

*Distribution.*—Great Basin region of the Snake River, north to the South Fork of the Payette River, Idaho; and Warner Valley, southeastern Oregon, possibly extending into southeastern Washington and northern Utah. This race occurs in a region characterized by sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), with major associates of *Atriplex nuttallii*, *Atriplex spinescens* and *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*. The birds were seen along the river bottoms where a deciduous growth of *Populus angustifolia* and *Cercocarpus ledifolius* existed.

*Remarks.*—This race is intermediate between *hesperis* and *sennetti*. It resembles *sennetti* in the lightness of the underparts and *hesperis* in the darkness of the back. One specimen shows a slight intergradation towards *hesperis*. It may intergrade with *sennetti* in the region of the mixed prairie association to the east.—ROLAND W. HAWKINS, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 15, 1948.*

**The Whistling Swan in the Upper Pliocene of Idaho.**—A fossil humerus of a swan was found by Mr. Cecil Childs two miles west of Hagerman, Idaho, in the summer of 1947. The bone consists of the proximal end, including all the deltoid crest; it is thoroughly mineralized and is well preserved except for an area broken out of the center of the palmar surface and the loss of the surface of the internal tuberosity. The specimen was found as surface float in the Hagerman Lake beds, Blancan age, Upper Pliocene, on the west side of the Snake River, in Twin Falls County. The locality is number V 3818 of the Museum of Paleontology of the University of California and the specimen is number 38306. Mr. J. A. Macdonald, who was collecting with Mr. Childs, states that in view of local topography there is no reasonable chance that the humerus could have washed out from beds of later age.

Howard (Carnegie Inst. Wash., publ. 551, 1946:141-195) in her study of the Pleistocene birds of Fossil Lake, Oregon, gave much attention to the osteology of swans and geese. She concluded that but two species of swan are present in the material from Fossil Lake, the modern Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator*, and the extinct *Sthenelides paloreganus*. In contrasting the humeri of *Cygnus* and *Sthenelides* (included in *Cygnus* by many authors) she describes six points of difference in the proximal end of this element (pp. 163-164). In my own comparison of modern "*Sthenelides*" *olor* with *Cygnus columbianus*, I am able to verify each of these differences. In every detail the Hagerman fossil corresponds with the genus *Cygnus* in the restricted sense. There seem to be no constant differences in configuration between *C. columbianus* and *C. buccinator*, but there is of course a size differential. Humeri of 16 modern *C. columbianus* average 50.12 mm. in greatest width of head, with extremes of 48.0 and 53.5 and standard deviation of 1.45. An immature female *C. buccinator*, which may be presumed to be a small representative of its species, measures 57.2 mm. The Pliocene fossil measures 53.5 mm., which is within the limits of variability of the species *C. columbianus*. In all respects, then, this fossil agrees with the corresponding part of the modern Whistling Swan, *C. columbianus*, and may be so identified.

It is noteworthy that *Cygnus columbianus* dates back to the Upper Pliocene. Relatively great antiquity of avian species and genera, compared with mammals, has for some time been evident as a generalization. The Whistling Swan affords another significant example of this. It is strange that the Whistling Swan did not appear among the collections from the Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, but it is reported from the Pleistocene of southern California and Florida. Loye Miller (Condor, 46, 1944:25-32) reports swan material, some of it of the approximate size of *columbianus*, from the Owyhee Pliocene of Oregon and from the Pliocene near the Bruneau-Mountain Home bridge, Idaho. The material was too incomplete to permit exact identification, but the presence of two different species of swans was indicated by the sizes of scapular fragments.

I am indebted to Messrs. Childs and Macdonald and to Dr. R. A. Stirton for making the fossil available for study and to Drs. Hildegarde Howard and Loye Miller for use of comparative material.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 15, 1948.*

**Wren-tits in the Roseburg Area, Oregon.**—On a field trip into the interior valley of the Umpqua River near Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon, on April 19, 1947, I was fortunate to find a small colony of Wren-tits (*Chamaea fasciata*) in the Garden Valley area some five miles northwest of Roseburg, near the confluence of the North and South Umpqua rivers. Two birds were seen in chaparral at very close range and a third was heard in the immediate vicinity. The two birds I observed were somewhat grayer and lighter in color than the Coast Wren-tit, *Chamaea fasciata phaea*, which is so common along the Oregon coastline. These birds undoubtedly represent the Pallid Wren-tit, *Chamaea fasciata henshawi*.

