of the identification of the specimen, which has been presented to the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois.—EDWIN C. GALBREATH, *Springfield, Illinois, December 9, 1943.*

Uncommon Birds of the Boulder Dam Area, Nevada.—In the course of a recent field trip along the northern arm of Lake Mead near Overton, Nevada, Mr. Victor H. Cahalane and the writer observed several birds which, according to the check-list of this area, are either uncommon or have not previously been reported from this region.

An immature Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) was seen at the edge of Lake Mead on November 13, 1943, and was noted again on the following day. So far as is known this is the first record of this bird for the Boulder Dam area.

A Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) also was observed on November 13. Although this is the second record of this bird for the Recreational Area, it is the first for the Nevada section of it.

Other uncommon birds seen included a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), Lesser Scaup Duck (*Nyroca affinis*), and a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). The latter bird was perched on the top of a dead cottonwood tree about two hundred yards back from the edge of the lake. Upon our approach the eagle flew off over the water, its flight being marked by an immediate and prolonged uproar from a number of Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) on the sand bars bordering the lake.—GORDON C. BALDWIN, *Boulder Dam National Recreational Area, Boulder City, Nevada, November 17, 1943.*

Additional Records of the Green Heron in the Puget Sound Basin.—Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Luhr of Nisqually the writer recently obtained a fine adult male Anthony Green Heron (*Butorides virescens anthonyi*), apparently the third of this species to be taken in the state of Washington. The specimen, now no. 1146 of my collection, was killed on May 13, 1943, as it foraged at the edge of McAllister Creek estuary on the Nisqually tide flats in Thurston County. Considering the date of capture and the gonad enlargement, it seems evident that this bird was, or would shortly have begun, nesting in this area. The testes measured: left, 21.7x7 mm.; right, 19x9.