

foraging and then making repeated trips into a tall ornamental palm, probably indicating the first nesting record for Nevada.

Molothrus ater. Common Cowbird. Of three specimens in breeding condition taken in June, 1951, at Ash Meadows, a male and a female have been determined as *obscurus* by A. H. Miller; the female is toward *artemisiae*. This evidence indicates that *obscurus*, recorded heretofore in Nevada only along the Colorado River, is the breeding cowbird of Ash Meadows, although Linsdale records a June specimen from Beatty (40 miles northwest of Ash Meadows) as *artemisiae* (1936:116).—NED K. JOHNSON and FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, April 2, 1952*.

Two Nestling Robins With Abnormal Beaks.—The recent paper by Fox (Condor, 54, 1952: 160-162) on the abnormal growth of beaks of birds prompts me to offer the following observation. During the 1951 nesting season I found in Memorial Cemetery, Scott County, Iowa, a nest of a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) that contained four nestlings that would have left the nest in another day. Of these four birds two of them had deformed beaks. The best way to describe them would be to say that they reminded one of the mandibles of crossbills (*Loxia*), the only difference being that when the mandibles were closed there was an opening of one-quarter of an inch between the upper and lower mandibles. The birds were able to accept food without any difficulty from the adults and were apparently in just as good physical condition as the other two nestlings. Both adults were observed through glasses and their mandibles were normal. This particular example may be just another shred of evidence to sustain the thesis that some of the abnormal beaks of birds may be genetic in origin.—JAMES HODGES, *Davenport, Iowa, June 13, 1952*.

Notes on Bonasa and Numenius in Alaska.—It seems desirable to place on record specimens of two species recently handled in the course of reviewing Alaskan bird material.

Bonasa umbellus.—On September 24, 1943, I collected three Ruffed Grouse just below the Canadian line on Channel Island in the Taku River. At that time there were approximately thirty birds on this island in four or more coveys. The specimens were examined by John W. Aldrich who wrote: "Your three specimens do not approach very closely any of the three nearest races, namely, *yukonensis*, *umbelloides*, and *affinis*, but seem to approach most closely in color *phaia*, from the relatively humid western slopes of the Rockies in northern Idaho and northeastern Washington. They are somewhat darker and more grayish than *phaia*, however. Furthermore, the tarsus appears to be more extensively feathered in which respect they are closer to *umbelloides*." Since birds from Atlin, British Columbia, which is near the headwaters of the Taku River, were assigned to *umbelloides* by Aldrich and Friedmann (Condor, 45, 1943:99), the specimens from Channel Island probably are closer geographically to that race than to any other. Despite the uncertainty of subspecific identification, it seems desirable to record the fact that this species does occur in southeastern Alaska.

Numenius phaeopus variegatus.—Bailey (Auk, 56, 1939:333) records a specimen of the Siberian Whimbrel taken by Brower at Barrow, Alaska, on June 10, 1938, as the first record for North America. There is, however, an Alaskan specimen in my collection (no. 3975) which antedates Brower's bird. It is a bird without sex identification in rather worn plumage collected at Savoonga, St. Lawrence Island, on July 23, 1937, by Gren Collins and sent to me as a salted skin.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D.C., June 10, 1952*.

Inland Record of Sanderling.—According to Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:151), the only available inland record of the Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*) for California was obtained on the Salton Sea. Although the species has been reported in western Nevada (Linsdale, Condor, 53, 1951:234), an additional record from inland California is offered here. Six individuals were observed in the spring of 1952 in the Lower Klamath Basin, Siskiyou County. On May 6, one was observed on a rocky dike bordering the north side of the Lower Sump of Tule Lake Refuge. Two were seen, associating with a small flock of Western and Red-backed sandpipers, on a small mud flat bordering a barley field on May 16, also on Tule Lake Refuge. On May 20, three were observed with a flock of the same species of sandpipers flitting from one mud-bar to another on Unit 4 of Lower Klamath Refuge. One female of this latter group was collected and sent to the National Museum, Washington, D.C.—PAUL E. STEEL, *Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Tulelake, California, June 23, 1952*.