The Pallid Wren-tit has been found previously in the Rogue River Valley about fifty miles south of this area by Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon, 1940). Since the Roseburg area is in the Upper Sonoran Life-zone, as is the inland Rogue River area, and in view of the general northwestward movement of Sonoran birds which is now evident, this northward extension of range is not surprising.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, October 4, 1947.*

**A Late Fall Record of the Poor-will in Oregon.**—While driving north from Merrill, Klamath County, Oregon, during the early morning of October 26, 1947, I found a freshly killed adult male Poor-will, *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii*, about two miles north of town. The bird's back was bruised, apparently when it had been hit by a passing automobile only a few hours before. A previous late record for this species was reported by Walker (Condor, 36, 1934:178) for Tillamook County, Oregon, on October 27, 1933.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, December 30, 1947.*

**Scrub Jay and Sparrow Hawk Roosting in Cabin.**—In the course of field work in eastern San Diego County, California, we made the following observations on roosting behavior. At 9:15 p.m. on July 23, 1946, we entered the screened porch of a deserted cabin in a dry wash two miles east of Jacumba. Here we found two Scrub Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) roosting singly on a horizontal supporting beam beneath the roof. One jay was captured with the aid of a butterfly net; the second, aroused by this activity, escaped through a rent in the screen.

As we entered the main room, a Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) took wing and was netted immediately and then released. The behavior of this hawk upon its release seems of interest, and we quote from our field notes: "The hawk struck a defensive pose as soon as it was on the ground, backing away from the powerful flashlight, seemingly blinded. The bird fluttered a few feet and then, outside the circle of light, took flight with steady wingbeats, flying westward."

The cabin apparently offered more adequate roosting cover than did the sparsely foliated desert willow, creosote bush, and cat-claw of the surrounding area.—KEITH L. DIXON and PHILIP H. KRUTZSCH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 11, 1948.*

**Unusual Feeding Behavior of the Brown Thrasher.**—On August 24, 1947, I saw a pair of Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) along Duck Creek in Scott County, Iowa, engaged in a most unusual feeding procedure. One of these birds was wading around in a shallow portion of the creek, and the water often reached the breast feathers. This individual was seen to plunge its bill into the water and pick up something which it swallowed. Study with five-power binoculars proved that the thrasher was feeding on aquatic water striders (Hemiptera of the family Gerridae) that were common in this portion of the creek. This is the first time I have ever observed this species preying upon this type of animal life.—JAMES HODGES, *Davenport, Iowa, January 28, 1948.*

**An Altitudinal Record for the Great Blue Heron in California.**—On June 13, 1947, I had a clear view of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) in flight in Center Basin, at 11,200 feet, in Kings Canyon National Park, Tulare County, California. This is 2,600 feet higher than the greatest elevation reported by Grinnell and Miller (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27, 1944:57) for the coastal race, *A. h. hyperonca*, and 2,300 feet higher than the record from Tuolumne Meadows of the interior race, *A. h. treganzai*. The bird observed was just one mile, in an air line west of the Sierran crest.—MILTON HILDEBRAND, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 6, 1948.*

**Occurrences of the Emperor Goose in California.**—Enroute to San Francisco, California, on October 26, 1947, the writer had the good fortune to observe an Emperor Goose (*Philacte canagica*) resting on a mud flat a short distance from the Berkeley approach-ramp of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. This is an unusual southern coastal record.

Emperor Geese have been reported previously in interior northern California. Fish and Wildlife Service officials at the Tule Lake Bird Refuge have provided me with records gathered by Ranger Lawson H. Brainerd while he was on duty at the Lava Beds Monument. In 1932 Mr. Theodore Nelson of Tulelake killed an adult bird. There were no further reports until 1937 when another adult bird was