

North America is more accurately determined, it does not seem practical to employ subspecific names."

This subject also has been reviewed by Rand (Canadian Field-Nat., 61, 1947:193-195) using "summer-taken specimens, presumably breeding" in the National Museum of Canada and supplemented by measurements taken by the late H. B. Conover of the Chicago Natural History Museum and by J. A. Munro of Okanagan Landing, British Columbia. A study of the material available convinced him "that there are two factors that vary somewhat independently; that of wing length and bill length." This is clearly shown in his data and strangely enough, two of his smallest birds were collected in Greenland. On the basis of size they would be necessarily classified as *elasson*. The smallest in the series came from Fort Good Hope in the Mackenzie District of northwestern Canada and this also would have to be recorded as *elasson*. If these specimens are so identified we are confronted with a patently impossible distributional pattern which is pointed out by Rand. In effect, the breeding range of *elasson* would be Greenland, western Mackenzie, and a belt in the central interior, extending from western Ontario and Manitoba south to North Dakota, northern Iowa, and northern Wisconsin. The nominate race would have a breeding range including Baffin Island, Quebec, and most of Ontario south to New England, northern Ohio and northern Illinois, and also Yukon, Alaska, and British Columbia.

Loons are large birds and variations in size may be conspicuous even if proportionally slight. Particularly are these noticeable if, as is sometimes the case, they seem to be a characteristic of specimens from a single geographic region. When, however, these variations appear in widely separated regions, it seems best to recognize them as nothing more than individual. We accordingly recommend that *Gavia immer elasson* be placed in synonymy and that *Gavia immer* be restored to its monotypic status.—IRA N. GABRIELSON and FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Wildlife Management Institute, and Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., April 20, 1953.*

Range Extensions in Northern California.—The Lower Trinity Area in the interior of northern California includes the extreme northern part of Trinity County and the northeastern quarter of Humboldt County. The Trinity River flows northward through this district, creating a canyon that in several spots widens out into small valleys. The largest of these open valleys is on the Hoopa Valley Reservation; small open valleys also occur at Willow Creek in Humboldt County and at Salyer in Trinity County. The river is marked by numerous high benches, the remains of old river channels, that the early miners referred to as "bars." The area is cut off from the coast by two mountain ridges, the higher being about five thousand feet in elevation. The Klamath Mountains are on the eastern boundary.

The writer moved into this district in mid-summer of 1949. Since that date it has been possible to be in the field almost every day. Observations have been made on many species, and records kept of the rare or unusual occurrences. Specimens have been taken for identification in many cases. The following data seem useful for students working on the distribution of the various species. The writer wishes to thank Dr. Robert T. Orr of the California Academy of Sciences for his identification of subspecies. Thanks are also due to the people along the river who opened their property for observations and collections. All locality names are based on the United States Forest Service map of Six Rivers National Forest, Lower Trinity District.

Phalacrocorax penicillatus. Brandt Cormorant. Although this bird has not been recorded from the interior of the state, single individuals of this species have been noted on the bar at the mouth of the Trinity River. Here, at the junction of the Trinity and Klamath rivers, is a long narrow projection of rounded boulders. The spawned-out salmon catch in these boulders as they drift back to the ocean. Scavenger fish and crustaceans feed on the dead salmon. This spot is about fifty miles upstream from the ocean. The majority of the cormorants observed have been the yellow-pouched Double-crested Cormorants. However, mixed in with the more common species one often notes the dark-pouched Brandt Cormorant. Only single birds have been noted. The annual dates vary with the yearly runs of the salmon. The general period is from late August through October and into November. Specifically the species was noted on August 15, 1950.

Phalacrocorax auritus. Double-crested Cormorant. No subspecific identification has been made of this species on the Trinity River. This is the common cormorant of the area, and it is almost always found present during the salmon runs. Generally the birds number from four to eight in any one spot,

but a few individuals have ventured up the Trinity River as far as Willow Creek in Humboldt County. They have been noted perched on water-rounded boulders either in or on the bank of the river or else feeding at the base of a shallow riffle.

