

There are records also for the group from Pleistocene cave deposits in Brazil, which however are identified only to genus: *Crax*, a curassow, and *Penelope*, a guan (identity apparently not certain). There should be mentioned also the related *Gallinuloides wyomingensis* Eastman, from the Middle Eocene (Green River formation) of Wyoming, which is placed in a separate family, the Gallinuloididae, but in the same superfamily, the Cracoidea. The Cracidae as a whole are known only from the western hemisphere and from present evidence may have had their center of development in North America. It must be pointed out, however, that little is known yet of the Tertiary avifauna of South America and also that most of the 45 or more living species, including the more specialized kinds, are found in or near the great Amazon-Orinoco basin of that continent. Cracids are most abundant in the tropical zone, but they range also into the subtropical and even the temperate zones in the mountains. The living species are arboreal, living and nesting in trees, and when found casually on the ground immediately take refuge in higher cover above.

The present specimen, as the oldest record for the family, adds definitely to our knowledge of the group. In its study I have made comparison principally with *Crax rubra*, *Mitu mitu*, *Penelope purpurascens*, *Penelope superciliaris*, *Ortalis vetula* and *Ortalis canicollis*.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., November 15, 1955.*

Occurrence of the Aleutian Tern and Rustic Bunting in the Aleutian Islands.—During a 14-month tour of duty on Adak Island in the Aleutian Island chain, from August, 1950, to November, 1951, I compiled notes on the birds seen on weekly trips over a route including Kuluk Bay, a large salt water lagoon (Clam Lagoon), the Bering Sea front, the slopes of Mount Moffett, Mitt Lake, and several small unnamed fresh water lakes (for localities, see Taber, *Condor*, 48, 1946:272). One significant observation made was that the Aleutian Tern (*Sterna aleutica*) does in fact breed in the Aleutian Islands. Bent had stated (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, no. 113, 1921:265) that "the name Aleutian tern is a misnomer, based on an erroneous theory that it would be found breeding among those islands; but none of the various explorers who have visited that region [has] succeeded in finding it." Clark (*The Aleutian Islands: Their People and Natural History*, 1945:43) reports that "the so-called Aleutian tern . . . has not been found in the Aleutian Islands proper, though Mr. Murie has a record of its nesting on the eastern border of Unimak."

On Adak I found the Aleutian Tern arriving on May 20 in company with Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*). The two species appeared to be completely integrated in their feeding on Clam Lagoon. This association had been noted by Turner (*Contr. Nat. Hist. Alaska*, part V, *Birds*, 1886:127) both in relation to nesting habits and procurement of food at Saint Michaels on Norton Sound on the mainland of Alaska. He reports the arrival of Aleutian Terns there on June 1. Nelson (*Rept. Nat. Hist. Coll. Alaska*, 1887:59) said they reach Saint Michaels from May 20 to 30, rarely earlier than the first date, and are found scattered along the coast in company with the Arctic Tern.

The Arctic and Aleutian terns on Adak numbered about 200. In spite of the obvious difference in the two species, it was difficult for me to distinguish them until they alighted. I took several hundred feet of colored film of these terns with a telephoto lens and on reviewing the film I cannot properly distinguish the birds in flight. In a mixed flock one can hear a harsh rasping guttural note that apparently is that of the Arctic Tern and a peeping note that probably is that of the Aleutian Tern. I think that both species nest on Adak as I saw them flying about carrying small fingerlings in their bills; however, I did not find any nests nor see any young birds. It seems unlikely that they stayed there all summer in large numbers and were non-nesting birds. The Arctic and Aleutian terns were last seen on August 12.

