

Formal description of the American population as a new subspecies is not necessary, as there are several names in the synonymy of the Horned Grebe which apply wholly or in part to the New World birds. Of these, the earliest appears to be *Colymbus cornutus* Gmelin (Syst. Nat., 1 (2), 1789:591). This name was based on earlier descriptions by Edwards (Nat. Hist. Birds, 2:96, pl. 96), Pennant (Arct. Zool., 2:497) and Latham (Gen. Syn. Birds, 3 (1):287, pl. 91). According to Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds. Amer., 1(2), 1948:30), Gmelin based his *cornutus* partly on the "Eared Dobchick" of Edwards, the left-hand figure in Edwards' plate 96. James L. Peters has informed me, however, that this figure, based on "several found in the market of London in the hard winter of 1739," definitely portrays an Eared Grebe. The right-hand figure, the "Black and White Dobchick" of Edwards, is evidently a Horned Grebe in winter plumage according to Peters. The figured bird was taken "about the large ponds of Hampstead near London." The descriptions by Pennant and Latham, based on birds from Hudson Bay, unmistakably apply to Horned Grebes. If Hellmayr and Conover were not in error in their designation of Edwards' left-hand figure as the partial basis of Gmelin's description, *Colymbus cornutus* would be a composite name referring to Eared Grebes from London and Horned Grebes from Hudson Bay. If the right-hand figure in Edwards' plate were the partial basis of *Colymbus cornutus*, the name would be a composite of two subspecies of Horned Grebe. However, Hellmayr and Conover (*loc. cit.*) have restricted the type locality of Gmelin's name to Hudson Bay, thus fixing the identity of *Colymbus cornutus* as the bird described by Pennant and Latham, the New World Horned Grebe.

The two subspecies of Horned Grebe may thus be known as follows:

Colymbus auritus auritus Linnaeus. Type locality, Sweden. Northern Europe and Asia, probably intergrading with *cornutus* in eastern Asia.

Colymbus auritus cornutus Gmelin. Type locality, Hudson Bay. Northern North America.

James L. Peters was good enough to examine old ornithological works not available to me, and gave much helpful advice. Thanks are also due to Drs. Herbert Friedmann and Dean Amadon for help and advice on various phases of this study.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, April 19, 1952.*

Northward Extension of Range of the Acorn Woodpecker in Oregon.—The Acorn Woodpecker (*Balanosphyra formicivora*) is an abundant resident of the interior valleys of the Rogue and Umpqua rivers of southwestern Oregon, and ranges, though less abundantly, into the southern portions of the Willamette Valley. Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon, 1940) record a bird from Lane County, and more specifically, Gullion (Condor, 53, 1951:140) gives Richardson Butte, which is some 12 miles northwest of Eugene, Lane County, as the northern limit of range.

Attention was directed to an isolated one-acre grove of Garry oaks (*Quercus garryana*) on the property of Oregon State College, one mile west of the campus in Corvallis, in July, 1950, when a fleeting glimpse of a woodpecker indicated the presence of this species. During May and June, 1951, two birds, a pair, were observed at close range on numerous occasions, usually perching on fence posts on the warm western edge of the grove in the afternoons. On May 18 the birds were actively engaged in catching insects, both by darting into the air in the manner of a flycatcher and by dropping to the surface of an adjacent roadbed. The insects were then deposited in a pocket in the top of a weathered cedar post. When a bill-full had been thus collected the woodpecker would disappear among the foliage of the oaks. Search from the ground, and on June 7 with the aid of climbing irons, disclosed numerous excavations varying from a few to several inches in depth, both old and recent, in dead oak limbs throughout the grove. The nest remained undiscovered. Stores of badly rotted and weathered acorns indicated the species had been present in years past. By June 30, when observations were discontinued, no young had been seen.

The presence of an isolated breeding pair of this social species 30 miles north of the population in Lane County reported by Gullion may be a step in the northward colonization along the Willamette Valley where abundant oak groves and woodlands would appear to meet the requirements for food and nesting sites. However, the pair here observed possibly represents only a fringe of the species population that may be limited by some factor other than the presence or absence of oaks.—KENNETH M. WALKER, *Department of Biology, College of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, February 18, 1952.*