Larus occidentalis. Western Gull. Again, as with the two species of cormorants, the salmon runs determine the time that this large gull is noted along the river. The general situation is similar. The gulls do not dive for the feeding scavenger fish and crustacea but instead feed on the carrion. They normally feed in shallow water or else on the gravel bars. One gull remained until mid-December of 1951 when it was finally driven away by high water. This bird was a two-year old judging by the plumage. All others were immatures in the dark gray plumage. The first high water sweeps the offal from the bars and the gulls and cormorants leave the river.

Numenius americanus. Long-billed Curlew. There is one record for this shorebird. A single individual was noted flying over the river at daybreak on September 3, 1952, at Willow Creek, Humboldt County.

Colaptes auratus borealis. Yellow-shafted Flicker. Each winter many flickers move into the bare walnut orchards along the river. Among them individuals are noted with a yellow or yellowish cast to the tail and wings. The color range is great. On December 10, 1950, one female was closely observed and finally collected. It turned out to be a pure *Colaptes auratus borealis*. This bird was taken while feeding on discarded walnuts at Willow Creek.

Sayornis saya saya. Say Phoebe. In March, 1950, Say Phoebes were noted along the river from Hoopa south to Salyer. A female was collected on March 8, 1950. On March 12, 1951, the birds were again noted, as well as March 2, 1952. In 1953 a continuous rain fell during much of March and no birds were noted. The evidence indicates an unrecorded migration route for small numbers of this species.

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus. Mockingbird. On May 22, 1952, a female in worn plumage was taken from a fence in Campbell's Field, Hoopa Valley Reservation. The bird was in postbreeding condition, and the feathers were severely worn. No other birds of this species have been noted.

Buteo lineatus elegans. Red-shouldered Hawk. A female was collected on May 10, 1953, in non-breeding condition and worn plumage. Another was observed flying close overhead on May 30, 1953. Both of these records are from the open fields at Willow Creek, Humboldt County.

Agelaius phoeniceus caurinus. Red-winged Blackbird. Scattered along the Trinity River are a few small grassy marshes that in some years are dry. Two of these small marshes are at the Hoopa Valley Reservation, and two are at Willow Creek; one is at Salyer. In wet years a small population of Red-winged Blackbirds is found in each marsh. In dry years only one at Willow Creek and one at Hoopa remains. On May 7, 1950, a pair of the birds was taken with their nest and four eggs at the Salyer Marsh. Dr. Orr examined the skins and identified them as *caurinus*. The nearest known breeding colony of this subspecies is at Humboldt Bay. This is about forty miles westward and over two ranges of mountains.

Molothrus ater obscurus. Brown-headed Cowbird. Cowbirds have been noted each spring and summer in this area. On April 20, 1952, a pair was taken at Hoopa. The birds have been noted in all suitable habitats throughout the area. This is a major extension northward.

Junco hyemalis hyemalis. Slate-colored Junco. A single unsexed specimen was taken at Willow Creek, Humboldt County, on January 10, 1953. Although *J. h. cismontanus* is a regular winter visitor, the nominate form has not been noted in the area before.

Passerella iliaca brevicauda. Fox Sparrow. This bird has been recorded from the South Fork Mountain in Trinity County. The writer has noted it as far north as Sugar Pine Mountain in Humboldt County, during the summer and has collected a breeding male and female on Horse Mountain, Humboldt County, on June 12, 1952. This is a northern extension of the range by thirty miles.—
ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Willow Creek, California, June 9, 1953.*

The Earliest Mention of Territory.—The concept of territory proves to be as old as the science of ornithology, since Aristotle was the first writer to mention it. This was pointed out by Lack (Condor, 46, 1944:108), who, however, did not follow the subsequent history of these observations. About 350 B.C. Aristotle wrote: "Each pair of eagles needs a large territory and on that account allows no other eagle to settle in the neighborhood. They do not hunt in the immediate vicinity of