A second observation worthy of note was that of a flock of five Rustic Buntings (*Emberiza rustica*) on October 22 on a spit between the Bering Sea and Clam Lagoon. It is interesting that Bent (*Smith. Misc. Coll.*, 56, no. 32:19) saw two or three on Adak in 1911 and Alexander Wetmore collected one on Kiska in the same year. As far as I know, this is the second published account of this Asiatic straggler in North America.—WALTER M. WEBER, *United States Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland, December 5, 1955.*

A Transitorily Albinistic Robin Produces Normal Offspring.—Albinism, like most other aberrations of coloration, is commonly thought to be caused exclusively by genetic factors. But an albinistic bird's reversion to normal coloration would seem to suggest the operation of some influence

other than a genetic one. Hutt (Genetics of the Fowl, 1949:183) cites several instances of depigmentation of hens that later reassumed normal coloration; these variations seem to have been caused only partly by genetic factors. Groody and Groody (Science, 1942:655-656) report partial feather depigmentation experimentally induced in black Minorca chicks by a diet deficient in pantothenic acid. Frazier (Bird-banding, 23, 1952:114) attributes the partial depigmentation of a previously normal male Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) to physiological causes. The reverse of this situation, in an albinistic Robin which acquired normal pigmentation, is reported here.

On April 22, 1955, I observed a partially albinic Robin constructing a nest on a sheltered ledge on the porch of a house at 1216 East Fifth South Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, the home of Mrs. S. G. Paul. She reported that the bird had first appeared in the neighborhood on March 27 and that it had begun the nest on April 21. I am indebted to her for her interest and prolonged observations.

At the time I first saw the bird, the underparts were largely white. A few horizontal lines of red appeared on the breast, and the sides and belly were mostly red, with some white blotches interspersed. The throat was normally patterned. The back and head were mainly white, with longitudinal streaks of gray, which were larger and more prominent on the back. The wings were mostly gray, especially at the tips of the primaries. Only one of the rectrices was not white. The eye was black, and the bill was yellow. This description closely fits that of a Robin now in the collection of the University of Utah, which was taken in mid-April, 1955, at Nephi, Juab County, Utah.

Mrs. Paul first noticed a male Robin near her albino on April 25; it was of normal appearance. The albino completed the nest by the next day. Presumably the two birds were mated at this time. Two eggs were laid in the nest, on May 9 and 11. They hatched between May 23 and 26. Inasmuch as only the albinistic bird of the pair was seen to work on the nest or to alight on it during incubation, it may be inferred that this bird was a female. Tyler (in Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 196, 1949: 20-21) states that the female of the eastern race usually assumes both these tasks. However, Mrs. Paul noted on May 28 that the albino and the normal Robins were alternating on the nest. The young were fledged on June 8. Neither Mrs. Paul nor I could discern any tendency toward albinism or other abnormalities of plumage in the young. On June 9, both parents were observed feeding the fledglings near the nest.

After the young Robins left the nest, I was absent in the field. Up to that time, while I had the albino under frequent observation, its plumage remained unchanged. The remainder of this account is based upon the report of Mrs. Paul. On June 30, the albinistic Robin began renovating the nest, and three eggs were found in it about July 3. The three young were fledged on July 27, 29, and 31. This brood, like the first, was normally colored, although the breast of one was somewhat lighter than those of the other two.

The adult albino began to become generally darker as the annual fall molt commenced about the time the second brood was fledged, and by August 20 all of the plumage was colored normally, except for the under wing-coverts and tail, which were still partly white. This assumption of normal coloration was gradual. That this was the same bird seems to have been established by the frequency of Mrs. Paul's observations while the change was taking place.

Thus we have an instance of the disappearance of albinistic characteristics in a feral bird.—
JON GHISELIN, *Department of Zoology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 10, 1956.*

Heavy Parasitization of Blue Grosbeaks by Cowbirds in California.—In four separate seasons, from 1948 to 1951, I observed and kept notes on a small group of Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca caerulea*) which nested along the edges of a small tidal bay near Balboa in Orange County, California. They were first located when one nest with eggs was found on June 6, 1948. Further search revealed three more nests nearby. All the nests were in first year black willow (*Salix nigra*) and varied in height from 3 to 7 feet. The nests were constructed of grasses and the seed heads of several plants, including seaside heliotrope (*Heliotropium cutassavacum*); they were lined with finer vegetable fibres.

The following year I again visited the area and found seven nests of this species. All were heavily parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). At least three separate cowbirds had laid eggs in these nests, since the individual eggs of each were distinctive.

Nest 1 was about 5 feet up in the first-year willow growth and when found on June 11, 1949, it contained one egg. On June 19 it contained three grosbeak eggs and one cowbird egg. On July 25 the